

Official Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
September 7, 1960
Student Center, College Station, Texas

The State Soil Conservation Board began its regular meeting at 7:30 P.M. on September 7, 1960.

Members present were: J. C. Porter, Chairman, Frank Gray, E. W. Wehman, and A. F. Leesch.

Others present were: A. C. Spencer, Harvey Davis, J. M. Norton, Jack Barton, Howard Boswell, and R. H. Vehrenkamp.

The minutes of the June 15 & 16 meeting and the July 18, 1960 meeting were read and approved.

A new application for a watershed protection and flood prevention project was received on Williamson Creek, Nueces-Frio-Sabinal Soil Conservation District. A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by E. W. Wehman to disapprove the application pending a field examination report of the feasibility of the proposed project. The motion carried.

A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by Frank Gray to approve the Northeast Utopia Community Watershed application based on a field examination report showing a favorable cost-benefit ratio. The motion carried.

J. C. Porter presented letters from the President of the Donahoe Creek Water Control and Improvement District and the Secretary of the Little-River-San Gabriel Soil Conservation District advising the State Board of the progress that had been made in the Donahoe Creek Watershed. A. C. Spencer stated that the people in the Donahoe Creek Watershed had voted a \$75,000 bond issue and started collecting a maintenance tax. The Board requested A. C. Spencer to write letters to the President of the Donahoe Creek Water Control and Improvement District and the Secretary of the Little River-San Gabriel Soil Conservation District commending them on the progress that has been made and that their watershed would be considered

for a priority when the next priorities are set.

A. C. Spencer stated that the Federally financed planning party is now ready to begin planning the Kent Creek Watershed near Quitaque. Chairman Porter requested A. C. Spencer to advise O. R. Stark, Jr., Quitaque, Texas, of the progress being made in planning the Kent Creek project.

A. C. Spencer stated that the Board of Water Engineers has asked River Authorities to bring their Master Plans up-to-date and present them to the Board by November 1, 1960. Mr. Spencer offered the services of the Water Planning Engineer of the State Soil Conservation Board to the River Authorities to help them include irrigation survey data and other agricultural water information in their Master Plans. Six authorities had requested this help. Mr. Vahrenkamp, General Manager of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, expressed his appreciation to the State Soil Conservation Board for offering to help bring their Master Plan up-to-date.

Frank Gray reported that the dissolution and re-organization of the Staked Plains Soil Conservation District #135 had been completed.

A petition was received from at least 2/3 of the landowners in the portion of Armstrong County now included in the Swisher County Soil Conservation District and a resolution from the Boards of Supervisors of the Swisher County Soil Conservation District and the Staked Plains Soil Conservation District #155 requesting that this area be transferred from the Swisher County Soil Conservation District to the Staked Plains Soil Conservation District #155. A motion was made by E. W. Wehman and seconded by Frank Gray to set a public hearing on this proposition. (The date to be arranged with the local people.) The motion carried.

A. F. Leesch reported on a meeting held with the State Highway Commission on August 10, 1960. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss problems of mutual interest in relation to highway projects and soil and water conservation projects.

Three Highway Commission Engineers and A. C. Spencer, Howard Boswell, and Phil Price were appointed to prepare a proposed Memorandum of Understanding to be presented to the State Highway Commission and the State Soil Conservation Board. A meeting was set on September 29 to work on this Memorandum.

The Board Members reported on Supervisors Leadership Meetings held in their respective areas since the last Board meeting.

Jack Barton reminded the Board that the Memorandum of Agreement between the A & M College System and Soil Conservation Districts had been in effect approximately five years and suggested the Memorandum be reviewed and amended if needed. Mr. Barton also suggested that a policy be established on getting Soil Survey Data properly distributed. Mr. Porter asked A. C. Spencer and Jack Barton to discuss further the need for revision of the Memorandum of Agreement and make recommendations to the State Board on procedure to be followed in making needed revisions.

The meeting recessed at 11:00 P.M. until 8:00 A.M., September 8. Those previously listed were present except R. H. Vahrenkamp and Jack Barton.

Invitations from Austin, San Antonio, Galveston and Corpus Christi for the 1962 State Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Frank Gray and seconded by A. F. Leesch for a committee consisting of E. W. Wehman, A. C. Spencer and Howard Boswell to inspect facilities at Austin and San Antonio and report back to the Board by the next meeting if possible. The motion carried.

Howard Boswell reported that the Steering Committee for the 1961 State Meeting in Dallas was well organized and was working diligently making arrangements for an outstanding meeting.

The program for the 1961 State Meeting was discussed and several suggestions made. The Board asked Chairman Porter, A. C. Spencer, W. S. Gibbs and Howard Boswell to work out the program for the 1961 State Meeting.

Howard Boswell discussed activities of the Association in relation to an appropriation to Soil Conservation Districts. He also pointed out that no legislative intent to financially support Soil Conservation Districts was included

in the State Soil Conservation Act and asked the State Board to request the Legislative Council to draft an amendment for the State Soil Conservation Act that would include such intent. A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by E. W. Wehman to request the Legislative Council to prepare an amendment to this effect. The motion carried.

After detailed discussion on the need for direct appropriations to individual soil conservation districts and whether or not a request for such appropriations should be made a part of the State Board's Budget request or handled in a separate bill by the State Association it was mutually agreed to defer action until the State Association has agreed on the amount of funds that should be requested and until after a joint meeting between the Executive Committee of the State Association and the members of the State Soil Conservation Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M. so that those present could attend the "Water for Texas" conference.

[Signature]
Chairman

[Signature]
Secretary

October 13, 1960
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated September 7, 1960.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]