

MINUTES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY

20th, 1943, 10 A.M.

The State Soil Conservation Board met in the board room at Temple, Texas, February 20th, 1943. The meeting was called to order at 10 A. M. by Chairman Walter W. Cardwell, with members J. P. Martin, C. M. Caraway, and William G. Kennedy present. Others in attendance were V. C. Marshall, Administrator, Howard H. Goss, Field Representative, L. G. Black, Administrative Assistant, and P. H. Walser, State Conservationist, S. C. S.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary, and adopted as read.

The practicability and feasibility of the Trinity Bay, Marion-Cass, Coastal, and San Saba Brady Soil Conservation Districts was acted upon favorably by the board, on motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Caraway.

An election for the Hill Country District was granted by the board, on motion by Mr. Caraway seconded by Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Marshall read a list of supervisors appointed or re-appointed since the last meeting, and all appointments were confirmed by the board on motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Mr. Marshall stated that a delegation from Grayson County had come down to the state office in the interest of annexing part of Grayson County to district No. 524, and that the delegates showed much interest, and said that they would submit a petition for the annexation. He also stated that no recent interest for a district had been shown in Collin County.

Mr. Kennedy expressed surprise that all of Johnson County had not shown interest in a district. ~~Mr. Marshall stated that the lack of interest in parts of Johnson County and Hill County was largely due to two county agents.~~ Mr. Goss said that interest in that territory has increased lately.

Mr. Marshall stated that Mr. Goss has met the group in Foard County and that a petition is being circulated in Hardeman County. He also said that the lack of interest in Fisher and Nolan Counties was due largely to the turn over in county agents.

Mr. Marshall stated that he believes that the proposed plan to be followed in the districts in the coastal area will be the most economical and practical.

Mr. Marshall informed the board that he had had a letter from Senator

George Moffatt to the effect that the bill for paying supervisors mileage had been reported out of the committee. He said that Representative Roark had told him that he did not anticipate any trouble in the passage of the bill in the House.

Mr. Marshall reported to the board on the action to date on the regular appropriations bill for the 1943-45 biennium, and said that he had refused to cut the original request of the State Board as suggested by the Senate Appropriations Committee. He reported what action he had taken and stated that he believed the bill would be passed satisfactorily.

Mr. Walser reported the progress on wide spread simple (or starting) soil conservation practices, and said that good progress was being made in Shelby, Panola, and Nacogdoches Counties, but that lack of interest was wide spread in other areas. He said that the S. C. S. was largely responsible for this lack of interest since they had not informed the district supervisors of the program. He said that the S. C. S. had held a meeting in Fort Worth to try to work out this problem and to try to start the program to functioning. He said that at a meeting at College Station, it was brought out that in Comanche County, 70,000 acres were available for safe conservation planting to peanuts, but that to reach the incentive acreage goal, a much larger acreage would have to be planted. He also stated that representatives of the S. C. S. and State Soil Conservation Board had a meeting with A. A. A. representatives to try to remedy this situation. He stated that two accomplishments were made at this meeting: (1) The State Soil Conservation Board and the S. C. S. had been put on record that if excessive peanut planting continued, the land on which peanuts are planted would likely not last more than three more years. (2) The S. C. S. district supervisors became acquainted with the A. A. A. representatives.

Mr. Walser stated that if Hockley County planted its allotted 18,500 acres to peanuts, the county would be ruined. He said that in an effort to conserve the soil along with the emergency planting program, Terry County has a soil type map that they are using in conjunction with their peanut planting, and are trying to regulate the planting accordingly. He stated that the biggest problem on peanut planting would be in the cross timbers and rolling plains areas, and in the section of the state around Atascosa Co. He said that he believed the best remedy for this would be for S. C. S. representatives and district supervisors to become acquainted with A. A. A. representatives and try to work with them and get planting regulated along the lines of soil conservation.

Mr. Walser stated that in Swisher County, district supervisors had never recognized priority areas, but were working at random over the county. He said that he had informed the supervisors that he thought this was a mistake, but that the controversy raised a problem and presented a very delicate situation, that is, the problem of how far training and instructions of supervisors should go.

