

OFFICIAL MINUTES
TEXAS STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD
BAKER HOTEL, DALLAS, TEXAS
JUNE 20, 1956

The regular meeting of the State Soil Conservation Board was called to order by vice-chairman, A. F. Leesch in the Baker Hotel, Dallas, Texas at 9 p.m., June 20, 1956

Other members present were S. J. Payne, J. C. Porter and E. W. Wehman. Others in attendance were A. C. Spencer of the State Soil Conservation Board, H. B. Boswell and John Royal of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts, W. T. Moon of the Soil Conservation Service and C. M. Caraway, Sr., formerly of the State Board.

The minutes were read and approved.

A recommendation by the Soil Conservation Service that priorities for the development of detailed watershed protection and flood prevention plans on Agua Dulce, Agua Dulce Laterals, Chiltipin-San Fernando and San Diego-Rosita watersheds was considered. Mr. Moon stated that Nueces, Jim Wells and Duval Counties have agreed to put up a trust fund of \$90,000 for the development of these detailed work plans. Nueces County is to put up 50%, Jim Wells, 30% and Duval 20%. A motion was made by E. W. Wehman and seconded by S. J. Payne that priority for planning be granted these four watersheds. These priorities to be contingent upon the local people executing a trust agreement to supply \$90,000 to cover costs of the development of the detailed work plans. The motion carried.

E. W. Wehman and J. C. Porter reported that they, together with A. F. Leesch, A. C. Spencer and Harvey Davis, had attended a budget hearing held at Austin, Texas on May 28, 1956. Mr. Porter stated that he was well pleased with the budget hearing and felt that the representatives of the legislative budget board and the Governors budget committee were in agreement with the items of our budget. Mr. Wehman stated that the major portion of the questions asked pertained to the position of soil conservation districts relative to solution of Texas Water Problems.

A letter was read from Bill Southworth, Program advisor of the N.A.S.C.D. in which Mr. Southworth stated that the N.A.S.C.D. would like for the Texas State Soil Conservation Board to be host for a national meeting of Executive Officers of State Soil Conservation Boards, Committees or Commissions to be held at Galveston, Texas at the time of the

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dedication ceremonies of the National Headquarters building. This would be about October 22 and 23. J. C. Porter moved and E. W. Wehman seconded the motion that A. F. Leesch attend the Western Gulf Regional meeting of N.A.S.C.D. at Galveston, Texas on June 28 and 29 and that he and A. C. Spencer discuss this matter further with the national officers to determine whether or not the State Board would follow through on being host for such a national meeting. Motion carried. It was suggested that any other State Board members that could, should attend and participate in this discussion at Galveston.

The hearing held by the Texas Water Resources Committee in Austin, Texas on June 17 was discussed. A. F. Leesch, John Royal and H. B. Boswell felt that some good was done by the State Board and State Association presenting testimony. All three stated that they felt that the adverse questioning by Senator Parkhouse served the purpose of solidifying the thinking of farm groups.

A. C. Spencer reported that June 25 had been set as the date for a committee made up of representatives of the State Board, State Association and A & M College System to draft a tentative revision of the Memorandum of Agreement between the State Board and the A & M College System. J. C. Porter and A. C. Spencer had been authorized at a previous meeting of the Board to represent the State Board in the writing of this tentative revision. The A & M. College System has indicated that they would like to be host to the entire State Board and representatives of the State Association at the time the memorandum is discussed and ratified by the State Board and officials of the A & M. College System. No date for this meeting was set since the State Board is already scheduled to hold a meeting at Balmorhea on August 9 and at Galveston in October.

A letter from the Southmost and the Willacy-Hidalgo Districts setting forth their proposal to furnish land for the location of a Soil & Water Research Laboratory in the Rio Grande Valley was read. These two districts asked that the State Soil Conservation Board aid them in their effort to get the Agricultural Research Service to locate the laboratory on land furnished by the districts. A motion was made by E. W. Wehman and seconded by J. C. Porter that the State Soil Conservation Board write Dr. B. T. Shaw, Administrator, A.R.S., Washington, D. C. requesting that he give full and due consideration to the proposal made by these two soil conservation districts.

W. T. Moon stated that a party is now available for making preliminary surveys on watersheds. Mr. Moon stated that surveys have been scheduled on Upper and Lower Bois d'arc, Logan Creek, Nolan River and Sand Branch. Mr. C. M. Caraway stated that the local people in the Cow and Armstrong Creek watershed near Dublin, Texas are well organized and anxious to proceed with work in this watershed. Mr. Caraway stated that he has attended a recent meeting of the watershed association and was impressed with the number of young farmers that were present. Mr. Caraway also stated that in the last 5 years this watershed has suffered 2 tremendous floods which have cost the lives of 2 people and caused untold damage. Mr. Caraway urged that a preliminary survey be made on this watershed at an early date in order that the local people may know how to further proceed. A motion was made by J. C. Proter and seconded by E. W. Wehman that the board recommend to the Soil Conservation Service that it give consideration to the making of a preliminary survey on Cow and Armstrong Creeks at the earliest possible date. Motion carried.

Motion was made by S. J. Payne seconded by J. C. Porter to authorize the Executive Assistant, Harvey D. Davis of the State Soil Conservation Board to approve claims for pay, bills, requisitions and payroll in the absence of the Executive Director. The motion carried. It was pointed out that the Executive Director travels a large percentage of the time. If the Executive Director must approve all routine items considerable delay would be encountered on the payment of bills, claims for pay and the like. It was understood that the Executive Director will keep close check on the business of the State Board and will approve all expenditures of funds when he is in the office.

There being no further business , the meeting adjourned at 11 p.m.


Secretary


Chairman