

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
November 14, 1985

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, November 14, 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
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
Jay Kuykendall, Planner I
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Waldo Smith, President, Association of Texas SWCDs
Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service
Kraig Gallimore, Texas Department of Agriculture
Jim Webster, Texas Forestry Association

Chairman Petty called the meeting to order.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. "Dick" Schendel, the minutes of the September 26, 1985 meeting were approved as mailed to each Board member.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. "Dick" Schendel, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Oscar Richarz, Jr. - Nueces-Frio-Sabinal SWCD # 221
Mark Vanham - Nueces-Frio-Sabinal SWCD # 221
Dorothy Brown - Lower Sabine-Neches SWCD #446
Glenn Thorman - Little Wichita SWCD # 532

A petition was received on October 30, 1985, from the Brown-Mills Soil and Water Conservation District # 523 to divide and reorganize into two districts; Pecan Bayou and Mills County. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by C. F. "Dick"

Schendel, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the division and reorganization.

Public hearings were held on October 23, 1985 in Albany, Baird, and Coleman, Texas relative to the division and reorganization of Central Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District # 517 and the Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District # 531 into three soil and water conservation districts. Testimony presented at the hearings was favorable. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by C. F. "Dick" Schendel, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the division and reorganization.

A petition and supporting documents to transfer the portion of Goliad County in the Copano Bay Soil and Water Conservation District # 329 to the Karnes-Goliad SWCD # 343 was received on November 14, 1985. There was no transfer of assets, liabilities, and funds, only a transfer of cooperator agreements. On motion of C. F. "Dick" Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board determined the transfer of territory practicable and feasible.

A request to change the name of the Neches-Sabine Soil and Water Conservation District # 426 to Smith County Soil and Water Conservation District #426 was received on November 12, 1985. The district board feels the new name would delineate the area served by the district and the landusers in the county would understand this terminology better. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. "Dick" Schendel, the Board approved the name change to the Smith County SWCD # 426.

Requests for additional technical assistance funds for FY 1986 were received from the Freestone-Leon SWCD # 424 and Bedias Creek SWCD #428. In keeping with its decision in the September 26, 1985 board meeting, the Board agreed not to honor these requests since districts will be given an opportunity to submit requests for additional funds in March 1986.

Requests were received for additional Conservation Assistance funds for FY 1986 from the following districts:

Loma Blanca SWCD # 328	-	\$ 150.00
Neches-Sabine SWCD # 426	-	2,850.00

On motion of C. F. "Dick" Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board granted the additional conservation assistance funds.

The Audit Report for the State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the year ended August 31, 1984 received September 27, 1985 was discussed. The audit report is in good order.

The Annual State meeting held in San Antonio, October 7, 8 and 9, 1985 was discussed. Of the 1,004 people in attendance, 339 were district directors representing 153 districts, 235 district directors' wives, 180 other ladies, and 250 other men. Eight districts had 100% attendance. A breakdown of directors in attendance by districts, individual attendance percentages for each State District and a statement of finances were reviewed. Of concern was increasing the attendance of district directors and improving finances. It was agreed that attendance would be promoted at the local districts' level as well as being publicized at Districts' area meetings throughout the State.

Due to financial guarantees on various functions being made in advance of the meeting, financial problems have arisen when attendance has fallen below the survey figures on which the guarantees were based. Pre-registration was discussed. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. "Dick" Schendel, the Board agreed to charge a registration fee for all ladies in attendance. The amount of the fee will be decided on at a later date.

Presentation of Goodyear Conservation Awards at the Annual meeting were discussed. The Board decided to check with Goodyear to see if these awards could be given at the Area Conservation Awards programs held in May of each year instead of at the State meeting. Goodyear's program would get more recognition at the local level throughout the State.

Future meeting sites for the Statewide Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors were not decided on since only Lubbock out of the four sites chosen had been checked for facilities and accommodations. A determination of sites for the meetings will be made after the cities of Galveston, Waco and Abilene are checked.

