

**Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**November 18, 1992**

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 18, 1992 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
James M. Moore, Engineer  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Janet Gonser, Planner  
Stephen Deiss, Planner  
Ramesh Chamala, Research Specialist  
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor  
Robert Gruner, Soil Conservationist  
Rex Isom, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist  
Andy Garza, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist  
Joe McKay, Soil Conservationist  
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist  
W. T. "Dub" Crumley, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board  
Mike Holt, Association of Texas SWCDs  
John Earl Smith, Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the minutes from the September 16, 1992 board meeting were approved as mailed.

John Millican presented district director appointments for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson and Albert Evans, the following appointments were approved.

Richard Hunter, Running Water SWCD #136  
Dale Raney, Sulphur-Cypress SWCD #419

John Millican discussed the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in South Padre Island, October 19-21, 1992. The Board was provided an income and expense statement and attendance statistics. Mr. Millican advised the Board that facilities have been secured for the State Meeting to be held in Lubbock for October 18-20, 1993. Resolutions adopted and door prize winners were provided. The Board was also provided with a list of Association committee appointments for 1993. Mr. Schendel expressed on behalf of the Board their appreciation to the staff and Association Board and others that contributed to the success of the meeting.

Clyde Gottschalk provided the Board with a map showing which districts have attended the Director Training Workshops sponsored by the State Board since February, 1991 and also provided a list of District Directors who have taken the course. He advised the Board that a workshop would be held in January, 1993 in the State Board

Conference Room for chairmen of soil and water conservation districts in Texas.

Mr. Gottschalk informed the Board that the State Association of SWCDs would apply for an EPA grant to be used by the Public Information/Education Committee if approved. He also provided the Board a list of districts who have completed the Public Information/Education survey.

Mr. Gottschalk discussed the Texas Agricultural Literacy Council's objective and mission statement. He advised the Board the council is sponsored by the Texas Farm Bureau.

Bill Neiser discussed the Supplemental Technical Assistance Payment Report for fiscal year 1992 and advised the Board that 85 districts received supplemental checks with the maximum payment being \$179.87. He discussed a letter from Parker County Soil and Water Conservation District #558 requesting additional technical assistance funds for fiscal year 1993. After some discussion it was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to the district advising them there are no technical assistance funds available at this time, but they would be considered again if funds become available.

Mr. Neiser then discussed fiscal year 1993 Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds. He presented the Board with requests from the Cross Timbers Soil and Water Conservation District #556 and Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District #525 for a special allocation of \$5,000 each to assist cooperators to improve water quality and water quantity. On motion of Paul Robertson,

seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board approved the special allocations of \$5,000 each. A proposal of suggested allocations for the balance of fiscal year 1993 Subchapter H allocations was provided each Board member. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board approved the proposed allocations as presented. (Copy attached.)

Mr. Neiser provided the Board a checklist showing the status of district audits or financial statements that had been received for fiscal years 1991-1992. He discussed some of the problems that districts are experiencing in preparing their new financial statements.

Bill Neiser reported on the budget hearing that Mr. Schendel, Mr. Buckley, Mr. Millican, and Mr. Moore had attended on September 30 before the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning staff and the Legislative Budget Board office staff. He said any increase in funding will be hard to get given the limited funds available for the next biennium. He feels that the recommendation from the Legislation Budget Board will be at our present level.

Bob Buckley discussed a phone call he had received from Dr. Kent Adair, College of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University, concerning a building to be built at the East Texas Plant Material Center proposed by the East Texas Community Partnership. Dr. Adair requested a letter from the State Board supporting the building. The proposed building could be used for teacher workshops and other events sponsored by districts. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board

authorized Mr. Buckley to write a letter of support.

James Moore discussed a proposed project involving poultry waste management developed by the Soil Conservation Service pursuant to the USDA grazing land initiative. He indicated that the proposal had been presented to several districts and had caused several questions to be asked that the staff could not answer. He then reported that the proposal was being rewritten to include input from the State Board and will then be taken back to districts with State Board and SCS endorsement.

Wes Oneth reported for the Soil Conservation Service. He advised the Board he presently has an Area Conservationist Conference being held in the State SCS office. He discussed the "SCS Office Concept" USDA reorganization proposal. He said a meeting has been set for November 30th in Washington, DC by the Secretary of Agriculture to discuss the reorganization of the USDA.

