

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
September 26, 1985

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday,  
September 26, 1985 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North  
5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director  
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs  
James Moore, Engineer  
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Jay Kuykendall, Planner I  
Melvin Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Robert Saunders, State Representative, LaGrange  
Waldo Smith, President, Association of Soil and Water Conser-  
vation Districts  
Jim Webster, Texas Forestry Association  
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service  
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service  
Charles Thompson, Soil Conservation Service  
Bennie Billington, Soil Conservation Service  
Bill Owen, Soil Conservation Service  
Robert J. King, Texas Department of Agriculture  
Kraig Gallimore, Texas Department of Agriculture  
Lawrence Friedrich, Chairman, Fayette SWCD #341  
S. W. Dorrell, Chairman, Montgomery-Walker SWCD #425  
Eugene Morgan, Montgomery-Walker SWCD #425  
Grady Singletary, Chairman, Cherokee SWCD #427  
Gilbert Kretzschmar, Chairman, Little River-San Gabriel SWCD #508  
E. L. McAndrews, Little River-San Gabriel SWCD #508  
Milton Wolbrueck, Little River-San Gabriel SWCD #508

B. G. Welch, Chairman, Central Texas SWCD #509  
Ellis G. Marshall, Central Texas SWCD #509  
Herbert Roberts, Central Texas SWCD #509  
Vernon Hansen, Central Texas SWCD #509  
Alvin Brinkmeyer, Chairman, Taylor SWCD #513  
E. O. Beck, Taylor SWCD #513  
Charles Becker, Bookkeeper, Taylor SWCD #513  
Jack Bridges, Jr., Chairman, Bosque SWCD #522  
J. W. Hardcastle, Bosque SWCD #522  
C. Pernel Aars, Bosque SWCD #522  
James Watson, Bosque SWCD #522  
Clyde Hale, Chairman, Upper Elm-Red SWCD #524 and Director of  
Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Doyle Hutcheson, Chairman, Hook-Parker SWCD #529  
Johnnie Rollins, Hood-Parker SWCD #529  
Bill Cunningham, Chairman, Upper Sabine SWCD #530  
Travis Herring, Chairman, Hill Country SWCD #534  
Ryan Howard, Hill Country SWCD #534  
Arthur W. Schroeter, Hill Country SWCD #534  
Don Alexander, Hill Country SWCD #534

Chairman Petty called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the minutes of the July 18, 1985 meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

A petition was received September 25, 1985 from the Central Colorado SWCD # 517 and the Lower Clear Fork SWCD # 531 to divide and re-organize these two districts into three districts; Central Colorado, Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos and Callahan Divide. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the division and re-organization of these two districts.

John Millican presented qualification data on the following appointments for new district directors:

Gaylon Burns - Lamb County SWCD #130  
Joe Dean Weatherby - Middle Concho SWCD #234  
Tom Enochs - Eldorado-Divide SWCD #247  
Nick Hester - Burleson-Lee SWCD #313  
Ernie Lane - San Patricio SWCD #324  
Leslie Koehl - Colorado SWCD #333  
Hubert W. Thompson - Hidalgo SWCD #350  
Winston A. Whitlow - Harrison County SWCD #412

John W. "Bill" Hughes - Freestone-Leon SWCD #424  
Edgar D. Davidson - Brazos-Robertson SWCD #431  
Charles O. Reneau - Coastal SWCD #432  
Burl Thomas - Lower Trinity SWCD #435  
F. E. Dennison - Harris SWCD #442  
Verley Gayle Spell - Lower Sabine-Neches SWCD #446

John Millican stated that the appointment of Burl Thomas was contingent upon a change in the subdivision boundaries to more equitably divide landowners in each subdivision in the Lower Trinity SWCD #435. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the board approved the new subdivision boundaries.

Harvey Davis explained the procedure for appointing district directors in accordance with Senate Bill 229, Section 21 (b), Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session, 1985. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved all new district director appointments and re-appointed all district directors as of September 26, 1985. (See attached list). A new oath of office must be signed by all directors to qualify. Terms of office for directors appointed from subdivision 1 and 2 will expire in 1986; subdivision 3 will expire in 1987; subdivision 4 in 1988; and subdivision 5 in 1989.

The program for the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in San Antonio on October 7, 8, 9, 1985 was reviewed. The Board decided to use name badges furnished by the San Antonio Convention Bureau instead of purchasing them. Speakers have all been contacted and have accepted to be on the program. The Federal Land Bank will again assist financially with the reception. In addition to Area Discussion Sessions on Tuesday afternoon, workshops will also be held.

