

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
November 17, 1993

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 17, 1993 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Albert Evans, Chairman
Paul Robertson, Vice Chairman
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Member
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director
Mel Davis, Director of Programs
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director
Tricia Davis, Information Specialist
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Janet Gonser, Soil Conservationist
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

Ron Jones, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental
Research, Tarleton State University
Dalton Merz, Soil Conservation Service
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agriculture Research Service
Kenton Inglis, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Tom Curran, Lower Colorado River Authority
Eric Mendleman, Tx. Natural Resources Conservation Comm.
Joan Drinkwin, Tx. Natural Resources Conservation Comm.
Paul DeArman, Soil Conservation Service

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel the minutes for the September 15, 1993 meeting were approved as corrected and the October 18, 1993 minutes were approved as mailed. Motion carried.

Lois Cain presented district director appointments for consideration. She advised the Board the appointments appeared to be in order and that papers with original signatures were in the mail to replace papers that had been faxed to the agency headquarters for appointment of Linda Powell to Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District #150. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis the following district director appointments were approved.

B. L. "Shug" Thomas, Garza SWCD #158
G. Stanley Toeppich, Mason County SWCD #223
Wesley Hodges, North Concho River SWCD #252
Harold W. Stone, Upshur-Gregg SWCD #417

Linda Powell, Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District #150 was approved pending receipt of original papers.

Mr. Buckley reported that the audit for Little Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District #532 had not been received in the State Board office and that action on the division and reorganization of that district would have to be postponed until the January 19, 1994 board meeting.

Dalton Merz, Range Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, reported on the USDA Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative. He encouraged the Board to send letters of support for the Initiative. Mr. Merz said the primary purpose is to get money put back into the

SCS budget to provide range conservation help for voluntary pasture management. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board voted to send letters of support for the Grazing Lands Initiative. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser reviewed the 1993 Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in Lubbock on October 18-20, 1993. He reported a total attendance of 746. A budget of revenues and expenses was also provided the Board for their review. Mel Davis provided the Board a list of newly elected Auxiliary officers for the Auxiliary of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors; a list of winners of door prizes that were provided by each Area Association and a letter from Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District #159 asking the Board to consider meeting at a different time of year because of harvest time. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that a survey was conducted several years ago concerning the time of year to hold the Annual Meeting and only a few had indicated being in favor of moving it from October.

Eric Mendleman from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission discussed the Texas Watch Program which is a part of Clean Texas 2000, a statewide pollution-prevention program sponsored by Governor Ann Richards and the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. The goal of this program is to reduce pollution across the state. The Texas Watch Program supports volunteer environmental monitors which includes students, teachers,

professional people and others. Through Texas Watch citizens are trained to collect environmental information which can be used to supplement professional monitoring data to help protect the state's natural resources.

Lois Cain updated the Board on District Director elections. Most election results have been received and each Board member was provided election information data as of November 16, 1993.

Mel Davis reported on the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting held on November 15, 1993. He said the Board of Directors reviewed the Cooperative Agreement between the State Board and the Association and found no revisions or changes needed. Also the Board of Directors voted for the Association to sponsor a meeting to establish a Texas Coalition for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative on a date to be agreeable with the Association President. The State Board was advised Mike Holt was named NACD Council Member and Memo Benavides was named as Alternate Council Member. Information was also provided on action to be taken on resolutions adopted at the 53rd Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

Bill Neiser provided the Board a report on Technical Assistance Supplemental Claims for Fiscal Year 1993. He said 86 districts requested supplemental funds and that \$26,901.43 was available and the maximum amount paid was \$383.59.

Mr. Neiser reported there were no additional dollars for Subchapter H Technical Assistance to allocate except the carryover

funds for Fiscal Year 1993. He also provided letters of request from Cross Timbers SWCD #556 for \$6,240 and Upper Leon SWCD #525 for \$6,000 in Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds. It was the consensus of the Board to postpone action until the January 1994 Board meeting when funds may be available.

The Board was provided a checklist indicating which soil and water conservation districts have financial statements in to the State Board headquarters office and which districts are doing audits.

Mr. Neiser discussed the Budget Versus Expenditure Report for the two month period ended October 10, 1993 by strategy title. There were no questions or comments.

Randy Jones gave a staffing update as of November 17, 1993 on recent hires and what positions interviews were currently being held for. He said the positions in the regional office in Dublin have been filled except for engineer and secretary and that he has accumulated qualified candidates for staff openings in regional offices in Titus County and Hale County and would continue to accept and consider resumes from numerous sources. He advised the Board interviews were currently in process for three more positions in the Temple office.

Mr. Jones provided the Board a copy of the agency's updated Affirmative Action Plan as directed by policy and Senate Bill 5. This plan communicated to various state and federal authorities, to the public and to our employees that we are an Affirmative Action

employer committed to hiring practices that do not discriminate against employees or applicants and also reflects goals the agency has set in order to achieve utilization of the minority work force in Texas. The Board had no questions or comments.