Mr. Oneth also advised the Board that the area offices in Victoria and Big Spring have been closed and that by October 1993 the area offices in Temple and Mt. Pleasant will be closed.

Mr. Oneth told the Board that Texas has received \$6 million in emergency watershed funds and that thirty watershed sites have been approved for refurbishing because of flooding last December and January.

Atlan Pfluger from the Texas Water Development Board told the Board that grant funds will be available February 1, 1993 for soil and water conservation districts to apply for to purchase water conservation equipment. Applications are due by December 31, 1992,

in order to be considered.

Mike Holt reported in the absence of Donald Swann for the Association of Texas Soil and water Conservation Districts. He informed the Board the "Committee of 100" will meet in Austin on December 7th. He extended an invitation to the State Board to attend the Association's board meeting on December 6 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Holt said the Association supported the State Board fully and will work to help obtain funding for fiscal years 1994-1995.

James Moore advised the Board that applications for 1993 319 funding have been transmitted to districts that qualify. He advised the Board the he had been contacted by several districts interested in the project. He also reported that the Texas Water Commission and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board are to work on a proposed joint watershed project on the Lake Fork Creek Watershed.

Mr. Moore brought the Board up to date on 1992 319 funding for an apparent agricultural nonpoint source project proposed by the Texas Water Commission. He said a meeting would be set up for the week after Thanksgiving with the Texas Water Commission to discuss state responsibility and division of authority relative to the nonpoint source program. It was the consensus of the Board to stand behind current agency authorities.

Mr. Moore discussed the status of the nonpoint source program. He said final reports have been received from the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton University and the Texas Forest Service. He also said that on December 3rd a

Demonstration Field Day may be held in Erath County to show dairymen some Best Management Practices being demonstrated at the State Board's project on Sta-Syn Dairy. Mr. Moore provided the Board the recommendations of the NPS Subcommittee of the Clean Water Council and said they had been adopted by the Council.

Mr. Moore briefed the Board on the status of the Alternative Compliance Program Pilot Project in Erath County. Mr. Buckley and Harvey Davis discussed a meeting conducted by Cross Timbers Soil and Water Conservation District #556 and Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District #525 on November 13th. They indicated that the purpose of the meeting, which was to answer district questions, was accomplished and both districts firmly supported the project.

Mr. Moore brought the Board up to date on activities pertaining to the Agricultural Chemicals in Groundwater Management Plan. He briefed the Board on an atrazine specific monitoring plan for San Patricio County developed to test the state's response ability should EPA find chemicals in groundwater.

Dick Schendel reported that Tom Manison, District Director from the Waters Davis Soil and Water Conservation District #318 had attended his first Citizens Advisory Committee for the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program. The Draft Management Plan for Galveston Bay is out for review. James Moore discussed a letter he had written concerning NPS recommendations that had been made without the knowledge or review of the State Board. A meeting is scheduled for early December for shoreline erosion and NPS planning.

Mr. Moore presented the Board with a schedule developed for the Federal Coastal Zone Nonpoint Source Management Program and indicated EPA and NOAA were already behind and may not take further action until next spring. He advised the Board that the agency had been placed on the General Land Office's State Agency Action Committee to coordinate the Coastal Management Program. A recent meeting of the Conservation Committee established by GLO was also discussed.

The results from the November 3rd state elections were provided to the Board.

The proposed amendment to SB 818 to make the State Board's role in NPS clear was also discussed. Also discussed was the proposed amendment to the Alternative Compliance Program which would expand the law and clarify NPS responsibility for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. It was the consensus of the Board to include the word "districts" in the proposal.

A Board members travel report was provided each Board member. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that he, Dick Schendel and Donald Swann plan to attend the national "Conservation at a Crossroads" meeting on January 5-7, 1993 in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Schendel and one other Board member, if they desire, were authorized to attend this meeting.

Each Board member was provided hotel reservations for the national NACD meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida on February 7-11, 1993.

Election results from the October district director elections for Zone 4 were provided each Board member for their information.

The next regular Board meeting is January 20, 1993.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Clarence F. Schradel  
Chairman

Lois Cain  
Secretary

1-20-93  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on November 18, 1992.

1-20-93  
Date

Robert S. Buckley  
Executive Director