As per the Board's decision in the May 16, 1985 meeting, a survey was made polling district directors for their preference on sites for future Annual State meetings. As a result of the survey, on motion of Frank Gray, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board agreed for the staff to check facilities and accommodations in Galveston, Lubbock, Abilene and Waco. A determination of sites for the meetings will be made in the next Board meeting.

Bob Buckley discussed some of the problems encountered with audits of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Some districts have complained about auditing procedures and cost of audits. At present a review form being used by the staff meets the requirements of the performance auditor and State law. Districts have responded favorably to its use. An average cost of an biennial audit is \$400.00. The Board agreed to continue the use of the audit review form for district audits.

Harvey Davis reported on Attorney General's Opinion JM 203-Doctrine of Incompatibility. The question of whether a district director can be an employee of the district had never been answered. This opinion rules a public official cannot employ himself.

Bob Buckley reviewed a letter from the State Auditor's office in regards to our financial activities for fiscal year ended 8-31-84. A management letter with recommended changes will be a part of the auditing procedure each time. Recommendations of the auditor are being implemented.

Mr. Petty welcomed the guests and representatives of other agencies and asked if anyone had comments to make to the Board.

Dale Fischgrabe reported that fiscal year 1986 funding for Soil Conservation Service will probably be at the 1985 level, and that full time SCS personnel are down to 1,043 people. Mr. Fischgrabe indicated that 8 people would be hired the following week, but that SCS would not be able to replace all people as they leave. Mr. Fischgrabe also reported that the Big Creek watershed work plan was still in the Office of Management and Budget, awaiting approval; the Caddo Creek Land Treatment watershed work plan is scheduled for approval by January 1 and the Big Creek Land Treatment watershed work plan should be approved by March 1986. He informed the Board that SCS had received approximately \$600,000 in supplemental watershed constructing funds during FY 1985 which is considerably less than previous fiscal years; and the SCS in Texas had just ordered 14 computers to be placed in field offices.

Dr. Earl Burnett reported that the Agriculture Research Service was also anticipating level funding for FY 1986. He briefed the Board on the 1977 Cooperative Agreements Act which requires research support from colleges to be carried out through contracts which will tend to increase the cost of research at Experiment Stations. He also expressed concern over the shifting of research emphasis away from resource conservation.

Jim Webster updated the Board on the Southern Pine Beetle problem in Texas forests, discussed problems with lumber being imported from Canada and with proposed revisions to the tax system. Mr. Webster expressed concern about changing land ownership patterns in east Texas, which result in landowners who have no interest in producing food, fiber or forest products from their land.

Harvey Davis presented a letter from the Hall-Childress SWCD #109 relative to a suggestion in distribution of conservation assistance and technical assistance funds. This district suggested allocation of available funds to various district associations to be allocated by individuals in the area to each district proportionately to the total area funds based on need and past utilization of funds putting distribution of funds on a local level. Since all funds appropriated in the biennium budget of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board are the responsibility of the Board, on motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board will continue to assume this responsibility in allocating funds to soil and water conservation districts according to the needs of individual districts on a statewide level. According to the appropriation bill, it would be illegal to do otherwise.

Soil Survey development contracts for fiscal year 1986 were discussed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board recommended contracts be negotiated with the following agencies:

Soil Conservation Service	\$10,000.00
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station	10,000.00
Texas Agricultural Extension Service	<u>900.00</u>
Total	\$20,900.00

James Moore briefed the Board on the contents of the Statewide Salinity Study Final Report and indicated that it was nearing completion and would be mailed to Board Members as soon as possible.

Clyde Gottschalk discussed the information and education program on Soil and Water Conservation/Environmental Science workshops with Boy Scouts throughout the State with an average attendance of 100 to 150 boys at each workshop. A brush control film is nearly 80% complete

for use by Soil and Water Conservation Districts. A booklet entitled "Soil - We Can't Grow Without It" will be available for distribution. Soil and Water Conservation public awareness messages are appearing on grocery sacks used by leading grocery chains.

Harvey Davis explained the procedures used to allocate conservation assistance funds (matching funds) and technical assistance funds at the July 18, 1985 Board meeting. He commended Representative Robert Saunders for the way in which necessary budget cuts were managed during the 1986 legislative session and then explained the rider included in the appropriations bill requiring the State Board to examine fund balances and financial wealth of soil and water conservation districts when allocating state funds to districts. He then reviewed the policy established at the July 18, 1985 Board meeting which set a \$30,000.00 fund balance as the level at which districts would be required to justify the allocation of state funds for conservation assistance and technical assistance programs.

