

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING  
JULY 26, 1963

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session in their office in the First National Building at 8:00 a.m., July 26, 1963, at Temple, Texas.

Board members present were: A. F. Leesch, Chairman, J. Frank Gray, J. C. Porter, J. S. Sharp, and E. W. Wehman.

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, R. L. Carlisle, and J. M. Norton of the State Board; A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts; and C. W. Graham, Assistant State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the April 24, 1963 meeting were read and approved.

Chairman Leesch stated that it was time to reorganize the State Board. On nomination by E. W. Wehman, J. Frank Gray was elected as Chairman for the current year ending May, 1964, and presided over the remainder of the meeting. The Board also approved E. W. Wehman as Vice-Chairman.

A new application for assistance under Public Law 566 was presented to the Board on Cornudas and North Draw watershed at Dell City, Texas. After discussion, a motion to disapprove the application pending a preliminary survey to determine the economic feasibility was made by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch, and approved by the Board.

Preliminary field examination reports on the Wichita County watershed and on Salt-Mud Creeks watershed were reviewed by Norton. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board approved the Wichita County watershed as being feasible for planning. In view of an unfavorable report, the Salt-Mud Creeks

watershed application was disapproved on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. S. Sharp.

A matter of housing developments being constructed in recognized flood plains subject to flooding and loss of life and property with assistance in Federal or State funds was brought to the attention of the Board. After discussion Mr. Graham agreed to check on the duties and responsibilities of federal agencies in correcting similar situations.

Harvey Davis reviewed correspondence and progress reports from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties relative to activities toward implementing planning in the watersheds. Cameron County is in process of borrowing funds from the Housing and Home Finance Agency for planning their 3 watersheds. The Board directed Mr. Davis to answer a recent letter from the Agency giving them pertinent data and information on the watersheds without a commitment on a planning priority. Mr. Davis also reviewed a meeting with a Water Control and Improvement District group from Hidalgo County relative to planning of their watersheds.

Other watershed correspondence concerning planning priorities was reviewed for the Board on:

Running Water Draw - Have raised all but \$8,500 of \$85,000 for planning.

Chocolate, Little Chocolate, Lynns Bayou - Have satisfied opposition and are ready to begin planning.

Williamson Creek - Requested a public hearing for consideration of priority.

Upper Sweetwater Creek - Requested a public hearing for consideration of priority.

Duck Creek at Spur - Has completed financial and legal arrangements, including planning funds and want a planning priority.

Rush Creek - Has submitted letters and cards encouraging an early planning priority.

Farmers Creek at Nocona - Have passed a tax issue and made arrangements for maintenance and want a planning priority. This group needs to amend their application.

The operation and maintenance problem of floodwater retarding structures in the San Saba-Brady Soil Conservation District was discussed. This problem is being worked out locally.

The situation of a supervisor moving his residence to another county, no part of which was in his Soil Conservation District, and still acting as a district supervisor was brought to the attention of the Board. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board directed H. D. Davis to contact the Attorney General's office with reference to the duties and responsibilities of the State Soil Conservation Board in this or similar situations.

Clyde W. Graham discussed the present status of watershed planning. Big Creek watershed near Bryan and Logan Slough Creek in Lamar County have recently been approved. Work plans on Nolan Creek, Pine Creek and Upper Bosque River are in committee review. Planning parties are now planning Attoyac River, Escondido Creek, and Donahue Creek watersheds. Hondo Creek is ready for local review. Mr. Graham brought up the need for additional planning priorities.

After much consideration and evaluation of those watersheds ready for a planning priority, the Board, on motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. S. Sharp granted a priority to Castleman Creek watershed to be planned concurrently with Attoyac River using federal funds.

On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board granted a planning priority to Duck Creek watershed on a trust fund basis, following Escondido Creek and Chocolate Bayou.

On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board granted a planning priority to Rush Creek watershed to be planned with State funds, following Donahue Creek.

Mr. Davis then reviewed the current budget and expenditures and also the Board's budget as passed by the Legislature for fiscal years 1964 and 1965. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved the transfer of a balance of planning funds from Hondo Creek of \$450.00 and Upper Bosque River of \$140.74, making a total of \$590.74 to the Donahue Creek watershed for planning to August 31, 1963, and authorized Harvey Davis to sign a supplemental planning agreement for this amount on Donahue Creek. Then to complete the planning of Donahue Creek, the Board, on motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch, approved \$60,300 of the \$100,000, 1964 watershed planning fund, to be used on Donahue Creek and authorized Harvey Davis to sign the planning agreement.

The program and arrangements for the Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors to be held in McAllen was reviewed by Davis. The details are nearly complete. The equipment display was further discussed as to participation and space involved and to overall affects. It was noted that it poses particular problems relative to accommodations and selection of meeting sites. Further, hotel accommodations appear to be rather costly and it was proposed that supervisors be notified of the rates so that they would know what to expect.

It was brought out that only a few invitations and bids for the 1964 Annual State meeting had been received from Cities offering accommodations. In an effort to give all possibilities an opportunity to bid, the Board directed H. D. Davis to notify all Soil Conservation Districts to contact their local hotels and Chambers of Commerce of the change of meeting date and encourage their submitting a bid if

interested, on motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by A. F. Leesch.


The Fort Worth Press Awards Program was discussed with the idea of revising score sheets and substituting more popular groups.

Mr. Leesch reviewed the Four State Meeting held in New Orleans and the National Watershed Congress held in Philadelphia for the Board. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved attendance of A. F. Leesch and H. D. Davis at the New Orleans meeting.

H. D. Davis reviewed the watersheds in which hearings are yet to be held by the Board in reference to a planning priority. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board authorized A. F. Leesch and E. W. Wehman to hold the hearing on Williamson Creek watershed at their convenience. J. C. Porter and J. Frank Gray were authorized to hold a hearing on Sweetwater Creek watershed when the local group is ready.

A. L. Bading reviewed the Conservation Research Committee's activities and program and discussed the brush eradication program as the number one problem. Another problem discussed was that of disposal of salt water from oil wells, as well as water flooding process used by Oil Companies as a means of pollution of surface and underground water supplies. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

  
Chairman

October 9,  
Date

RECEIVED

OCT 23 1963

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated July 26, 1963 SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD TEMPLE, TEXAS

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely

