

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
September 18, 1986

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, September 18, 1986 at 8:00 a.m. in the City Hall at 303 West Main, Kenedy, Texas.

Board members present were:

Albert Roach, Chairman  
Joe Antilley, Vice Chairman  
C. F. 'Dick' Schendel, Member  
Fred Squyres, Member  
Hermon L. Petty, Member

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director  
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
James Moore, Engineer  
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs  
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Jay Kuykendall, Planner

Others present were:

Waldo Smith, Pres., Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service  
Dr. B. L. Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Coy Garrett, Soil Conservation Service  
Arthur W. Fenner, Ch., Karnes County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Sis Regmund, Sec-Bkpr., Karnes County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Robert K. Menn, KENEDY ADVANCE-TIMES

Chairman Roach called the meeting to order.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the minutes of the July 17, 1986 meeting were approved as mailed out to each Board member.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon L. Petty, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

David Turnbough - Yoakum SWCD # 150  
Bob Garrett - Waters Davis SWCD # 318  
Ed Janecka - Fayette SWCD # 341

John Millican informed the Board that the audit and other documents relative to the division and reorganization of the Duck Creek Soil and Water Conservation District # 157 were not ready at this time. The Board took no action.

James Moore informed the Board that the public comment period for the proposed rules 31TAC517.1-517.12 concerning Conservation Assistance and 31TAC519.1-519.11 concerning Technical Assistance ended August 15, 1986. There being no comments received, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the rules for adoption without change.

Bob Buckley presented letters of request for additional conservation assistance (Matching funds) from the Copano Bay SWCD # 329 and Webb SWCD # 337. Each district requested to be allocated \$3,800.00. Since the legislature is presently in special session concerning 1987 FY appropriations, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved raising the allocation to \$3,800.00 contingent upon having available funds.

A letter from the Loma Blanca Soil and Water Conservation District requested extension of their allocation of Conservation Assistance and Technical Assistance funds through future years. This district will be notified that a request must be submitted each year. No action required by the Board.

Bob Buckley informed the Board that Anne Gomez, Performance Analyst, Legislative Budget Board, has analyzed activities relative to the technical assistance program and found them in proper order.

Roy Freeman reported on a meeting of the Gulf Coast Shoreline Erosion Committee formed to seek solutions to shoreline erosion. A request will be presented to the Legislature from this Committee for \$150,000.00 in funds for 6 pilot projects to implement the program with a recommendation that these funds be administered by the State Board.

Jay Kuykendall gave each Board member a draft copy of the statewide brush

program pursuant to SB 1083. Mr. Kuykendall reviewed its contents. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board authorized a hearing in November in conjunction with the regular board meeting.

Albert Roach welcomed the guests and asked if any had comments they would like to make.

Roy Freeman introduced Sis Regmund, Secretary-Bookkeeper for Karnes County Soil and Water Conservation District, Robert Menn, KENEDY ADVANCE TIMES, and Arthur Fenner, Chairman of the Karnes County SWCD.

Earl Burnett emphasized brush research being carried out by the Agricultural Research Service and discussed a new effort directed toward consequences of vegetation changes on rangeland including water yield considerations. He informed the Board that a replacement for Rex Johnston has not been selected yet.

Coy Garrett reported that the Big Creek (Tri-County) watershed EIS was in Congress, that the Big Creek Land Treatment watershed plan should be approved by January 1, 1987, that the Sulphur Creek watershed project was making good progress and remains on schedule, and that the Hudspeth County Conservation and Reclamation District No. 1 watershed project was entering the engineering analysis stage.

Mr. Garrett then updated the Board on activities relating to the conservation provisions of the farm bill and expressed concern over the apparently increasing work load. He briefed the Board on planned computer purchases and the CAMPS and Ranch Management Programs and indicated that all would be available for demonstration at the Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors in Austin on October 20, 21, and 22. He indicated that area offices will continue to be reduced according to plan and that the state office staff reductions were progressing well. He also informed the Board of increasing pressure for SCS to begin making determinations on highly erodible lands for

which requests are coming in.

Bill Harris indicated that Dr. Perry Adkisson, Chancellor of Texas A & M University was very supportive of conservation programs. He briefed the Board on Extension programs dealing with brush management and expressed a desire to cooperate in the review of the State Brush Control Plan developed pursuant to SB 1083. He reported that the cooperative wind erosion demonstration projects were coming along well, and expressed several concerns about the Sodbuster, Swampbuster and Conservation Compliance provisions in the 1985 Farm Bill including the need to use measured I values in the wind erosion equation instead of assigned values, the fact that 1.6 million acres in the southern plains will not be able to continue producing low residue crops, and the need to better get information on the Conservation Reserve Program out to farmers.

Waldo Smith complimented those involved in planning the previous day's activities on the G. E. Pogue Seed Farms. He expressed confidence that problems associated with the new provisions of the Farm Bill will work themselves out in time.

The Board discussed the preparation of comments on the rules published pursuant to the Sodbuster, Swampbuster and Conservation Compliance provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed the staff to prepare draft comments for their review and approval prior to the comment deadline on October 25.

John Millican reviewed the program for the Forty-Sixth Annual State Meeting of District Directors to be held in Austin, Texas at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on October 20, 21 and 22nd, 1986. According to lodging reservations, a good attendance is expected.

Mel Davis informed the Board that Resolutions to be considered at the Annual State Meeting were mailed out to each Soil and Water Conservation District

as approved by the Resolutions Committee.

Harvey Davis reported on legislation in the first called session effecting the State Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Since the Board in a special meeting on February 24, implemented the 13% reduction effective March 1, 1986, pursuant to Executive Order MW-36 of the 1986-87 biennial appropriation, no additional reduction was recommended by the legislature as of this date. The second called legislative session is now in progress.

Clyde Gottschalk reported on information and education activities. A workshop will be held on the public information and education program at the Annual meeting. Gottschalk informed the Board that the joint project with the Soil Conservation Society of America has been completed and showed the video that had been made on the booklet, "Land, Its Use and Abuse Through Centuries". A documented presentation on technical assistance as to what it is, what it does, and its benefits will be developed. Functional radio service announcements are being released on a bi-monthly basis.

The Board was updated on the status of soil and water conservation district involvement in the pilot loan program being administered by the Texas Water Development Board. Information on the 17 proposed critical groundwater areas by the Texas Water Commission was provided the Board along with scheduled hearing dates. Scheduled meetings between the Lower Colorado River Authority, Soil and Water Conservation Districts in LCRA's 10 county area of responsibility, Soil Conservation Service and the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to be held at Lake Buchanan on September 30, LaGrange on October 1, and Wharton on October 2 to discuss possible LCRA support for local conservation programs were discussed. Joe Antilley will Chair the meeting at Lake Buchanan. Dick Schendel and Waldo Smith will handle the Chairmanship of the other two meetings.

Some of the Board members' travel expense and per diem for fiscal year 1986 had exceeded the allocation; however, since appropriated funds were available, on motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved payment of travel expense and payment of per diem on a pro rata basis.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved an allocation of \$5,000 per member in travel and \$1,800 in per diem per member for fiscal year 1987.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 20, 1986.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Albert Roach  
Chairman

Josephine Chupik  
Secretary

November 20, 1986  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on September 18, 1986.

November 20, 1986  
Date

Harvey Davis  
Executive Director