

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
September 20, 1984

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on September 20, 1984 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 1006, First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Chairman
Hermon L. Petty, Vice Chairman
Frank Gray, Member
Albert Roach, Member
Joe Antilley, Member

Staff Members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Jay Kuykendall, Engineering Technician
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Carl Gray, Agronomist

Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts present were:

Joe Montgomery, President
Waldo Smith, Vice President
W. Q. Richards, Secretary-Treasurer
Judge Larry McCasland, Director

Soil Conservation Service personnel present were:

Billy Griffin, State Conservationist
Dale Fischgrabe, Deputy State Conservationist
O'Gene Barkemeyer, Assistant State Conservationist, Water Resources
Charles M. Thompson, State Soil Scientist
Gary Westmoreland, State Resource Conservationist

Other present were:

Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Bob King, Texas Department of Agriculture
George Fore, General Land Office
Jim Webster, Texas Forestry Association

Chairman Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed all the guests.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the minutes of the July 19, 1984 meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Paul Sherrill - Lynn County SWCD # 119
Charles E. King - High Point SWCD # 230
Grady Grounds, Jr. - Davy Crockett-Trinity SWCD # 404
Jerry Robinson - Freestone-Leon SWCD # 424
Jake Tortorice - Lower Neches SWCD # 437
Robert Kupper - Limestone-Falls SWCD # 501

The Board discussed the personal data sheet completed by district directors. The information has not been changed since its inception several years ago. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized the staff to prepare proposed changes for consideration by the Board at the next meeting.

Harvey Davis discussed a request to Soil Conservation Service dated September 4, 1984 subject to State Board approval, to provide assistance to the State Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in determining farmland of statewide and local importance on an as needed basis pursuant to administration of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7-USC 4201-4209). On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board established policy to assume the State agency responsibility under the Farmland Protection Policy Act and approved the request to the Soil Conservation Service to provide assistance to the State Board and local SWCDs in determining farmland of statewide and local importance on an as needed basis.

As per action at the last Board meeting, Harvey Davis reported on the liabilities of sponsorship, operation, and maintenance of floodwater retarding structures under the various watershed programs the State Board and SWCDs are involved in including dam safety. Changes in hazard classification combined with other factors have caused many of the dams constructed by SCS and sponsored by SWCDs to be reclassified from low hazard to high hazard under the National Dam inspection program.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board agreed to

seek federal legislation to give SCS authority and funding to upgrade structures, if they are found to be unsafe because of changes in land use and other factors not associated with normal operation and maintenance by the Texas Department of Water Resources who has dam safety authority. A resolution to this effect will be submitted by the Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the Annual Statewide meeting of SWCD Directors in Corpus Christi.

As per action at the last Board meeting, James Moore had prepared information on operation and maintenance of floodwater retarding structures. Maps showing locations of floodwater retarding structures along with information on operation and maintenance costs and needs were handed out. The Board then analyzed the status and needs relating to operation and maintenance.

Bob Buckley reported on the 1986-1987 budget request and informed the Board a letter received from the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Jim Rudd, requested a moratorium on hiring personnel; ceasing purchase of capital equipment and eliminating any new construction expenditures where actual construction has not begun.

Chairman Schendel reported on a meeting on August 28, 1984 with Jeff Grymskowski and Anne Gomez of the Legislative Budget Board and John Gosdin of the Governor's Budget Office on our 1986-87 budget request. A history of our agency was given to this group along with information pertaining to the budget request.

Chairman Schendel resumed the discussion on operation and maintenance for floodwater retarding structures. Chairman Schendel proposed a motion to include \$400,000.00 for Operation and Maintenance in our 1986-87 budget request and attach a rider with an explanation of the need. The motion was seconded by Hermon Petty. Clarification was made that guidelines for handling funds will be developed by the Board. Motion passed.

Harvey Davis reported on the meeting September 12, 1984, with Steve Collins of the Legislative Council. The two legislative recommendations in addition to across the Board recommendations the Sunset Advisory Commission made were to bring State Board Member and local district director terms of office into compliance with the constitution. According to the constitution, Board Members should serve 2 year terms and district directors serve 4 year terms. Davis reported that all five State Board Members will need to be elected the first Tuesday in May, 1986. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board recommended that Board Members be elected in 1986 from State District 1, 3, and 5 for one year and State Districts 2 and 4 for two years. Thereafter, all Board Members would be elected for 2 year terms - State Districts 1, 3, and 5 elected again in 1987 and State Districts 2 and 4 in 1988.

In order to bring all district director terms into compliance with the constitution, the Board proposed that the legislature authorize the Board to appoint all soil and water conservation district directors in October, 1985. In order to provide for four (4) year terms of office for soil and water conservation district directors, a motion was made by Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, to recommend that legislation provide for initial district director appointments as follows:

- Zone 1 & 2 - one year term expiring in 1986
- Zone 3 - two year term expiring in 1987
- Zone 4 - three year term expiring in 1988
- Zone 5 - four year term expiring in 1989

Thereafter, all terms would be by election for a four (4) year period.

Motion passed.

Harvey Davis reviewed the Sunset Commission "across the Board" recommendations that applied to our agency.

