

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 1969

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Conference Room, 10th Floor, First National Building, Temple, Texas, at 8:15 a.m., March 20, 1969.

Board Members present were: Frank Gray, Chairman, E. W. Wehman, Vice Chairman, Henry Turney, Albert Roach and Joe Antilley.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director; Gene Jones, Assistant Executive Director; L. H. Barnes, Engineer; and Josephine Chupik, Office Manager of the State Board staff; and L. J. Lann, Assistant State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the January 21, 1969 meeting and the February 24, 1969 meeting were read and approved.

Due to the death of H. N. Smith, State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service on March 13, 1969, it was announced that John I. Kincaid had been designated as Acting State Conservationist for Texas until further notice.

New watershed applications under Public Law 566 on the Upper San Marcos watershed near San Marcos and the Duffau Creek watershed in Erath County were reviewed. A motion was made by Henry Turney and seconded by E. W. Wehman to disapprove both applications pending a field examination to determine feasibility. Motion carried.

A request to amend "Three Mile Sulfur Draw" watershed application was reviewed by the Board. The amendment consists of increasing the size of the watershed from 65,480 acres to 94,000 acres to include the downstream area subject to flooding. A motion was made by Joe Antilley and seconded by E. W. Wehman to approve the amendment. Motion carried.

Harvey Davis reviewed correspondence on Three Mile Sulfur Draw watershed from the Watershed Planning Division in Washington, D. C. to the effect that the planning authorization was being held up due to costs in proportion to too few beneficiaries pending additional information. No action necessary by the Board.

An amendment to the Comal River watershed application was presented to the Board. The amendment added the non-discrimination clause to this application which had been omitted. On motion by Henry Turney, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the amendment to the Comal River watershed application.

L. J. Lann reviewed the status of watershed planning on Public Law 566 projects and presented a detailed summary to each Board Member. The Board agreed to consider additional planning priorities in their Board meeting in May.

Leland Barnes and L. J. Lann briefed the Board on the Lower Rio Grande Basin study. Maps were used to reveal to the Board the need for a systematic plan for developing land and water resources in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties. No action necessary by the Board.

Harvey Davis discussed the continued use of State and local planning funds in relation to the lack of federal authorization of plans on Public Law 566 projects. Due to the conflict between the Executive and Legislative Departments in Washington, there have been no planning authorizations within the last year and a half. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Leland Barnes reported on the Texas Gulf Coast study. He attended a meeting on March 13, 1969, at which time elements were reviewed that will be included in the study. This study will be similar to the Lower Rio Grande Basin Study.

On motion by Henry Turney, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved a petition to transfer the portion of Throckmorton County in the California Creek Soil and Water Conservation District # 515 to the Miller-Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District #526 and signed a determination of practicability and feasibility for the transfer.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board approved the appointment of the following supervisors:

C. M. Pearce - Dawson County SWCD #124
Jesse R. Russell - Southmost SWCD #319
Victor Dube - Winter Garden SWCD #326
Norman Moore - Upper Leon SWCD #525

Gene Jones gave a report on Councils of Government. There are forty Soil and Water Conservation Districts that are members of nine Councils of Government in the State at the present time. Four Councils of Government have a District Supervisor on their Executive Committee. A meeting is scheduled with Districts and the Ark-Texas Council of Government in April.

Mr. Davis reported on legislation. The bill changing the name of "supervisor" to "director" has passed the House and will be sent to the Senate this week. He also briefed the Board on H. B. #117, referred to as the Texas Tort Claims act, making liable for tort claims for personal injury all units of government in Texas and setting certain limits and abolishing immunity of the sovereign to suit and granting permission for such suit, etc.

H.R. 561, H.R. 2062, and H.R. 3854 have been introduced in Congress extending the Great Plains Conservation Program to December 31, 1981 and changing the amount of appropriation to \$250,000,000. These bills are pending in subcommittee until a report of this legislation is received from the Department of Agriculture.

Harvey Davis reviewed a SCS advisory dated Feb. 11, 1969, on "Selectivity in Conservation Planning". Basic conservation planning, concurrent planning and application assistance and consultive assistance are recognized as the three types of planning assistance. The advisory eliminates the use of the long form report.

The National Watershed Congress to be held on June 8-11, 1969 at Louisville, Kentucky was discussed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board authorized Harvey Davis, Leland Barnes and any of the Board Members to attend.

The Board is scheduled to appear for its budget hearing in the House at 9:30 a.m., Monday, March 24, 1969 in Room 300 of the Capitol Building. All members plan to attend.

The Board agreed to hold a meeting in Fort Worth on May 3, 1969 and attend the annual Fort Worth Press Awards Program.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

L. Frank Gray
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

5-3-69
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 20, 1969.

5-3-69
Date

Lamney Davis
Executive Director