Kenton Inglis updated the Board on the watershed activities of the Soil Conservation Service. He said the SCS was ready to develop a PL-566 watershed plan on the Nolan River in Johnson County when the State Board approves the application and assigns a priority. He told the Board that SCS had their display in the Temple Mall during Agriculture Awareness Week, November 8-12, sponsored by the Temple Chamber of Commerce. He said Texas now has 23 organized RC&D project areas, 12 are authorized and 11 have applications in the national office. Mr. Inglis advised the Board that SCS has applied for \$3 million in Emergency Watershed Protection funds to assist in removal of debris from blocked channels and repair of flood prevention sites damaged by floods.

Dr. Clarence Richardson reported that the ARS had recently undergone a minor reduction in work force. He said they had formerly had 3 research units in Temple, but one unit has been discontinued because of limited resources.

Atlan Pfluger reported the Texas Water Development Board will consider 5 grant applications from soil and water conservation districts at their November board meeting.

Ron Jones from the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University updated the Board on their

activities and discussed the Clean Water Act Reauthorization. He said the Institute was involved at the national level on reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. He told the Board of a book entitled "Entering the Watershed" and said it is a book everyone needs to read.

Harvey Davis suggested that a workshop be held for Board members in the near future to discuss several items as to where the agency program is and where it needs to go. It was the consensus of the Board to have the workshop at a place and time coordinated by the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Director.

Dr. Allan Jones expressed appreciation to the Board for their participation in the Agriculture Summit recently held in College Station. He said the Experiment Station wants to work with our agency in any way they can and appreciates being able to work with our staff and in our programs.

Kenton Inglis and Bob Buckley updated the Board on USDA reorganization. They felt nothing would be done on the reorganization until after NAFTA and the health issues have been settled which could be as late as late spring.

Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act was discussed. James Moore had passed out at the Board meeting held in Lubbock on October 18 a draft paper stating the Board's position on the reauthorization for their review and comments. This paper is to provide for staff use the position of the Board on the Clean Water Act when the agency is asked for it. On motion of Harvey Davis,

seconded by Paul Robertson the position paper was adopted as amended. Motion carried. (Copy attached.)

James Moore advised the Board there have been nine letters of comment plus one verbal comment on the revised draft rules for Senate Bill 503. Mr. Moore told the Board all comments had been incorporated into the revised rules and indicated where the comments had been incorporated as he discussed the revisions. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the revised draft rules were adopted as permanent rules to be published in the **Texas Register**. Motion carried.

James Moore updated the Board on the implementation of Senate Bill 503. He reported that office space for regional offices in Hale Center and Mt. Pleasant would go out for bids soon and hoped to have offices open by March 1994. He reported that office space had been acquired in Dublin and three of five people had been hired to report to work on November 29, 1993.

Mr. Moore presented the final draft Memorandum of Agreement between the State Board and the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. Paul Robertson moved to adopt the MOA as emergency rules and publish as proposed permanent rules. Harvey Davis seconded and motion carried. On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Executive Director was authorized to sign the MOA. Motion carried. (Copy attached).

Mr. Moore updated the Board on the status of the nonpoint source management program. He said Bo Spoons has been hired and

would be responsible for the statewide nonpoint source management program and related activities of the agency.

Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act was discussed. The Board was provided information on a resolution adopted by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission for which input from the State Board and Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts had been requested.

James Moore discussed proposed rules published by the General Land Office regarding the Coastal Zone Management Program boundary for Texas which includes the first tier of counties or any county that is in contact with tidal waters. He discussed a draft of the goals and policies for the Coastal Management Program and indicated that comments were due on November 26 on the first draft, which would be followed by a second draft in mid December. Mr. Moore requested that the Board notify the staff of any comments they might have relative to the draft.

There was no report given for the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program.

Beade Northcut informed the Board the staff has not received the response from the State Single Point of Contact needed for approval of the PL-566 Nolan River Project.

Clyde Gottschalk advised the Board there would be a District Director Training Conference on February 8-9, 1993 in the State Board Conference Room for newly appointed and newly elected district directors. He also said plans were being made for a

Spring Agriculture Tour in May 1994 in the Salado and Central Texas area. More than 200 state and local officials will be invited to the tour. He also told the Board that the newly acquired agency's booths had been on display at the Lubbock Farm Show and the Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors in October, in the Temple Mall during Ag Awareness Week in November and will be on display at the Amarillo Farm Show in December. Tricia Davis reported on projects she is working on and stories she has prepared to be sent to magazines on the rice best management practice demonstration project. She attended a facilitator conference on Project Learning Tree and will be able to help conduct future teachers workshops. She also provided the Board a Fact Sheet and Update on Senate Bill 503.

Travel to the national NACD meeting in Phoenix, Arizona on January 30- February 3, 1994 was discussed and the Board made plans to attend.

Bill Neiser provided the Board a two-month travel report. Chairman Evans designated Paul Robertson to attend the State Farm Bureau meeting to be held in San Antonio on November 30 and represent the State Board members.

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board voted to go into Executive Session at 4:06 p.m. At 4:27 p.m. the Executive Session ended and the meeting was reconvened in regular session.

David Powell reported on a timber tour he had attended on

November 2 in East Texas on BMPs and wetlands.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a Board Member Workshop Conference on December 15 to begin at 1:00 p.m. and end by noon on December 16, 1993.

The next regular Board meeting is January 19, 1994.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Albert Evans
Chairman

Lain Cain
Secretary

1-19-94
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on November 17, 1993.

1-19-94
Date

Robert A. Buckley
Executive Director