

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
November 20, 1986

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, November 20, 1986 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North 5th, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Albert Roach, Chairman
Joe Antilley, Vice Chairman
Hermon Petty, Member
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Fred Squyres, 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
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Jay Kuykendall, Planner

Directors of the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts present were:

Waldo Smith, President, (1:00 p.m.) State Area III
W. Q. Richards, Vice President, State Area I
Buddy Clark, State Area II
Clyde E. Hale, State Area V
Joe Montgomery, Past President

Others present were:

Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. B. L. Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Dan McNamara, Sierra Club
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board
T. J. Higginbotham, Hays County Soil & Water Conservation District

Chairman Roach called the meeting to order.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved minutes of the September 18, 1986 meeting as read and minutes of the October 20, 1986 meeting as mailed out to each board member.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

John F. Furgeson - Blackwater Valley SWCD # 111
Robert F. Barlow - San Patricio SWCD # 324

John Millican discussed a request from the Nueces-Frio-Sabinal Soil and Water Conservation District # 221 to change its subdivision boundary lines to be identified by highways, roads and rivers. The new boundary lines would more equitably distribute the area among the five subdivisions. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the new subdivision boundary lines.

Bob Buckley explained the financial statement on the 46th Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in Austin, Texas on October 20, 21, and 22, 1986. This year for the first time a \$10.00 registration fee was charged for each spouse in attendance. Mr. Buckley also analyzed the income and expense incurred at the meeting. Many favorable comments were received on the "Get-Acquainted" reception and barbecue with country western music and Wednesday night's banquet speaker, the Honorable "Cotton" Ivy of the State of Tennessee legislature. All workshops were well attended with good participation in the discussions. Of the 872 people registered, 333 were district directors, representing 154 districts, 206 district directors' wives, 78 other ladies, and 255 other men. Five districts had 100% attendance.

Bob Buckley informed the Board that a few soil and water conservation districts are having some audit problems. In a few instances the Certified Public Accountant was unaware of two changes made in auditing procedures.

(1) Statements are to be on an accrual basis. District books are on a cash basis. Accrual basis recognizes liabilities and receivables. (2) Statement of revenues and expenses has to be done on a fiscal year basis - - not for a two year period. Buckley explained the audit return form being used to return

incorrect audits to districts and the audit review form being used by field personnel to determine if audits are in proper order. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are audited every two years. Average cost per district two years ago was \$400.00. This year the average cost will escalate to \$800.00 per district.

During the discussion on the annual statewide meeting of soil and water conservation district directors earlier in the meeting "Resolution # 9" - "District support for an updated agreement with the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation" was not discussed. This resolution requests updating the written working agreement between the State Board and the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation. The Board agreed to take action on this item in its January 1987 meeting.

Due to the division and reorganization of several soil and water conservation districts in 1986, letters requesting additional allocations in Conservation Assistance funds for fiscal year 1987 were reviewed from the following districts:

Goliad County # 352	\$1,200.00
Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos # 551	700.00
Pecan Bayou # 553	1,500.00
Callahan Divide # 552	1,000.00
Central Colorado # 550	800.00

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board granted additional allocations to the above districts totaling \$5,200.00 in Conservation Assistance funds.

Bob Buckley reported to the Board on contacts with our budget examiner in the Legislative Budget Board Office. The Legislative Budget Board will review budget requests for 1988-89 on December 6. The Board discussed appropriations for the program of soil and water conservation districts. After a lengthy discussion, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the

Board agreed that conservation assistance funds for districts should be the # 1 priority contingent upon the availability of increased appropriations.

Jo Chupik reported on the 1986 district director elections held October 1 thru October 15 in subdivision 1 and 2 of each soil and water conservation district. Of 410 elections held, 406 are complete with 357 district directors re-elected which is 88% and 49 new district directors elected which is 12%. A list of the newly-elected directors with addresses were given to each Board member. The 1987 soil and water conservation district directory will be computerized in our office and printed for distribution instead of contracting with another State agency as done in previous years.

The chairman declared a recess of the Board meeting at 11:00 a.m. to hold a public hearing on the State brush control plan pursuant to SB 1083. A copy of the minutes on the public hearing are attached to these minutes.

The Board reconvened its meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Chairman Roach welcomed the guests and asked if anyone had any comments to make.

