

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
APRIL 14, 1966

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the First National Building, Temple, Texas at 6:30 p.m., April 14, 1966.

Board Members present: J. S. Sharp, Vice-Chairman, A. F. Leesch, E. W. Wehman, and J. Frank Gray.

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, and J. M. Norton of the State Board staff, Gilbert Kretzschmar, President and A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and C. W. Graham, Deputy State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service and John Wells, Director of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the Board meeting of March 16, 1966, were read and approved.

On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board approved a resolution in memorium to J. C. Porter who died April 9, 1966 to be sent to Mrs. Porter. Mr. Porter served as a member of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board for 10 years and was Chairman at the time of his death. The Board further directed that the resolution be attached as an official part of these minutes.

Harvey Davis reviewed the program to be held at the McGregor Research Center on May 3, 1966, for the election of a State Board Member in Area V. All Districts have submitted names of delegates to the Board.

A new application for a Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Project under Public Law 566 was submitted to the Board on the Comanche Creek watershed near Mason, Texas. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the

application was disapproved pending a field examination to determine economic feasibility.

In consideration of establishing planning priorities, the Board reviewed and considered available and current information on some 24 watershed projects that are currently legally and financially ready.

After due consideration, the Board re-affirmed the previous planning priority granted on Bitter, Oaks, John Mann, Polecat Creeks watershed near Memphis, Texas.

The Board recessed at 10:15 p.m.

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The Board reconvened in their office in the First National Building at 8:00 a.m., April 15, 1966.

Board Members present: J. S. Sharp, Vice-Chairman, A. F. Leesch, Frank Gray and E. W. Wehman.

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director and J. M. Norton of the Board staff, C. W. Graham, Deputy Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service, A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and J. E. Goad, ASC State Committeeman.

Mr. Goad advised the Board on the progress that had been made in the Pond Creek watershed and asked for favorable consideration for a planning priority contingent on the sponsors passing their bond and tax election. He then reviewed some special ACP projects available under their program and suggested a joint meeting of their Committee with the State Soil and Water Conservation Board for a better understanding and closer relationship. Such a meeting was tentatively set for July.

The Board then considered watersheds for planning priorities. After due deliberation, on motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board approved the following projects for planning priorities contingent upon the sponsors

of the projects complying with necessary legal and financial arrangements to develop the projects and further contingent upon any Federal limitations concerning the number of planning starts which may be authorized:

Ecleto	Hog Creek
Comal River Basin	Sanderson Canyon
Upper Cibolo Creek	Pond Creek

The Sweetwater Creek watershed was considered and the Board directed Harvey Davis to contact the Oklahoma State Board and others to see what kind of agreement might be reached toward planning the watershed.

By letter, sponsors of the Bitter, Oaks, John Mann and Polecat Creeks watershed raised a question about changing the name of the above watershed to the Lakeview watershed. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the board approved a change in name to Lakeview watershed subject to a request being made by the sponsors in writing.

The Board discussed the damaging affects of the current limitations proposed by the Bureau of the Budget for both planning and construction starts in the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program. The proposed limitations being 50 planning starts and 35 construction starts for fiscal year 1967. The Board approved a motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by E. W. Wehman, that a resolution be prepared by H. D. Davis to express the Board's opposition to the limitations proposed on "new starts" in both planning and construction under Public Law 566 and that the resolution be sent to Governor John Connally and Members of the Texas Congressional delegation and other appropriate officials. (Copy of the resolution attached.)

Harvey Davis reviewed a draft letter from Governor Connally designating the State Soil and Water Conservation Board as the State Agency having supervisory responsibility over those Resource Conservation and Development Programs in

Title I of P.L. 87-703 which require State action. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board agreed to accept the responsibilities as outlined in the Governor's letter.

A petition from Potter County to create the proposed Canadian River Soil and Water Conservation District was reviewed with the Board. On motion by J. F. Gray, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board approved a hearing to determine justification and feasibility and authorized a public hearing with May 16, 1966, being the tentative date. Frank Gray and Harvey Davis were designated to conduct the hearing.

Renewal efforts of a Dallas Firm in trying to set up Natural Gas Distribution Systems through Soil and Water Conservation Districts was brought to the attention of the Board. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board authorized a request for an opinion from the Attorney General on the legality of Soil and Water Conservation Districts participating in Natural Gas Distribution Systems.

A court judgement granting the San Saba-Brady Soil and Water Conservation District jurisdiction of operation and maintenance of floodwater retarding structures located on private lands under easements was reported to the Board. This action has been long pending and upholds efforts of Districts in carrying out their watershed programs.

An inspection of floodwater retarding structures in the Brushy Creek watershed with the Water Rights Commission and the Soil Conservation Service was discussed. It appeared that several sites were completed on what could be termed as a "navigable stream". Inspections in other watersheds are planned to secure full knowledge of the situation for further action on the problem.

Harvey Davis reported several complimentary letters from State Senators and Representatives on receipt of the State Board's NEWSLETTER.

The need for a Memorandum of Understanding and Working Agreement with the Parks and Wildlife Department was discussed. Though recognizing the need, the Board took no action at this time.

The Fort Worth Press Awards winners were reviewed. Efforts by the staff in contacting local districts to support and bring their winners to the program were reported.

The Board reviewed its Budget needs for the next biennium. On motion by A. F. Leesch and seconded by Frank Gray the Board adopted the attached budget request for fiscal years 1968 and 1969. The Board did express a need for higher salaries in Classified Positions with the exception of the Accounting Clerk II position than requested. However, since these salary requests were placed at the top of their group and in some cases above, the Board decided to reconsider its requests based on recommendations of the State Job Classification Officer when received.

The Board set its next meeting in Hotel Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, May 6, 1966 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

A. F. Leesch

Chairman

J. M. Norton

Secretary

May 6, 1966

Date

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that the the State Soil and Water C

This is to acknowledge receipt of

your minutes dated April 14-15, 1966.

May 6, 19

Date

RECEIVED

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

JUN 3 1966
TEXAS STATE
SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD
TEMPLE, TEXAS

John Connally