Mr. Caraway stated that he believed that assistance should be granted only to districts that work in priority areas.

Mr. Walser appealed to the board for assistance in working out this problem.

Mr. Goss stated that he believed that supplemental memoranda of understanding should be very specific in defining priority areas. Mr. Walser said that this was difficult to do at the time that supplemental memoranda are prepared.

Mr. Kennedy raised the question of definition of priority areas. He said that supervisors should have an adequate explanation of priority areas, and be shown their need. Mr. Walser said that this was primarily an educational problem.

Mr. Marshall stated that in some sections, ^{vocational agriculture teachers} ~~county agents~~ directly opposed priority areas, and cited Dallas County as an example; he said that nothing but time could cure this difficulty.

Mr. Walser said that the S. C. S. has a serious problem in taking the leadership in districts without taking over the functions of the district supervisors. He said that he had always hoped that the supervisors would assume active administration of the district. Mr. Marshall stated that the general attitude of farmers has not changed, and that they hesitate to take the initiative.

There was a general discussion of farm labor problems, and conservation planting, and Mr. Goss gave an account of contacting nine farmers on the streets of Brownfield, and stated that eight of them said that they would continue to plant maximum acreage to peanuts because they can make more money in that way at the present time. Mr. Marshall stated that Washington was not concerned with soil conservation but only with the production of peanuts.

Mr. Marshall reported that he had sent out letters to all delegates who had attended the convention at the time of Mr. Kennedy's election to the State Board, and that he thought that the same delegates would elect Mr. Kennedy's successor.

Mr. Marshall took up the revised district program and work plan forms and said that drainage which heretofore had largely been overlooked is applicable to the new districts now being created in the coastal area. He said that a meeting had been held with S. C. S. representatives to work on a revision of the plan, and that it would be presented to the board for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Kennedy asked his present status. Mr. Marshall quoted the State Law to the effect that a board member will continue to serve until his successor is elected and qualified, and stated that an election for Mr. Kennedy's successor would be held concurrently with the regular elections for board members in May, 1943.

Mr. Martin asked Mr. Walser which district supervisors were creating the greatest problem. Mr. Walser said that generally supervisors were functioning well. Mr. Goss stated that most of the trouble is in areas where there are pressure groups opposed to districts.

Mr. Cardwell inquired about machinery to be granted to county commissioners by application to the war board. The general opinion of those present was that such machinery was not available. Mr. Cardwell also asked about the S. C. S. heavy equipment that is to be granted to districts. Mr. Walser stated that this equipment is now up for sale and that an equitable distribution of the proceeds is expected to be made to all districts, the Middle Guadalupe Basin district to handle the sale of the equipment. Mr. Walser stated that all S. C. S. equipment that has previously been loaned to districts is expected to be granted to such districts.

Mr. Kennedy raised the question of the responsibility for money realized from the sale of the equipment granted to districts. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Walser both said that the proceeds must be used for the furtherance of conservation practices.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 P. M.


Walter W. Cardwell, Chairman


L. G. Black, Secretary

SUPERVISORS APPOINTED AND REAPPOINTED SINCE DECEMBER 19, 1942

<u>DEST No.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
304	WILLIAM P. PATTON, JR.	SUCCEEDS JOE P. ROCHELLE
523	W. H. SIMMONS	RE-APPOINTED
428	CLARENCE M. WELLS	RE-APPOINTED
514	MORRIS CRAWFORD	SUCCEEDS T. S. HENDERSON
525	WALTER HAMILTON	SUCCEEDS TOM E. HUGHES
210	W. E. BUNTON	SUCCEEDS LUCIUS D. BUNTON
526	H. E. BAILES	RE-APPOINTED
108	M. E. CASEY	SUCCEEDS T. L. HOLT
207	R. D. BUCHANAN	SUCCEEDS U. D. WULFJEN
115	A. JOHNSTON	RE-APPOINTED
206	N. A. ESTES	SUCCEEDS H. R. CLEMMER