Soil Survey Development recommendations for 1985 were discussed. On

motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to sign contracts with the following agencies:

Soil Conservation Service	\$119,560
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station . .	22,295
Texas Agricultural Extension Service. . .	5,145
Total	<u>\$147,000</u>

Bob Buckley reported copies of the fiscal year audit report had been received. Each individual board member had been mailed a copy from the Auditor's office. All accounting records have been set up according to recommendations of the Auditor's Office.

Joe Montgomery reported he had attended an NACD District Operations Committee meeting in Ashville, North Carolina the week of September 10.

Billy Griffin informed the Board that the renumbering of the SCS progress reporting system to agree with State Board district numbering will go into effect on October 1.

Gary Westmoreland discussed the results of SCS field tests of the Cowardin wetlands classification system conducted during the period of October 1983 thru August 1984 and distributed copies of the report to the Board.

O'Gene Barkemeyer reported that the Los Olmos Creek watershed work plan was approved by the House Subcommittee on Public Works and Transportation and that the Big Creek watershed work plan (Falls, McClennan and Limestone Counties) is in SCS national headquarters for final technical review. He informed the Board that SCS is in the process of evaluating the PL 83-566 program under the Resources Conservation Act, and the report should be finalized by October 1. He then reported that SCS had obligated \$15 million in watershed construction funds to date and expects to obligate another \$3.5 million by the end of their fiscal year.

Bill Harris updated the Board on activities of the Food and Agriculture Council this year involving resource conservation. Harris told the Board

that the Wind Erosion Demonstration Projects are in the planning stages and that equipment is being obtained for expanding conservation tillage demonstration projects. He then indicated that Neville Clarke has welcomed input for expanding or changing the research activities of the Experiment Stations.

George Fore reported that the General Land Office is currently working on arid lands revegetation project and a project to evaluate the potential for maximum technology implementation in far west Texas lands.

Bob King announced that he had hired Roger Holley to develop recommendations to Commissioner Hightower on a State Water Plan.

Jim Webster briefly discussed the Texas Forestry Association meeting to be held in Dallas on October 6.

Harvey Davis asked Bob King to discuss the Agricultural Lands Protection report prepared by his office. Bob King briefly discussed the report and followed it with an explanation of Texas Department of Agriculture's proposed rules on pesticides.

The program for the 1984 Annual Statewide meeting of District Directors to be held in Corpus Christi on October 22, 23 and 24 was discussed. Additional topics and discussion leaders were assigned to the workshop session on Tuesday afternoon.

James Moore updated the Board on recent national nonpoint source pollution initiatives involving a study by the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators which will assess nonpoint sources nationwide and the development by the Environmental Protection agency of a national nonpoint source strategy.

Carl Gray gave a status report on the Statewide salinity study and provided copies of the preliminary data to the Board.

James Moore reviewed the Texas Department of Water Resource's report on arsenic contaminated groundwater in the Knott, Texas area. The report concluded that the use of soluble arsenic compounds such as arsenic acid and calcium arsenate in areas having sandy soils, like those in the Knott area, combined with the tilling of gin trash into the topsoil serves to readily introduce arsenic into the subsurface thus posing a hazard to area ground water resources. Indications are that the Texas Department of Agriculture will attempt a three year voluntary lifting of arsenic acid use in the area along with a more detailed study possibly through Texas A & M University.

Harvey Davis briefed the Board on staff activities involved in working with Senator Bill Sims' office on the development of a State brush management program. Jay Kuykendall presented information to the Board concerning development of the program. Hermon Petty mentioned the possibility of seeking support from the Farm Bureau and Harvey Davis was asked to clear this with Senator Sims before any coordination was done.

Clyde Gottschalk presented a proposed cooperative soil and water conservation and environmental science educational program to be conducted through the Boy Scouts of America, by the State Board, State Association, and the Soil Conservation Service.

Harvey Davis informed the Board on the status of the lease of office space. The floor plans have been agreed upon with the contractor. Construction should be underway in the near future.

Chairman Schendel reported on the NACD Leadership Conference held in Portland, Oregon, August 22-24, 1984. Many issues concerning conservation nationwide were discussed.

The National Association of Conservation Districts meeting will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 3-7, 1985 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. John Millican reported that information on the Texas travel package to this meeting

has been mailed out to all district directors. Deadline for the deposit and reservations is September 28, 1984.

Bob Buckley informed the Board that \$30,000 was appropriated in per diem and \$25,000 allocated in travel expense for fiscal year 1985 for the Board members. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board allocated \$6,000 for each member for per diem and \$5,000 for each member for travel expense. In calculating per diem expense and travel expense for fiscal year 1984, Dick Schendel exceeded his allocation in per diem and Albert Roach exceeded his allocation in travel as had been established by the Board. Since funds were available, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved payment of these items.

Waldo Smith informed the Board of action taken in the meeting of the Association directors last evening. After review of its financial status, the Directors agreed to attend only the State Board meeting prior to and after the Annual meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. One representative, either the president or his designee will attend all other State Board meetings. The Directors agreed to seek an increase in quota payments from \$275.00 to \$300.00 per district per year with a resolution to that effect being presented at the State meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 15, 1984.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

C. F. Dick Schendel
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

November 15, 1984
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on September 20, 1984.

November 15, 1984
Date

Henry Davis
Executive Director