

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD
DECEMBER 11, 1964

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session on December 11, 1964, at 8:00 a.m. in its office in Temple, Texas.

Board Members present: E. W. Wehman, Chairman, A. F. Leesch, J. S. Sharp and J. Frank Gray.

Others present: Harvey Davis, Executive Director, J. M. Norton and S. E. Jones of the State Board staff, Gilbert Kretzschmar, President and A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts, C. W. Graham, Deputy State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the October 27-29 Board meeting were read and approved.

Preliminary field examination reports were given by Norton on the Mill Creek watershed in the Kaufman-Van Zandt SCD, the San Antonio-Nueces watershed in the Alamo, Medina Valley, and Atascosa SCDs and the Dutchman Creek & Shinnery Draw watershed in the Upper Pease SCD. Upon receiving favorable reports, on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the watersheds as being economically feasible for planning and development.

Harvey Davis discussed a letter from Marvin Emerson, Executive Director of the Oklahoma State Soil Conservation Board whereby they had agreed with the proposed 50-50 percent as a division of costs for planning the Upper and Lower Sweetwater Creek watershed between Texas and Oklahoma. Also, the Oklahoma State Board agreed to provide \$30,000 toward planning of the watersheds provided their survey crews would do the survey work in Oklahoma and this cost would be deducted from the \$30,000, and the remaining amount or balance of the fund could be furnished over a period of 2 years. They further stipulated that the furnishing of funds under this agreement

be contingent upon the Soil Conservation Service securing an additional \$60,000 of Federal funds with which to complete the planning of the watersheds. The Oklahoma State Board then authorized the Texas State Soil Conservation Board to make the request to the Soil Conservation Service for an additional \$60,000 Federal allocation with which to plan the Sweetwater Creek watersheds together with State funds. After some discussion of the above agreement, on motion by Frank Gray, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved submitting a request to the Soil Conservation Service for \$60,000 of Federal funds to supplement the States funds and plan the watershed.

Mr. Davis reviewed a letter from Mr. Billy Davis in which he expressed their interest in planning and developing the McClellan Creek watershed in Gray and Carson Counties and committed some \$18,000 of local funds to July 1, 1966 toward assisting in the work plan development cost. The Board took no action at this time.

Mr. Leesch and Mr. Wehman reported on the tours and hearings of the Hitson, C & L, and Washburn Draws watershed and the Cornudas and North Draw watershed at Dell City on December 4, 1964, and also on the tour and hearing on the North Cuero watershed at Cuero on December 10, 1964. Some indication was given by the Cuero sponsors that they may be interested in providing a trust fund for planning.

Mr. Clyde Graham gave a report on the status of watershed planning in Texas. Work Plans are complete on Chocolate-Little Chocolate and Lynn's Bayou, Duck Creek, Castleman Creek, Williams Creek and Attoyac River. Planning is approximately 40% complete on Rush Creek at Comanche and well along on Choctaw Creek at Sherman. Planning is scheduled to begin on Running Water Draw on January 15, 1965. Mr. Graham stated that he would be needing another priority for planning in the very near future to keep the planning parties busy. He further reported that renewed interest had developed on the John Mann-Bitter-Oaks-Polecat Creeks, the Upper and

Lower Bois'd'arc Creeks, and Darrs Creek watersheds.

The Board discussed prospective and qualified watersheds in consideration of a planning priority. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved Farmers Creek, McClellan Creek, and North Cuero watershed to be considered in selecting one for a planning priority and authorized Harvey Davis to determine the one that fits the need at the present time for a priority with Farmers Creek having first consideration, provided a Trust fund is furnished.

Chairman Wehman brought to the attention of the Board that some time had passed since they had regularly reviewed the status of watersheds pending planning and he felt that at some date in the future the Board should very carefully review the status of all of the watersheds which have met the requirements for consideration of a planning priority and select several watersheds on which planning priorities can be set. Mr. Leesch suggested that this be done and further that it be considered in their March meeting. The Board agreed.

