

Official Minutes

State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

May 6, 1960

The State Soil Conservation Board held its regular meeting at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, Texas on May 6, 1960 beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Members present: E. W. Wehman, Chairman, Frank Gray, A. F. Leesch, J. S. Sharp and J. C. Porter. A. C. Spencer, Executive Director was also in attendance.

Since the Budget request for the State Soil Conservation Board for the Biennium beginning September 1, 1961 must be submitted to the Governor's Audit and Budget Section and the Legislative Budget Board by May 30, the Board considered past expenditures and further needs and tentatively decided to submit the request as per Budget Request Document.

The Board recessed at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:15 p. m. with previously listed present as well as Garner E. Jones of the State Soil Conservation Board, Clyde Graham of the Soil Conservation Service and W. S. Gibbs and H. B. Boswell of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the March 17 meeting were read and approved.

New applications for Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Projects were received for the following watersheds:

Cotton Creek, Coastal Soil Conservation District #432  
Upper Pedernales River, Gillespie Soil Conservation District #220  
Lower Waller County, Navasota Soil Conservation District #440

A. F. Leesch moved and J. C. Porter seconded the motion to disapproved pending further investigation the above three applications. The motion carried.

The Board considered a request from the local sponsor of the Plum Creek watershed protection and flood prevention project to divide the previous application into the

Plum Creek watershed and the Lower Plum Creek watershed. The stated reasons were (1) that there is a likelihood that the overall acreage is in excess of the 250,000 acre limit (2) since the watershed is the maximum in size there is an advantage in developing the program in stages beginning on the upper reaches (3) the upper portion of the plan can be completed in time to submit to this session of Congress whereas the total plan cannot. This would delay the progress of construction work for a year. A motion was made by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. S. Sharp to amend the Plum Creek application by removing the lower 152,900 acres from the application. The motion carried. A new application for Lower Plum Creek, 152,900 acres in size, constituting the same area removed from the Plum creek application was received. A motion was made by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. S. Sharp to approve the Lower Plum Creek application and recommend it for planning. The motion carried.

It was reported that Valley Creek Water Control and Improvement District is unable to sell its bonds since a legal check has found that the boundaries do not close. This being true the district cannot complete its trust agreement with the Soil Conservation Service for planning by the Trust Fund Party at this time. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Salado Creek watershed near San Antonio and the Upper Las Moras Watershed in the Brackettville area were recommended for planning by the Trust Fund Party contingent upon their providing necessary funds to pay the cost of developing the plans. The motion carried.

Frank Gray reported on public hearings held in Panhandle, Texas on April 25 and at Claude, Texas on April 26 with relation to the dissolution of Staked Plains Soil Conservation District # 135 and organization of the Staked Plains Soil Conservation District #155 and McClellan Creek Soil Conservation District #156. Mr. Gray stated that all present at each meeting favored dissolution and reorganization on the grounds that diverse agricultural interests hinder maximum progress under the present organization. The people feel that two boards of supervisors will accomplish more than one and that local interests will support districts on a county basis

more than is true at present. Mr. Gray recommended that a determination of need for the dissolution of Staked Plains Soil Conservation District #135 as well as a determination of need for the organization of Staked Plains Soil Conservation District #155 and McClellan Creek Soil Conservation District #156 be made. The above recommendation was made in the form of a motion by Frank Gray and seconded by J. C. Porter. Motion carried.

A. F. Leesch reported that a public hearing on the petition to organize the Ector Soil Conservation District with boundaries comprised of Ector County was held at Odessa, Texas on March 30, 1960. While there were only 5 or 6 ranchers present the need for a District was evident and those present felt there was sufficient interest to organize one. Mr. Leesch recommended that a determination of need for the organization of a District be made. A. F. Leesch moved and Frank Gray seconded a motion to make a determination of need for the organization of the proposed Ector Soil Conservation District. Motion carried. On motion by A. F. Leesch seconded by Frank Gray, Mr. Cal Smith of Odessa, Texas was duly appointed Polling Superintendent for the conduct of an election to be held on May 27, 1960.

Chairman Wehman and other Board Members duly canvassed results of an election held on April 29, 1960 for the organization of the Chaparal Soil Conservation District #240 located in the Eagle Pass area. On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by J. C. Porter the results were officially determined to be "14" for and "0" against. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. C. Porter a determination of practicability and feasibility for the organization of the Chaparal Soil Conservation District #240 was made. Mr. Tom Black was duly appointed supervisor of Zone 2 and Mr. Bob Cage was appointed as supervisor for Zone 4 of the newly organized Chaparal Soil Conservation District.

The matter of the request of the Edwards Underground Water District for the State Soil Conservation Board to endorse legislation requesting the federal congress

to authorize appropriate federal agencies to conduct a detailed survey to investigate the potential for recharge of the Edwards Underground Reservoir was considered. Since the initial request for this endorsement was for the purpose of securing the endorsement of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, Washington, D. C. held April 25, 1960 and since the Rivers and Harbors meeting is already passed the Board considered this endorsement not presently needed. Further study will be made of what the bill includes and further action taken based on developed facts and need for such endorsement by the Edwards Underground Water District.

W. S. Gibbs reported that the Southwestern Gulf Region meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas on July 17, 18, and 19. The Board tentatively agreed to hold its July meeting in conjunction with this meeting.

Garner Jones reported that there is a need for public hearings to check the physical aspects and local interest of four watersheds prior to the recommendation of priorities for planning. Tentative dates were set as follows:

Attoyac, June 9  
Irons Bayou, June 10  
Aquilla and Hackberry, June 11

After consideration of a date for the Board to decide on recommendation of watershed priorities it was determined to meet either on June 14 or June 16 just prior or just after Legislative Budget Board hearing to consider this matter. A definite date will be determined by the Chairman.

J. C. Porter and other Board members expressed appreciation to E. W. Wehman for his effective work as Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Board for the past year. Frank Gray moved that J. C. Porter be elected as Chairman and J. S. Sharp as Vice Chairman for the coming year. Motion was seconded by A. F. Leesch. The motion carried.

W. S. Gibbs reported that the Board of Water Engineers has granted a permit for the construction of Lake Houston and reviewed briefly testimony he presented at the U. S. Study Commission meeting at Huntsville. A copy of the testimony is attached.

The meeting recessed until 9:00 a.m., May 7 at which time the Board met with representatives of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts and various Dallas people to set up the framework for the January 1961 Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District supervisors. The meeting was presided over by J. C. Porter.

A Steering Committee made up of:

- A. T. Vandiver, Dalworth Soil Conservation District, Chairman
- Ray Bennison, Dallas Chamber of Commerce
- Fred Brown, Adolphus Hotel
- Ligon Smith, Baker Hotel
- C. B. Spencer, Texas Cottonseed Crushers Association
- A. S. Milikien, Extension Service
- Ed Pewitt, Soil Conservation Service
- Huey Whitehurst, Texas Research Foundation
- E. Dale Tregoning, Dealer District Steering Committee
- A. C. Spencer, State Soil Conservation Board
- Howard Boswell, Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts Banker (to be named later)

was appointed by Mr. Porter. Mr. H. B. Boswell of the State Association suggested the following working Committees:

- Registration
- Entertainment
- Housing
- Greeters
- Ladies Entertainment
- Publicity
- Attendance
- Arrangements
- Steering Committee

There being no further business the meeting adjourned and the Board members went to Fort Worth, Texas to attend the "Save the Soil and Save Texas" awards program sponsored by the Fort Worth

  
 Chairman

6-16-60  
 Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated May 6, 1960.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,  
