

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1966

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session at Woods Motel, McKinney, Texas, at 3:00 p.m., September 8, 1966.

Board Members present: J. S. Sharp, Chairman, A. F. Leesch, J. Frank Gray and Henry Turney.

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, S. E. Jones, and O. F. Armstrong of the Board staff; C. W. Graham, Deputy State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the Board Meeting of July 11, 1966 were read and approved.

Harvey Davis reported on the resignation of Bud Norton, State Board Water Engineer. The job description for the position was explained to the Board and that applications were being received for the position. Mr. Davis expressed appreciation for the help Mr. H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, had given toward filling this position by notifying his personnel of the vacancy.

A favorable field examination was reviewed with the Board on the San Felipe Creek watershed application by Harvey Davis. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the application as being economically feasible for project development.

The Seco Creek field examination was reviewed with the Board by Harvey Davis. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board approved the application as being economically feasible for project development contingent upon the percentage of land treatment meeting the criteria set up for watershed development.

A favorable field examination was reviewed with the Board on the Eastern Portion of Pine Island Bayou application by S. E. Jones. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board approved the application as being economically feasible for project development.

A favorable field examination was reviewed with the Board on the Western Portion of Pine Island watershed application by S. E. Jones. On motion by H. W. Turney, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board approved the application as being economically feasible for project development.

Harvey Davis reported that the planning cost on Pecan Creek was \$15,554.82, and McClellan Creek was \$56,000 of which \$33,200.00 was paid out of State funds.

Clyde Graham reported on the Pecan Creek field level review held August 31, 1966 at Hamilton. He stated that it would take six or seven Flood Prevention Structures to alleviate the flood damage to farm and ranch lands plus urban damages to the City of Hamilton. After the review with the sponsors all original sponsors of the project signed the agreement with the exception of the Hamilton County Commissioners Court. The Board expressed concern that the Hamilton County Commissioners Court did not sign the work plan since the Court had previously agreed to sponsor the project and requested information as to why the Court did not sign the work plan.

Mr. Graham further reviewed the status of watershed planning. Chocotaw Creek is in Washington for final approval. Rush Creek is in Washington awaiting approval of the Governor before final approval. Planning is completed on Farmers Creek, Lower Running Water Draw, North Cuero, Rancho Viego, Mill Creek and Pecan Creek. These are in review stage at the present time.

Harvey Davis read and explained a request from the Swisher County Soil and Water Conservation District to change its name to the Tule Creek Soil and Water Conservation District. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the request was approved.

The Crosby County Soil and Water Conservation District's request to change its name to Rio Blanco Soil and Water Conservation District was read and explained by Harvey Davis. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the request was approved.

Based on the recent transfer of territory from the San Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District to the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Board considered proposed zone changes in the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District. On motion, by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board approved the new zones.

Harvey Davis read and discussed a request from the Sandhills Soil and Water Conservation District in regard to zone changes in the District. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by H. W. Turney, a motion was approved contingent upon the Sandhills Soil and Water Conservation Board showing evidence by resolution or otherwise that the change is agreeable with local Board members effected.

Mr. Davis discussed ownership and use of land-use farm and ranch plans developed by landowners with the assistance of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the State Board authorized Mr. Davis to release a sample resolution prepared by Phil Glick, Legal Council, NACD, in regards to land-use plans and to recommend that Soil and Water Conservation Districts consider the resolution and adopt an official policy at the District level pertaining to the ownership and use of these plans.

The closing of 100 Work Units in the United States and 7 in Texas was discussed by Harvey Davis. Those being closed in Texas are located at: Alvin, Brownsville, DeLeon, Guthrie, Mabank, Yoakum, and combining the Work Units at Mertzon and Rankin and establishing the new Work Unit at Big Lake.

Mr. Davis reported to the Board on a letter to all Districts concerning the improvement of coming supervisor elections. Several items were listed in the letter

and from reports in the field it is felt that supervisor elections will improve greatly.

An R C & D application from the DeWitt, Gonzales and Lavaca Soil and Water Conservation Districts was discussed. Mr. Davis read a letter of approval from Governor Connally to H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, and other correspondence in regards to the application. There was no Board action necessary on this application.

Mr. Davis reviewed the Annual State Meeting Program to be held in the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas, October 11-13, 1966.

A proposed cooperative agreement between the State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts was read and discussed. It was felt that the document was well worded and would be of mutual benefit to the Board and the Association.

Proposed changes in the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts By-laws were read and discussed. No Board action was necessary.

Mr. Davis discussed proposed legislation that would up date laws pertaining to State Board and to Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Proposed changes would authorize the appointment of supervisors to fill unexpired terms, change the name of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor to Soil and Water Conservation District Director, allow Soil and Water Conservation Districts to have biennial audits instead of annual audits, simplify procedure to adjust District boundary lines, and give the State Soil and Water Conservation Board authority to meet modern needs including the authority to receive and use grants from the Federal Government and negotiate contracts.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 11, 1966 at 3:00 p.m. in the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

*[Handwritten signature]*

Chairman

*[Handwritten signature]*

Secretary

*[Handwritten signature]*

Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on September 8, 1966

*[Handwritten signature]*

Date

*[Handwritten signature]*

Executive Director

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated September 8, 1966.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*