

Official Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
March 14, 1959

The regular meeting of the State Soil Conservation Board was held in Temple, Texas beginning at 8:00 a. m. March 14, 1959.

Members present were: S. J. Payne, E. W. Wehman, A. F. Leesch, J. C. Sharp, and J. C. Porter.

Others present were: A. C. Spencer, Harvey Davis, and Garner Jones of the State Soil Conservation Board, and Clyde Graham of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the February 20, 1959 meeting were read and approved.

The matter of the dates of the State-wide Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors for 1960 were discussed, and a motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by E. W. Wehman to set the date of the 1960 meeting in Galveston for January 13, 14, and 15. The motion carried.

A letter from Walter J. Humphrey concerning the Fort Worth Press Awards program was read by J. C. Porter in which mention was made of the recognition given the awards program. A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by E. W. Wehman for a letter to be formulated expressing appreciation to the Fort Worth Press for their efforts and organization in carrying out the awards program and pledge the assistance of the State Soil Conservation Board in promoting participation through the efforts of the field men and other informational media.

The Zone One Board Member Election on May 5, 1959 at Plainview was discussed and Chairman, S. J. Payne stated that he would contact the local people in Plainview and see that necessary arrangements were completed.

The matter of the next meeting of the Board was discussed. A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by E. W. Wehman to have the next meeting in the Texas Hotel, Fort Worth at 3:00 p. m. May 2, 1959 in connection with the Fort Worth Press Awards program. The motion carried.

Mr. C. M. Carraway and Mr. Billy Keith of Dublin appeared briefly before the Board in behalf of a high priority for the Cow-Armstrong Watershed.

The field examination report recommending approval of Barton's and Sunday Creek Watershed, Palo Pinto Soil Conservation District #518, was read by A. C. Spencer. A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by J. C. Porter to approve the watershed. The motion carried.

The field examination report recommending disapproval of the White Oak Creek Watershed, Hopkins-Rains Soil Conservation District #445, was read by A. C. Spencer. A motion was made by J. S. Sharp and seconded by A. F. Leesch to disapprove the Watershed. The motion carried.

A. C. Spencer presented a request of the Gray County Soil Conservation District to change their zone boundaries as shown on a map submitted with their request, which would provide a better distribution of the number of land owners in each zone. A motion was made by E. W. Lehman and seconded by J. S. Sharp to change the zone boundaries of the District as requested. The motion carried.

Howard Boswell of the Association reviewed briefly legislation pending in the Texas Legislature that affects Soil Conservation Districts. Among these Bills is SB #316 which clarifies participation of counties, cities, and other sub-divisions of State government in the maintenance and operation of upstream flood prevention works of improvement. Mr. Boswell stated that a hearing before the Conservation and Reclamation Committee of the Senate had been set for March 17, 1959. By mutual consent the Board designated A. F. Leesch to appear with the group before the Committee in behalf of the Bill.

Clyde Graham reviewed the stipulation of the Bureau of the Budget, Washington, D. C. that only 100 new starts under Public Law 566 could be made in 1959, and no new starts in 1960. Mr. Graham stated that a new start is made when construction funds have been obligated. Due to the fact that local arrangements were such that only about 40 new starts could be made in 1959. Mr. Graham

stated that the Bureau of the Budget has authorized a carry over from 1959 to 1960 of 60 new starts. The Board discussed the problem of determining the allocation of projects in terms of starts rather than in terms of funds to be obligated. It was pointed out that a potential of projects in Texas ranged from 2200 acre watersheds to 248,000 acre watersheds and that the number of structures ranged from one to 40. Under this system of allocation of funds the State Board could hardly afford to recommend the smaller projects for planning at this time. On a motion by J. C. Porter and seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Texas State Soil Conservation Board authorized its Executive Director to register its disapproval of the new-start method of allocating funds for PL 566 projects. This disapproval to be registered with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Bureau of the Budget, the U. S. Senators from Texas and appropriate Texas Congressmen. The motion carried.

Recommendations for priorities for planning of watersheds by the planning party financed by PL 566 funds and the planning party financed with local funds were considered.

A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by S. J. Payne that Kickapoo Creek be recommended for planning by the Trust Fund Planning Party, following their completion of planning of East Keechi Watershed. The motion carried. The above action taken contingent on satisfactory progress being made within the next 8 months in securing new agreements and establishing conservation on the land, and also contingent on the local people making satisfactory arrangements in the near future for the handling of operations and maintenance of the project.

After careful review of all engineering data, results of public hearings, and supplemental information furnished from the different 22 Watersheds under consideration, the State Soil Conservation Board on motion by J. S. Sharp and seconded by E. W. Wehman recommends the setting of a priority for the following named Watersheds in the order listed:

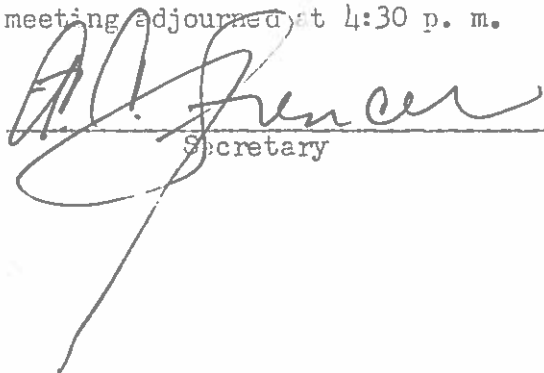
- (1) Elm Creek in the Central Texas Soil Conservation District, near Temple.
- (2) Resley Creek in the Upper Leon Soil Conservation District, near Dublin.
- (3) Kent Creek in the Caprock Soil Conservation District, near Quitaque.

The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p. m.



Chairman



Secretary