Earl Burnett informed the Board that a replacement for Rex Johnston had not yet been made. He briefed the Board concerning a 1988 World Symposium on dryland agriculture being planned for Amarillo during the same time as the 50th birthday of Agriculture Research Service. He then announced that he will retire as ARS Director of the Grassland Research Laboratory effective the end of December.

Bill Harris reported that the Texas A & M University Board of Regents will meet November 24th and according to all indications will make some realignment in the structure of management. He updated the Board on Extension Service activities relative to the 1985 Farm Bill and cooperative wind erosion projects. He then informed the Board concerning a No-till Conference planned for College Station during July of 1987.

Dale Fischgrabe told the Board that Coy Garrett was attending a State Conservationists' meeting in Florida and that SCS was currently undergoing an EEO Commission review. He informed the Board that the Big Creek (Tri County) watershed project was going to the Senate Committee on Energy and Public Works for authorization, the Big Creek (Delta County) project was nearing the point for approval by the State Conservationist, and gave status reports on Buffalo Creek at Cleburne, Upper San Marcos and Elm Creek watershed projects. He indicated that the Austin area office was to close November 21, that Charlie Thompson, State Soil Scientist was to retire effective December 23, and that 24 people were currently taking advantage of early out provisions. He concluded with a report on the 1985 Farm Bill training sessions and SCS activities relative to the Farm Bill.

The Board took up discussion of the conservation provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill. Dale Fischgrabe reported on a change in sodbusting provisions whereby producers who planted in 1987 will be considered under a conservation plan if a plan is accepted during the crop year and fully implemented within three years. Buddy Clark asked what increased work load SCS expects as a result of the new tax bill. Dale Fischgrabe explained that they did not know yet.

An indepth discussion of a district director liability relative to the 1985 farm bill took place resulting in Harvey Davis recommending that SCS have USDA Attorneys look into the question and try to arrive at a definite answer. Dale Fischgrabe agreed and indicated he would request help from USDA.

James Moore updated the Board on activities relative to the Pilot Loan Program. He indicated that there are currently three soil and water conservation districts approved as lenders under the program: Comal Guadalupe, Brazos Robertson and Austin County and that loan contracts were in the process of being signed. He also reported that the Water Development Board had changed its guidelines to provide that no interest at all would be charged lenders during their 120 day loan processing period. He then reported on

on a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to acquire control over extensive acreage of river bottom lands in Texas through easements or fee title.

James Moore reported on the recent veto of the Water Quality Act of 1986. He indicated that Clinton Spotts, recently retired as Assistant Administrator of EPA Region VI, had been invited to give the Board his thoughts on the future of EPA and non-point source pollution programs, but was unable to attend the meeting. He then reported on an EPA Water Quality Seminar conducted in Dallas on November 19.

Clyde Gottschalk reported on the slide program being developed on the technical assistance program and its benefits to the conservation program. It will be completed by January 1, 1987.

Harvey Davis informed the Board that the 70th Session of the Legislature convenes on January 13, 1987 and asked if any legislation pertinent to the soil and water conservation district program should be considered. The Board discussed legislation now being drafted which would exempt from sales tax items used in construction or maintenance of soil and water conservation measures approved by a soil and water conservation district.

John Millican handed out a revised draft of the memorandum of understanding between the A & M University System, the State Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the Board members to review and note any changes to be made.

Bob Buckley reported that Carol Zimmerman of the Office of the State Auditor had completed a limited review of the State Board's records and the system of internal controls for the period from September 1, 1984 thru August 31, 1986. The only recommendation included in the auditor's report was to establish procedures which will insure that future reports are prepared in conformity with the applicable "Annual Financial Report Guidelines". Such procedures have been implemented for the 1986 financial report preparation.

The National Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held in Reno, Nevada on February 1-5, 1987, at the MGM Grand Hotel. The Board made preparations to attend the meeting.

Chairman Roach acknowledged Waldo Smith and asked for any comments he may wish to make. Mr. Smith thanked the Board for being invited to participate in the meeting.

The Board discussed changing the regular board meeting date in January due to a conflict. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board changed the meeting date to the 3rd Wednesday, January 21, 1987.

Hermon Petty expressed concern about the local soil and water conservation program in Texas. Hermon Petty made a motion that the State Board start immediately to take necessary action to seek congressional support and NACD cooperation to preserve the district program in Texas, as we know it, during the implementation of the conservation provisions of the 1985 farm bill. Motion was seconded by Fred Squyres. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Albert Roach
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

January 21, 1987
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 20, 1986.

January 21, 1987
Date

Janey Davis
Executive Director