A request from the Mitchell County Soil Conservation District to change the name of their District was brought to the attention of the Board. After discussion, the Board approved and authorized the change of the name of the District on motion by Leesch, seconded by Sharp, pending the justification for the change of name and the proper certification of need.

Brownwood was discussed as the site for the 1965 Annual State Meeting relative to the adequacy of accommodations and facilities to hold the meeting. Mr. Davis reported on his visit to Brownwood recently with Mr. Leesch and Mr. Jones to inspect their facilities and room accommodations and all agreed that the facilities were not adequate to accommodate the number of people that would be expected to attend. On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board directed Mr. Davis, together with Mr. Leesch and Mr. Wehman to contact the people in Brownwood and the local Soil

Conservation District and discuss the problem and arrange to withdraw their previous commitment to come to Brownwood. However, Brownwood will be considered as a future meeting place whenever accommodations become adequate.

After reviewing other invitations for the 1965 Annual State Meeting, on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved Corpus Christi as the site for the 1965 Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors and designated October 12, 13, and 14, 1965 as the dates of the meeting, and the Driscoll Hotel as the headquarters.

On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved Austin, Texas as the place for the 1966 Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors, and designated the dates of October 11, 12, 13, 1966 provided satisfactory arrangements can be made with the Driskill Hotel and Stephen F. Austin Hotel with the Stephen F. Austin Hotel serving as headquarters.

The Annual meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts to be held in Portland, Oregon on February 7-11, 1965 was discussed. On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board approved and authorized three persons to attend from the State Board and staff.

Mr. Graham led a discussion on Resource, Conservation, and Development (RC&D) projects. There has been 10 approved for planning in the nation. A recent application received from the Southeast Texas Area covers problems in 8 Soil Conservation Districts and 10 counties and comprises some 5 million acres. Another application is under consideration in Erath, Comanche, and Eastland Counties. Under the law, the applications are submitted to the State Conservationist for approval or disapproval, but the Governor of the State or his designee will review and prepare comments. His approval or disapproval will be taken into consideration prior to further action on the project. Mr. Davis and Mr. Graham met with the Governor's assistant and discussed this with him, but as yet there has been no indication as to who is to

act for the Governor.

Mr. Davis reviewed the bills drafted by the Legislative Council for the House Committee on Soil and Water Resources pertaining to Soil Conservation Districts. He plans to assist the Council in their further efforts to draft any bills of this nature. Senator Richter has agreed to sponsor some of the legislation proposed and adopted by the supervisors in their annual Meeting in Sherman and has requested the Legislative Council to draft a bill which will include the following:

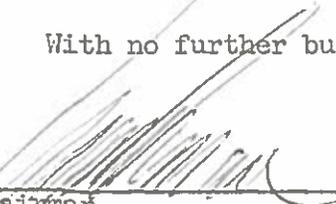
1. Increase mileage and per diem of supervisors to 8¢ (eight cents) per mile and \$10.00 (ten dollars) per day.
2. Increase the State Board Members per diem to \$20.00 (twenty dollars) per day.
3. Change the name of Soil Conservation Districts to "Soil and Water Conservation Districts".
4. Change the date of the election of District Supervisors to the first 15 (fifteen) days in October of each year.

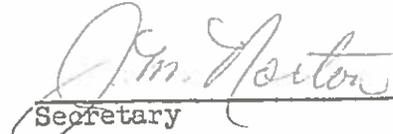
Mr. Davis will advise with Senator Richter and review the preliminary drafts for adequacy.

Harvey Davis discussed attending a meeting of the Texas Water Commission with other State and Federal Agencies relative to the water plan which the Commission is undertaking. He pledged our assistance and has designated J. M. Norton as the representative of the Board to work with the Commission. Davis recalled the interest of the Water Commission in working with small towns of less than 5,000 population in studying and developing water supplies to meet their needs. He suggested the Board might consider the possibility of employing a hydrologist to assist in providing this service for these small communities in connection with the

small watershed program.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary

February 19, 1965
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your
minutes dated December 11, 1964.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

