

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 9 and 10, 1963

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session in the Fairway Motel at 4:00 p.m. on October 9, 1963 in McAllen, Texas.

Board members present were: E. W. Wehman, Vice Chairman, A. F. Leesch, J. C. Porter and J. S. Sharp.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director, L. F. Stewart, and J. M. Norton of the State Board; Clyde Graham of the Soil Conservation Service; Ewing Kinkead, Conservationist, Arkansas Geological and Conservation Committee; A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts, together with Soil Conservation District Supervisors, Gilbert Kretzschmar, Sam Singleton, F. F. Calhoun, George Skeete, and Albert Roach.

Minutes of the July 26, 1963 meeting were read and approved.

New watershed applications on Upper California and Lower California Creek were discussed by Davis. He informed the Board that due to time lapse he disapproved the applications pending field examination for feasibility on September 13, 1963. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. C. Porter, the Board approved Mr. Davis' action.

A preliminary survey on the South Concho River watershed application was reviewed for the Board as being favorable and economically justified. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. C. Porter the Board approved the watershed application.

Mr. Clyde Graham then reviewed the status of watershed planning in Texas. The planning parties are presently involved in developing work plans on Escondido Creek, Attoyac River and Donahoe Creek. Hondo Creek and Big Creek watersheds have been completed and are awaiting approval by Committees. Mr. Graham then discussed funds for planning in the light of future developments. It was brought out that

federal funds are not available for the federal planning party to plan Castleman Creek this fiscal year. Due to the economy and to the possibility of working Castleman Creek concurrently with Attoyac River, the Board on motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by J. C. Porter approved financing the work plan on Castleman Creek with \$33,000 of State funds.

On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. C. Porter the Board approved the signing of project agreements with Soil Conservation Service by Harvey Davis.

Mr. Leesch gave a brief resume of the tour and hearing on Williamson Creek watershed. He gave a very favorable report of the interest and benefits to many small owners and operators. He stated that it appeared to be a very good "small watershed".

Harvey Davis gave a report on the field level review on Hondo Creek watershed recently held in Kenedy. He reported that there were many favorable comments on the work plan and no opposition shown. Davis reviewed readiness of Running Water Draw for a planning priority. It is understood that the local people are ready to finance work plan development. A delegation presented their interest in achieving an early planning priority. After discussing the situation J. C. Porter suggested that the Board consider such Trust Fund priorities at their next meeting.

At this time the Board received invitations for the 1964 Annual Statewide Meeting from the following:

W. J. Dean, Commodore Perry, Austin

Otto Vehle, Chamber of Commerce, Sherman

Stewart Coleman from Brownwood with a group of 16 people representing six

Soil Conservation Districts, the Hotel Brownwood and Chamber of Commerce

David L. Slack, Hotel Texas, Fort Worth

A delegation of supervisors, Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Manager, Odessa

After hearing the presentation of invitations the Board decided to postpone the selection of the meeting place for 1964 until their next meeting.

The meeting recessed at 6:30 p.m.

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October 10, 1963

The Board reconvened at 2:00 p.m., October 10, 1963, in the Civic Center, at McAllen, Texas.

Board members present were: E. W. Wehman, J. C. Porter, J. S. Sharp and A. F. Leesch.

Others present: Davis and Norton of the State Board.

Invitations for the 1964 Annual Statewide Meeting were presented by Sam Pomaro of the Rice Hotel, Houston, and W. M. Hawes of the Shamrock-Hilton Hotel, Houston.

Other watershed activities and co-ordinating efforts with Water Commission were reviewed by Bud Norton. Norton reported that interest had been expressed in developing China Creek watershed at Electra. The lower end of Running Water Draw in Floyd County was reviewed for the Board. The desire of Aquilla-Hackberry WCID to amend their application was further discussed. Preparation of maps, forms and procedures for carrying out the 1964 Irrigation Survey with the Soil Conservation Service and the Texas Water Commission was also reviewed.

Field examinations are scheduled on Cornudas and North Draw watershed at Dell City and California Creek at Stamford during October and November.

Mr. Davis reported on a request by the Brazoria-Galveston Soil Conservation District to change its name to Waters Davis Soil Conservation District. In view of the problem concerning the last supervisor election in this district the Board on motion by J. C. Porter and seconded by A. F. Leesch approved tabling their request

until such time as current problems are solved.

Mr. Davis then reported that the Governor had requested a representative from the State Board to assist the Recreation Committee appointed by the Governor for co-ordinating developments on recreational activities. Harvey Davis is to serve as the representative until such time as other assistance may be necessary.

Davis reported on the Zone 5 Supervisor's election held on October 1, 1963. To date out of 182 districts, 137 were reported, with 45 new supervisors and 92 re-elected supervisors.

Davis reported on the resignation of R. L. Carlisle, as Assistant Executive Director, effective October 1, 1963. At the present time there are no applications for the position but several possibilities for filling the vacancy.

Harvey Davis reported to the Board on the situation where a supervisor moves his residence out of a Soil Conservation District. According to the Attorney General a supervisor removes himself from office upon his moving his residence outside of the district.

Mr. Davis reported on the Rural Conservation and Development Program which has federal funds appropriated in the amount of \$1,200,000. Under this program the Governor or his designated State Agency must concur with the applications similar to those that are being handled under Public Law 566. Since no State Agency has been approved to handle these applications, Davis proposed that the Board meet with the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts and Soil Conservation Service to determine if the State Board wants to handle it and if so, to contact Governor Connally relative to designating the

Board as the State Agency. The Board agreed to table any action relative to this until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

J. M. Norton
Secretary

November 13, 1963
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated October 9-10, 1963.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely

John Connally