

Minutes
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
August 23, 1993

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on August 23, 1993, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Albert Evans, Chairman
Paul Robertson, Vice Chairman
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Member
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs
James M. Moore, Engineer
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark, the minutes of the July 21, 1993, Board meeting were approved as mailed with one correction. Motion carried.

John Millican presented District Director appointments for consideration. He advised the Board all appointments appeared in order and recommended they be approved. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Paul Robertson, the following District

Director appointments were approved:

Richard (Dick) Hutcherson, Hall-Childress SWCD #109
Paul C. Perner, III, Crockett SWCD #235
Robert H. Midkiff, Midland SWCD #244
Patsy Flannagan, Collin County SWCD #535

Bill Neiser provided the Board with the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 1994 as adopted at the July 21, 1993 Board meeting. The operating budget reflects the adopted changes in Conservation and Technical Assistance. The staff had been asked at the July meeting to investigate what it would cost to reinstate partial per diem for the Board and staff. Mr. Neiser provided the Board an estimated cost for reinstating partial per diem per strategy for Fiscal Year 1994. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board voted to reinstate partial per diem. Motion carried.

Mr. Neiser reported to the Board on District Bookkeepers Financial Training Sessions held during the month of July. He was pleased with attendance and participation and felt it would be helpful for the bookkeepers in preparing their financial statement.

Mr. Neiser advised the Board that all state agencies are being required to fill out new signature cards for payment authority under the new Uniform Statewide Accounting System. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Executive Director was appointed to approve vouchers for payment and was further authorized to designate other employees as needed to sign in the absence of the Executive Director. Motion carried.

John Millican brought the Board up to date on arrangements for the 1993 Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation

District Directors to be held in Lubbock, Texas, October 18-20, 1993. He said he and Bob Buckley would be going to Lubbock on September 8-9 to make final arrangements. Mr. Millican advised the Board there would be a post convention tour on Wednesday afternoon which would include stops at the Crowfoot Feedlot, Cap Rock Winery, Textile Research Center, Texas Forest Service and various crop production sites. Mel Davis also provided the Board with copies of resolutions that will be considered by district directors at the annual meeting.

Mel Davis discussed the Conservation Awards Program and advised the Board he had contacted officials with the University Interscholastic League (UIL) office to make sure that if any changes were made in the poster contest to identify entrants by school grade level it would not violate UIL rules. He reported it would not be a problem under UIL rules. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board agreed to leave the entrant age as it has been in the past which is to boys and girls twelve years and under and to revise the entry sheet to identify entrants by school grade level so that regional winners could be considered for submission in the national NACD poster contest which categorizes entries by school grade level. Motion carried. (Copy attached). Clyde Gottschalk discussed some proposed guidelines for the Conservation Teacher Entry that were recommended by teachers who had judged the recent entries for the Texas entry in the NACD Teacher contest. Mr. Gottschalk advised the Board that the guidelines would be helpful and improve the program. On motion

of Buddy Clark, seconded by Dick Schendel, the guidelines were approved as presented. Motion carried. (Copy attached)

Wes Oneth reported on activities of the Soil Conservation Service and said a study on Fort Hood erosion and sediment was out for review and comment; SCS has done a flood insurance study for the City of Mineral Wells; SCS was studying exhibits to be used at the Farmer-Stockman Agriculture Show to be held in Lubbock in October, 1993; brought the Board up to date on the progress of the USDA reorganization. At the July 21, 1993, board meeting the State Board voted to send letters to the Texas delegation and other state officials concerning federal agencies reporting any cultural resource sites encountered on privately owned land to the State Historical Preservation Officer. After reviewing copies of letters received in reply to letters written by members of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the letters from the State Board were held until the August Board meeting to ask for direction. After some discussion it was the consensus of the Board to send letters as previously planned.

Dr. Bill Harris informed the Board of changes taking place in administration at Texas A&M University. He reported Dr. Richardson would be stepping down as Chancellor and would be replaced by Dr. Bill Mobley and that Dean Gage would become the new president in September. He reported he had been working recently in Washington, D.C. as a resource person for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and worked primarily on the Clean Water Act and its reauthorization.

Comer Tuck reported that the Texas Water Development Board's funding for the new fiscal year remained at current levels of activities. The TWDB will also have an exhibit at the Lubbock Farmer-Stockman Show in October. He advised the Board that more money is being spent on the Colonia Projects in economically deprived areas along the Texas-Mexico border. Dick Schendel asked Mr. Tuck about SB 1030 concerning Water Banking. Mr. Tuck explained the water banking concept and said TWDB provides money and will be a coordinator.

James Moore discussed a draft Memorandum of Agreement with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (formerly Texas Water Commission) to establish how State Board and TNRCC water quality programs will be coordinated and asked for the Board's direction. After a detailed discussion, staff was directed to continue to work with TNRCC and present a final draft Memorandum of Agreement for Board review at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Moore provided the Board with draft rules for implementation of SB 503 that had been developed in consultation with the Attorney General's Office and reviewed by a multi-interest task force. The draft rules were discussed in detail. The Board directed staff to incorporate several changes and provide them with a revised draft as soon as possible prior to the September Board meeting. A discussion of the relationship between State Board identification of program areas, allocation of resources and location of potential regional offices followed.

Mr. Moore discussed the agency's response to Texas Coastal

Program Policy Development under the Texas Coastal Zone Management Program. He said the Coastal Coordinating Committee would be meeting in early September to establish the coastal zone boundary.

Board member travel was discussed. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Harvey Davis, the staff was authorized to continue paying travel claims for Board members who have exceeded their allocations. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Harvey Davis, the staff was authorized to continue to pay per diem to Board members who have exceeded their allocations provided per diem funds are available. Motions carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 15, 1993.

Albert Evans
Chairman

Louis J. Cain
Secretary

9-15-93
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on August 23, 1993.

9-15-93
Date

Robert L. Buckley
Executive Director