

Minutes  
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
September 16, 1992

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, September 16, 1992, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Chairman  
Albert Evans, Vice Chairman  
Paul Robertson, Member  
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, 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  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
James Moore, Engineer  
Clyde J. Gottshalk, Information Specialist  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Dr. Allen Jones, Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service  
Paul DeArman, Soil Conservation Service  
Donald Swann, Association of Texas SWCDs

Dick Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the minutes were approved as mailed.

John Millican presented district director appointments for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of

Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark the following district director appointments were approved:

Phil Harrist, Lubbock County SWCD #108  
Larry R. Horwood, North Concho River SWCD #252  
Wanda Foster, North Concho River SWCD #252

John Millican brought the Board up to date on the arrangements for the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held on South Padre Island, October 19-21, 1992. A draft copy of the program was reviewed and Board member assignments for each workshop were discussed. The assignments are as follows:

District Operations - Albert Evans  
Legislative Issues - Harvey Davis  
Public Information/Education - Paul Robertson  
Environmental Issues - Buddy Clark  
Resource Conservation Issues - Dick Schendel

An estimated budget for the State Meeting was discussed. It was the consensus of the Board to leave the registration fee at \$15.00. Resolutions that will be acted on at the State Meeting were provided and briefly discussed.

Bill Neiser discussed the 1994-95 Biennium Request for Legislative Appropriations that was provided each Board member. The Board requested a summary of the budget request to use in discussing the budget request with district directors. Bill advised the Board he would be hand delivering the budget request to the Legislative Budget Board and Governor's Office on September 17, 1992. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that a public hearing conducted by the Governor's and the Legislative Budget Office staffs would be held on September 30 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 109 of

the Reagan Building in Austin.

Mr. Neiser provided the Board an expenditure report for the twelve month period ending August 31, 1992. He said there would be additional expenditures that will affect final appropriation balances. Mr. Neiser advised the Board the over expended amounts in Administration and Field Services salaries were primarily due to the 1% pay increase the employees received August 1, 1992.

Mr. Neiser told the Board he had met with the General Services Commission concerning Travel Policy and Procedure and the steps necessary to comply with their rules. Currently the staff is putting together an agency travel policy to be submitted to the General Services Commission by October 12. Mr. Neiser advised the Board that Board members and employees will have to use contracted motels, cars and airlines, with few exceptions, while on official business.

Bill Neiser informed the Board of the District audit status. As of September 14, 1992, 147 districts had returned their notification form and of that number nine have chosen to have an audit done by a Certified Public Accountant and the others have chosen to prepare annual financial statements.

Clyde Gottschalk provided the Board with a list of District Directors who will be attending the District Director Training Conference to be held on September 21-22, 1992, in the State Board Conference Room in Temple. He advised the Board that the press release he did on the water quality rice demonstration project was well received and he has been contacted by Farmer-Stockman magazine

who is interested in doing a national story next spring. Mr. Gottschalk also said he was working on a statewide press release on the wetland grant the agency has received. The Public Information/Education Committee met on September 11, 1992 and plans to develop a questionnaire for distribution at the State Meeting in October for direction of the program. The committee would like to have an information booth set up at the State meeting. The last Boy Scout Workshop will be held the end of September for the Capitol Area Council headquartered in Austin.

Wes Oneth presented Clyde Gottschalk a Certificate of Appreciation and a pen and pencil set in recognition of his performance of providing conservation education to teachers at the Annual Resource Teacher Workshop and assistance to the Temple area staff and field personnel. Mr. Oneth advised the Board that the Emergency Watershed Protection project has been completed in Mound, Texas which will divert flood waters from the community. He also said an agreement with General Taylor from Fort Hood Military Installation has been signed to locate and design structures to prevent sediment from entering Lake Belton. He discussed the national SCS Conference recently held in San Antonio and told the Board their support was appreciated. He also thanked the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the coffee breaks they sponsored. Mr. Oneth advised the Board that four new RC&D applications have been sent in to the national headquarters. He also said Paul DeArman, who is presently the Area Conservationist in the Big Spring office which is being closed,

will be on loan to the Texas Water Commission as of October 1, 1992, for a two-year assignment.

Mr. Oneth provided the Board a budget evaluation for the SCS covering the period 1978 through 1993. He said Texas currently receives 6.3% of the national SCS budget and they could not implement the Food Security Act because he didn't have staff available. He asked for a member from the State Board to help develop a strategy to address this issue. Mr. Schendel asked Harvey Davis to work with Mr. Oneth on this project.

