

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
November 18, 1976

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 18, 1976, at 8:15 a.m. in the Conference Room, 1016 First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Albert Roach, Chairman  
Joe Antilley, Vice Chairman  
Frank Gray, Member  
E. W. Wehman, Member  
Henry Turney, Member

Staff Members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director  
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
Sonny Kretzschmar, Engineer  
Charles Rothe, Engineer  
Bob Buckley, Staff Services Assistant  
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor  
Jay Kuykendall, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

Kenneth Kuykendall, President, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Bill Snyder, Agricultural Economist, Soil Conservation Service  
Dr. Bill Harris, Land and Water Use Specialist, Agricultural Extension Service

The minutes of the October 12, 1976 meeting were approved as read.

Correspondence from the Maverick County watershed (Eagle Pass) requesting reinstatement of planning was discussed. Ranchers have expressed an intent to give easements for sites and the Maverick County Water Control and Improvement District has placed \$20,000 in escrow to help defray the costs of planning, easements and rights-of-way. The Board agreed to consider reinstatement of the priority when other watershed planning priorities are considered.

Sponsors of the Upper Caney watershed (Normangee) requested withdrawal of their watershed application in correspondence addressed to Area Conservationist, Mike McGuire of the Soil Conservation Service. No action was taken due to the lack of an official request to the State Board.

Sonny Kretzschmar reviewed updated studies of a field examination on Mill Creek watershed (Bellville). Due to an unfavorable benefit-cost ratio on the watershed, on motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board disapproved the project.

Due to an unfavorable benefit-cost ratio on the South Concho River watershed application near Christoval, Texas, E. W. Wehman made a motion, seconded by Joe Antilley that this watershed project be disapproved. Motion carried.

A status report of Public Law 566 watershed applications through October 1, 1976 was handed out.

Bill Snyder reported on watersheds in planning status and projects completed.

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

Harvey C. Vogt - Kendall SWCD #216  
Topper Frank - High Point SWCD #230  
Kenneth L. Hierholzer - Atascosa SWCD #307  
Tommy P. Bradley - Marion-Cass SWCD #433  
Neil Osburn - Rusk SWCD #447

John Millican reported on the division and reorganization of the Gaines-Andrews Soil and Water Conservation District No. 128 creating the Gaines County and the Andrews Soil and Water Conservation Districts. A petition was received on August 30, 1976. An audit has been made and

all funds distributed. On motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the division and reorganization of the Gaines-Andrews Soil and Water Conservation District as being practicable and feasible. Due to the division of the district, the Board approved new subdivisions in the Gaines County SWCD No. 166 and the Andrews SWCD No. 246 and appointed G. R. Wall, Jr. as director in subdivision 2 and Roy W. Wicker, Jr. as director in subdivision 4 of the Gaines County District; Gene Irwin as director in subdivision 2 and Lee Niblett as director in subdivision 4 of the Andrews District.

Sonny Kretschmar and Charles Rothe reviewed the current status of areawide water quality planning activities pursuant to PL 92-500, Section 208 and Executive Order DB-18A. A methodology for assessment and quantification of agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of pollution was nearing completion by the consulting firm of Espey, Huston and Associates, Inc. They also discussed basin planning activities and the need for silvicultural and economic impact studies to be possibly accomplished under contracts with other agencies, universities, or private consultants.

Dr. Harris expressed the interest of the Agricultural Extension Service in 208 planning. He commented favorably on the Annual State Meeting in McAllen, the Research Committee report and the luncheon for the Committee at the State Meeting.

Chairman Roach welcomed Kenneth Kuykendall, new President of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Harvey Davis reported on the attendance at the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in McAllen, Texas

on October 12, 13 and 14, 1976. Of the 789 people in attendance, 296 of these were directors representing 136 districts, 200 were directors' wives, 71 other ladies and 222 other men. Each Board member received a report showing how many directors were present from each district in Texas. A financial statement on the meeting was given each Board Member (copy attached). The Board evaluated the State Meeting program in view of improvements. The Board agreed the present format is still serving its purpose.

Bob Buckley presented each Board member with a copy of the 1978-1979 budget recommendations of the Legislative Budget Board in the amount of \$1,221,426 and \$1,239,730 respectively.

A conservation awards program for 1977 was discussed. Individual districts will hold local programs but at this late a date, the Board felt we could not have a State Awards program for 1977 but the Board agreed to have a State Awards program in 1978 if all necessary sponsors and finances could be arranged.

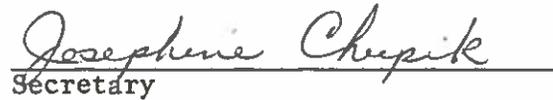
Harvey Davis read correspondence from Bill Clayton, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, relative to transferring the State Board from the Natural Resource Committee to the Agricultural Committee during the next session of the Legislature. Mr. Clayton will advise the Board later when he reaches a decision.

Harvey Davis reported on a recent memorandum from the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service regarding the confidentiality of conservation plans. Kenneth Kuykendall read a statement given at the National Association of Conservation Districts Directors meeting concerning this matter. The position being that landowner conservation plans are confidential since they belong to the landowner.

The 1977 National Association of Conservation Districts meeting to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 6-10, 1977, was discussed. All Board members will attend. On a motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board authorized travel for up to five staff members to be selected by Harvey Davis to attend this meeting.

The next regular meeting of the State Board will be January 20, 1977. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

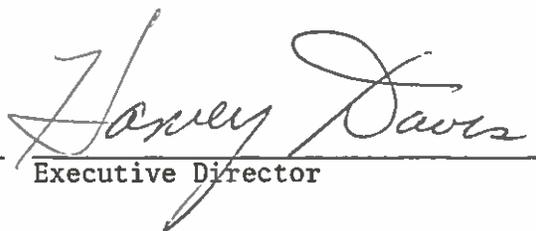
  
Chairman

  
Secretary

1-20-77  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on November 18, 1976.

1-20-77  
Date

  
Executive Director