

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
November 20, 1969

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Conference Room, 10th Floor, First National Building, Temple, Texas, at 8:15 a.m., November 20, 1969.

Board Members present were: E. W. Wehman, Chairman, H. W. Turney, Vice-Chairman, Frank Gray, and Joe Antilley.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director and Josephine Chupik, Office Manager of the State Board staff; and L. J. Lann, Assistant State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the September 17, 1969 meeting and the October 21, 1969 meeting were read and approved.

L. J. Lann reviewed the status of watershed construction and planning on Public Law 566 projects and presented a detailed summary to each Board Member.

Harvey Davis reviewed correspondence relative to the McClellan Creek watershed work plan. This watershed is being held up in Washington pending comments from the Governor of Oklahoma. The correspondence revealed that the Bureau of the Budget had directed the Soil Conservation Service to get comments from the Governor of Oklahoma pertaining to the McClellan Creek plan. The McClellan Creek plan under Public Law 566 is in Texas totally and is connected with Oklahoma only in the fact that McClellan Creek drains into Oklahoma and into the Altus Reservoir which was constructed several years ago by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau of Reclamation has expressed concern over a small amount of water that the upstream plan would detain from the Altus Reservoir. Actually if the Governor of Oklahoma opposes the project in Texas and the Bureau of Budget does not release funds for the project, this in turn puts Oklahoma in the position of telling Texas how to handle its own natural resources. Therefore, Harvey Davis suggested to the Board that they may need to

call on Governor Smith to help with this project if such is the case. No action was taken by the Board awaiting to find out what comments the Governor of Oklahoma submitted.

Harvey Davis read a letter from Howard Boswell of the Texas Water Development Board written to Honorable Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture, expressing his interest in the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention program in Texas.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the appointment of Romeo Ramirez as a Director of the Zapata Soil and Water Conservation District # 335.

A report was given by Harvey Davis on the attendance at our Annual State meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in Dallas, Texas on October 21-23, 1969. Of the 453 people in attendance, 203 of these were directors representing 106 districts, 111 ladies and 139 other men. A financial statement on this meeting was given to each Board Member. (copy attached)

The Board discussed Matching Funds. To date 11 districts have sent in requests for payment of Matching funds. It was reported that \$1,850.00 had been released from districts that was available for distribution to other districts that did not request funds when the Matching Fund was included in the State Board's budget request. Joe Antilley moved, seconded by H. W. Turney, to delay a decision on these funds until the next regular Board meeting. Motion carried.

Harvey Davis reported that 172 districts had held elections during the regular October election period in zone 1 and that staff members were contacting the Districts that did not hold elections to see why elections had not been held.

A letter from the Upper Sabine Soil and Water Conservation District was read requesting a change in Soil Conservation Service assistance to District cooperators. The Board directed Harvey Davis to review this request with the Soil Conservation Service to see if the requested change was feasible.

A letter from Clyde Graham, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service,

was reviewed in which Mr. Graham advised that he had to close the Soil Conservation Service Work Unit Office at Rockdale.

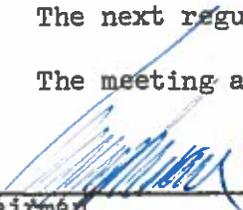
A possible meeting site for the 1971 Statewide meeting of District Directors was discussed. The Board directed Harvey Davis to check facilities at Austin, Corpus Christi and McAllen and to report back to the Board at a later date on his findings.

Several items in the nation that are happening to districts and various considerations for future district programs were discussed. Such items of discussion included the possibility of districts receiving federal funds in the future, legislation that has been adopted in various states that provides for the consolidation of small special purpose districts dealing with natural resources, with Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Director elections and other problems. No action was taken on any items of discussion but will be discussed more in the future.

Harvey Davis advised the Board that a vacancy existed in the Assistant Executive Director's position and that the Engineer's position would be vacant in the near future. The Board re-stated its previous position that authorized the Executive Director to fill these positions.

The next regular State Board meeting will be on January 15, 1970.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Chairman

Josephine Chupik

Secretary

1-15-70

Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil & Water Conservation Board meeting held on November 20, 1969.

1-15-70

Date *Harvey Davis*
Executive Director