Comer Tuck said the Texas Water Development Board was going through the same process on their budget request. He said they were requesting from General Revenue the same level as they have at the present time and were asking for no new programs. Mr. Tuck requested the Board to pass the word to districts that they still have grant funds available and are accepting applications now so they will be ready for distribution in February, 1993.

Dr. Allen Jones advised that the Board of Regents for Texas A&M University had recently appointed Dr. Edward A. Hiler as Deputy Chancellor for Agriculture.

Donald Swann reported on the Agriculture Advisory Committee meetings he had attended and also on meetings of the Clean Water Council NPS Subcommittee. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for James Moore and commended his work on these committees. He also discussed the Edwards Aquifer Task Force meeting held on September 15, 1992 and advised that the next meeting is set for October 5, 1992 and farmers and ranchers will be invited to attend.

James Moore updated the Board on the status of the application for assistance on the Northeast Tributaries of the Leon River in the Erath County area under the PL 83-566 program which was disapproved in February of 1991 pending a feasibility study. Mr. Moore reported that the proposed project had been found to be feasible, but that the possibility of reopening an old project was being investigated by SCS. He also reported that SCS had developed natural resource plans for the Nolan River Watershed in Johnson County and the Thalia area in Foard County.

James Moore discussed the August 21, 1992 meeting of the Legislative Natural Resources Board. He discussed the testimony presented by John Hall, Chairman, Texas Water Commission, as it related to agricultural nonpoint source pollution and State Board responsibilities. The discussion centered around statements by Hall recognizing the authority of the State Board over agricultural nonpoint source pollution and Water Commission recognition of that division of authority established by the Legislature. Mr. Moore indicated the discussion was initiated by questions from Senator Bill Sims and Representative Layton Black about John Hall's putting on hold recommendations of the Clean Water Council pertaining to nonpoint source pollution.

A draft proposal for a pilot water quality project in Erath County to demonstrate the feasibility of an alternative compliance strategy for dairy operations was presented to the Board. The staff had been directed by the Board at the last Board meeting to proceed with this pilot project.

James Moore updated the Board on the status of its ongoing nonpoint source management program. He indicated that funding for the Seymour Aquifer program applied for under Fiscal Year 1991 319 funding should be forthcoming as soon as the Water Commission can process contracts. He further reported that work on preparing budgets and interagency coordination was proceeding on the Arroyo Colorado Project in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Mel Davis discussed a draft of the Texas Forestry Association's publication on Best Management Practices. Districts in Area IV and some of Area V will receive a copy of the draft for review and comment.

James Moore said the Board's application to EPA for grant funds for a wetland conservation project in Fort Bend County had been approved and a direct grant for \$75,000 in federal funds awarded. He explained that \$25,000 in non-federal funds would be required as a match.

Mr. Moore reviewed proposed rules for a general permit under the NPDES permitting program for confined animal feeding operations in EPA Region 6. He also discussed comments submitted at the direction of the State Board on September 9, 1992.

James Moore provided the Board with copies of a recently released schedule for implementing Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments, which required Coastal Nonpoint Source Management Programs be developed by States participating in the Federal Coastal Zone Management Program. He stressed that while Texas is currently not participating, under lead of the General Land Office, the State is attempting to obtain approval of

a Coastal Zone Management Program. Copies of rules adopted by the Texas Coastal Coordinating Council and comments submitted by the State Board were also discussed.

James Moore informed the Board that each Technical Subcommittee in the Gulf of Mexico Program was preparing Action Agendas for their specific areas of interest. He indicated that State Board staff served on the Nutrient Enrichment Subcommittee and the Coastal and Shoreline Erosion Subcommittee and would have input into those two plans.

James Moore provided a schedule of public meetings for the 1992 update of the Texas Water Plan. Comer Tuck from the Texas Water Development Board said the plan would be acted on at their November 19, 1992 meeting and suggested the Board look at the draft carefully and make their comments as soon as possible.

Bob Buckley discussed some concerns he had been receiving from districts concerning the Resource Conservation and Development Program.

A Board member travel report was provided each Board member.

Mr. Buckley advised the Board of a hearing of the Joint Committee of the Environment to be held at the Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas on September 24, 1992. He asked for Board members to attend that could and told the Board he would be testifying before the committee. Mr. Buckley also told the Board that the LCRA and Llano County Soil and Water Conservation District would be having a field day and tour on October 15 in the area of Sandy Creek. He advised the Board that he would have a part on the

program.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 18, 1992.

Clarence J. Scheudel  
Chairman

Lois Cain  
Secretary

11-18-92  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on September 16, 1992.

11-18-92  
Date

Robert L. Buckley  
Executive Director