Harvey Davis reviewed agricultural water conservation provisions of House Bill 2, Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session and discussed areas which involve the State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. After an in depth review of Title 3, Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation, the Board instructed the staff to begin the development of rules covering Section 3.02 which establishes a technical assistance program for soil and water conservation land improvement measures under Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Agriculture Code. The staff was further instructed to work closely with the Texas Water Development Board during development of rules for other sections of Title 3 which involve soil and water conservation districts and in the determination of areas with critical water conservation needs.

Harvey Davis discussed new provisions included in the agency's sunset legislation giving the Board responsibility for planning, implementing and managing programs and practices for abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. The need for development of programs to encourage adoption of agricultural conservation systems which reduce the potential for occurrence of nonpoint source pollution problems was discussed. The Board instructed the staff to investigate further the need for and practicability of such programs including programs to demonstrate the benefits of conservation tillage systems.

Harvey Davis led a discussion concerning needs for strengthening district programs. Items discussed included brush control programs, shoreline erosion, district capabilities for handling weed control problems, and providing training

for new district directors in Temple and better communications. Jay Kuykendall briefed the Board on information obtained on the acquisition of an incoming WATS line as one way to strengthen districts through better communications. Based on a current long distance rate useage he recommended that a 10 hour per month WATS line at a cost of \$265.15 for the first 10 hours plus \$24.00 per hour for additional time be installed. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the installation of a 10 hour WATS line.

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

Billy Griffin reported that he had just returned from a meeting with representatives of the University of Texas Lands Management, and that Steve Hartman will replace Billy Carr as Land Agent. He informed the Board that a State Conservationist meeting would be held the week of November 18 in Puerto Rico. He explained that new SCS policy had re-authorized the use of photo mosaics in conservation plan development and that reporting form AD 862 had been discontinued. He reported that a letter had been received from the sponsors of the Deer Creek watershed project located in Falls, McClennan and Bell Counties requesting a re-study. He then briefed the Board on the Field Office Communication and Automation System which will place computers in several locations in the State. Griffin made the Board aware of the fact that districts are eligible to purchase AT & T computers under the same contract at the rate of \$18,000 for systems with one work station and \$23,000 for systems with two work stations.

Earl Burnett discussed the Agricultural Research Service budget and emphasized that higher priorities are currently being placed on genetic engineering related research.

Jim Webster reported that the Pine Beetle problem in Texas forests had eased with the coming of winter. He expressed concern that current tax reform initiatives could have a serious impact on tree planting in Texas if tax incentives are removed.

Kraig Gallimore informed the Board of a meeting of the Rural Water Quality Task Force to be held in McAllen in the near future and of a National Water Quality Forum to take place in Austin on December 2.

Jay Kuykendall reviewed Senate Bill 1083, which created the Texas Brush Control Program, and explained the responsibilities of the Board as required by the act. Harvey Davis emphasized that the staff will have to immediately begin the development of a State Brush Control Plan and rules to cover administration of the act. He then discussed the formation of an advisory committee to assist with development of the State plan.

James Moore reviewed the final report covering the Statewide Salinity Study. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by C. F. "Dick" Schendel the report was adopted.

Harvey Davis reviewed a letter dated October 7, 1985 from Governor Mark White concerning travel expenses of the Board and staff as outlined in the general appropriations act. All travel is being carefully reviewed to make sure that every trip is necessary to achieve the agency's program objectives.

In compliance with the sunset legislation an updated "affirmative action plan" dated October 18, 1985 was given to each Board member. This plan will be updated each year.

All five board members' elections will be held on the first Tuesday in May, 1986. Each area will also hold its conservation awards program on the same date.

Joe Antilley reported on the National Range Conference held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 6 thru 9, 1985.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 16, 1986.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Herman L. Petty
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

January 16, 1986
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on November 14, 1985.

January 16, 1986
Date

Lanney Davis
Executive Director