Of the 16 districts which received no allocations at the July 18, 1985 Board meeting, 11 were present and presented written and/or oral information to the Board to attempt to justify their requests for State funds. The 11 districts along with the persons presenting information are listed below:

Soil & Water Conservation District

Fayette # 341  
Cherokee # 427  
Montgomery-Walker # 425  
Little River-San Gabriel # 508  
Central Texas # 509  
Taylor # 513  
Bosque # 522  
Upper Elm-Red # 524  
Hood-Parker # 529  
Upper Sabine # 530  
Hill Country # 534

Presented by:

Lawrence Friedrich, Chairman  
Robert Saunders, State Representative  
Grady Singletary, Chairman  
S. W. Dorrell, Chairman  
Gilbert Kretzschmar, Chairman  
B. G. Welch, Chairman  
Alvin Brinkmeyer, Chairman  
J. W. Hardcastle, Chairman  
Clyde Hale, Chairman  
Doyle Hutcheson, Chairman  
Bill Cunningham, Chairman  
Travis Herring, Chairman

Correspondence which had been received from the Hale County District # 132, and the Upper Leon District # 525 prior to the Board meeting was also given to the Board.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

The Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Harvey Davis went through the list of districts which had received no allocation at the July 18, 1985 Board meeting; reviewed their written and oral comments, if any, and read the letters from those not present. Each district was discussed in detail by the Board.

Information submitted by the Cherokee District # 427 pointed out a mistake made in completing the fund balance questionnaire and indicated that their fund balance was actually below \$30,000.00. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. Schendel, Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated \$3,800.00 in conservation assistance funds for the 1986 fiscal year.

Information submitted by the Upper Elm-Red District # 524 indicated that the district covers 1,800,000 acres, contains 336 floodwater retarding structures and expended over \$44,000.00 in fiscal year 1985. The information presented showed that because of expenditures made subsequent to the fund balance being submitted to the State Board, their balance as of the Board meeting on September 26 was approximately \$24,000. On motion by C. F. Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Upper Elm-Red Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated \$3,800.00 in conservation assistance funds and \$15,000.00 in technical assistance funds for the 1986 fiscal year.

Information submitted by the Upper Leon District # 525 indicated that \$22,877.46 had recently been expended to pay off a note lowering their fund balance to \$26,438.56. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded

by Albert Roach, the Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District # 525 was allocated \$3,800.00 in conservation assistance funds for the 1986 fiscal year.

Information submitted by the Hood-Parker District #529 pointed out that \$11,203.84 of the \$37,395.65 fund balance was money contributed by the county and dedicated to the operation and maintenance of flood-water retarding structures, and not available for other purposes. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Hood-Parker Soil and Water Conservation District # 529 was allocated \$3,800.00 in conservation assistance funds and \$7,500.00 in technical assistance funds for the 1986 fiscal year.

Information presented by the Upper Sabine District #530 indicated that the Caddo Creek Land Treatment Watershed Project would be approved January 1986 and that the district's need for additional assistance would escalate tremendously upon initiation. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Upper Sabine Soil and Water Conservation District # 530 was allocated \$2,850.00 in conservation assistance funds and \$10,000.00 in technical assistance funds for the 1986 fiscal year, all being contingent upon the approval and initiation of the Caddo Creek Land Treatment Watershed Project.

Information submitted by the Hill Country District # 534 indicated that because of just receiving their county's contribution, the district fund balances exceeded \$30,000.00 for the first time in its history at the time fund balances were requested by the State Board and that recent expenditures had reduced their balance below \$30,000.00. On motion by Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the Hill Country Soil and Water Conservation District #534 was allocated \$3,800.00 in conservation

assistance funds and \$7,250.00 in technical assistance funds for the 1986 fiscal year.

Due to fund balances of the other districts that did not receive an allocation at the July 18, 1985 Board meeting, the Board did not allocate funds at this meeting but will review their needs should changes occur in their programs that would necessitate additional funding.

A request for an increase in technical assistance funds for 1986 from the Hays County District # 351 was discussed. Requests for increases in technical assistance and conservation assistance funds from DeWitt County District # 339 and Washington District # 347 were discussed. The Board decided not to honor these requests at the present time. Districts will be given an opportunity to submit requests for additional funds in March 1986.

Bob Buckley reported technical assistance funds were available for the 1985 fiscal year. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board agreed to honor technical assistance claims for 1985.

Some of the Board members travel expense and per diem for fiscal year 1985 had exceeded the allocation; however, since appropriated funds were available, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved payment of these two items.

Harvey Davis reported a national range conference will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on November 6 thru 8, 1985. On motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized the Chairman and any other Board member to attend.

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on November 14, 1985 instead of its regular scheduled date in November.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Hannon L. Petty  
Chairman

Josephine Chupik  
Secretary

November 14, 1985  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on September 26, 1985.

November 14, 1985  
Date

Samuel Davis  
Executive Director