

Official Minutes  
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting  
May 2, 1959

The State Soil Conservation Board held its regular meeting at Hotel Texas, Fort Worth, Texas on May 2, 1959 beginning at 4:00 P.M.

Members present were:

S. J. Payne, Chairman, A. F. Leesch, E. W. Wehman, J. C. Porter, and J. S. Sharp.

Others present were: A. C. Spencer of the State Soil Conservation Board, Walter Humphrey, Editor of the Fort Worth Press, Nolen Fuqua former President of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, H. B. Boswell, Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts and Clyde Benson, District supervisor of the Upper West Fork Soil Conservation District.

Chairman Payne recognized the visitors and asked Walter Humphrey for a discussion on progress of the Fort Worth Press awards program. Mr. Humphrey stated that the program is progressing fairly well but that there is not as much interest now as was true in former years. He stated that perhaps the program needs the spark of something new. The particular portions of the program that need promotion and extra emphasis are:

1. The best Conservation Group.
2. The outstanding conservation farmer.
3. The outstanding radio and TV conservation contributor.
4. The weekly and daily newspaper awards.

The members of the State Soil Conservation Board as well as H. B. Boswell, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts pledged their assistance in carrying on a better information and promotion program concerning this worthy undertaking by the Fort Worth Press. The State Board agreed to ask its Field Planning Engineers to stress entrance in the Fort Worth Press awards program as a portion of each district's annual plan of operations. The Board also agreed to call to the attention of the districts at

the beginning of the year the value of participating in the various portions of the program and to remind the districts several times in advance of the time to complete entries. The Board also invited Mr. Humphrey to be present and participate in the annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation Districts to be held in Galveston.

Preliminary field examinations on watersheds applying for assistance under Public Law 566 were considered. Due to indicated unfavorable cost

benefit ratios on; Groom Creek, Staked Plains SCD  
Buck Creek, Salt Fork SCD  
Verde Creek, Kerr County SCD  
Upper North Wichita, Upper Pease SCD

a motion was made by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch to finally disapprove these watersheds. A review of the preliminary field examination on Upper Las Moras watershed, West Nueces-Las Moras SCD, indicated a favorable cost benefit ratio. A. F. Leesch moved J. S. Sharp seconded the motion to approve this project as being economically feasible. The motion carried.

The Board considered and approved an application for changing Zone Boundaries of the Coastal Soil Conservation District upon motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by J. C. Porter.

A. C. Spencer reported that returns have been received for the elections to dissolve the Nacogdoches-Rusk and Shelby-Panola Soil Conservation Districts and to organize the Rusk, Nacogdoches, Panola and Shelby Soil Conservation Districts. An official canvas of the results of election showed the vote for dissolution of the Nacogdoches-Rusk Soil Conservation District to be 494 for and 111 against, and for dissolution of the Shelby-Panola Soil Conservation District to be 490 for and 4 against. The vote for creation of the Nacogdoches Soil Conservation District was 138 for and 67 against. On creation of the Rusk Soil Conservation District the vote was 439 for 17 against. The vote for creation of the Shelby Soil Conservation District was 314 for and 2 against and for creation

of the Panola Soil Conservation District, 13<sup>4</sup> for and 0 (zero) against. Upon motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by E. W. Wehman the Board officially determined the above to be the results of the elections.

Upon motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by A. F. Leesch the Board made determinations of practicability and feasibility for dissolving the Shelby-Panola and Nacogdoches-Rusk Soil Conservation Districts. On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by J. C. Porter the Board voted to officially determine practicability and feasibility for the creation of the Shelby, Panola, Nacogdoches and Rusk Soil Conservation Districts. On motion by J. S. Sharp seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board voted to appoint the following supervisors to the Boards of the four new districts to be created:

Shelby #449	Zone 2	Lawrence P. Bridges
	Zone 4	John F. Childs
Panola #448	Zone 2	Lloyd Brooks
	Zone 4	M. R. Tiller
Nacogdoches #401	Zone 2	George F. Freshour
	Zone 4	Belton Latimer
Rusk #447	Zone 2	Reagan Taylor
	Zone 4	W. G. Ross

A. C. Spencer advised the Board members that two supervisor's training meetings are being planned, one with the fourteen Soil Conservation Districts in the Deep East Texas Association Area and the other in the Gulf Coast Area. The Field Planning Engineers, O. F. Armstrong and L. F. Stewart are working with the officers and directors of the State Association in planning subjects to be discussed and supervisors to lead discussions at these training meetings. The object of the meetings is to discuss district problems pertinent to the operation of local districts. The district supervisors will conduct the meetings. The Field Planning Engineers will assist the participants on the program in securing needed information.

A. F. Leesch reported that the State Board Executive Director, A. C. Spencer, has been invited to participate in the National Watershed Congress in Washington on May 25, 26, and 27. After discussion A. F. Leesch moved and J. C. Porter seconded the motion that A. C. Spencer be authorized to attend the National Watershed Congress.

A discussion pertaining to the "new starts" policy of the Bureau of the Budget in connection with small watershed projects ensued. J. C. Porter mentioned that he had written his Congressman. A. C. Spencer reported that each Texas Congressman has responded favorable but as yet no definite change in policy has been registered and asked Mr. H. B. Boswell to work through the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts to try to get some alteration of the "new starts" policy.

The Board briefly discussed the May 4, 5, and 6 meeting in Denver, Colorado concerning the Great Plains program and also a meeting of the Great Plains State Policy Committee to be held in the near future at Sweetwater. It was mutually agreed that the State Board would not be represented at Denver but that Mr. A. F. Leesch would represent the Board at the State Policy Committee meeting to be held in Sweetwater.

Chairman S. J. Payne stated that the election for a State Board Member to represent State District One will be held in Plainview, Texas on May 5 at 1:30 P.M. Mr. Payne expressed his appreciation to the Board for the courtesies shown him during his 14 years of service. The Board members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Payne both verbally and in the form of a Stetson Hat. Mr. Payne stated that he was not a candidate for re-election.

H. B. Boswell reported to the Board on the status of legislation. He stated that Senate Bill 316 which clarifies County participation in upstream flood prevention maintenance work is ready for the Governor's signature and that a

bill to permit portions of Soil Conservation Districts to withdraw and annex to adjoining Soil Conservation Districts has been passed.

After discussion pertaining to the next meeting J. C. Porter made a motion, seconded by J. S. Sharp that Vice-Chairman E. W. Wehman in conference with A. C. Spencer determine when the next meeting is needed and that it be called by Vice-Chairman E. W. Wehman. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

August 8, 1959  
Date

Harvey S. Jones  
Secretary

[Signature]  
Chairman