

Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
October 9, 1961
Shamrock Hotel
Houston, Texas

The State Soil Conservation Board held its regular meeting at the Shamrock Hotel, Houston, Texas on October 9, 1961 at 8:00 A.M.

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

Others present were: A. C. Spencer, Executive Director of the Board and H. B. Boswell, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the August 22 meeting were read and approved.

New applications for Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Projects on North Watershed, Central Watershed and South Watershed, all in the Willacy-Hidalgo Soil Conservation District were received. On motion by Wehman, seconded by Leesch, the applications were disapproved pending field examination.

A letter from the Coastal Soil Conservation District requesting the withdrawal of a flood prevention application on Cotton Creek was read. This watershed group has joined a drainage district and is proceeding on its own. Wehman made a motion, seconded by Leesch that the Cotton Creek application be withdrawn. The motion carried.

The matter of priority for planning was reviewed. A. C. Spencer reminded the Board that the Upper Bosque River is the next designated priority. The Trust Fund Party, now planning Valley Creek near Ballinger, will be ready to start Upper Bosque about December 1. At its present size the party will exhaust the allocated \$55,000 prior to the end of the fiscal year. After discussion of different alternatives it was mutually agreed to defer action until member J. C. Porter could be present.

The matter of designating smaller projects for planning with State funds following Bosque was discussed. On motion by Wehman, seconded by Gray the Board voted to recommend Hondo Creek for planning with State funds following Bosque. It is understood that a small watershed may be planned with Trust funds between the two.

A. F. Leesch reported on a public hearing held at Crane, Texas on September 11, 1961 to determine need and feasibility of annexing Crane County to the Ector Soil Conservation District. Since the Tax-Assessor-Collector certified that the signers constituted two-thirds of the owners of farm or ranch land as defined in H. B. 444 of the 47th Legislature and since the hearing was favorable, Mr. Leesch moved that the State Soil Conservation Board determine a need for annexing Crane County to the Ector County Soil Conservation District and also that the annexation be determined to be practicable and feasible. The motion was seconded by Frank Gray and carried.

A request from the Ector Soil Conservation District that the name of the newly constituted district be changed to Sandhills Soil Conservation District was considered. Since an appropriation has recently been made to the Ector Soil Conservation District and has not as yet been allocated, A. F. Leesch moved that the change of name be authorized after the funds have been delivered and after the re-zoning and election of new supervisors has been completed. The motion was seconded by Wehman and carried.

A. C. Spencer reported that in the matter of allocating State appropriated funds to districts approximately 70 districts have either declined or failed to make application. The deadline for receiving applications as set by the Board is October 18.

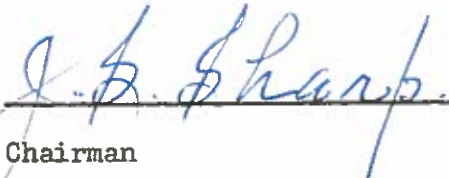
H. B. Boswell reviewed progress in arranging a program for the Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors to be held in San Antonio on January 10, 11 and 12, 1962. Boswell reported that he, A. C. Spencer and W. S. Gibbs met with the San Antonio people a few days previous to get an understanding

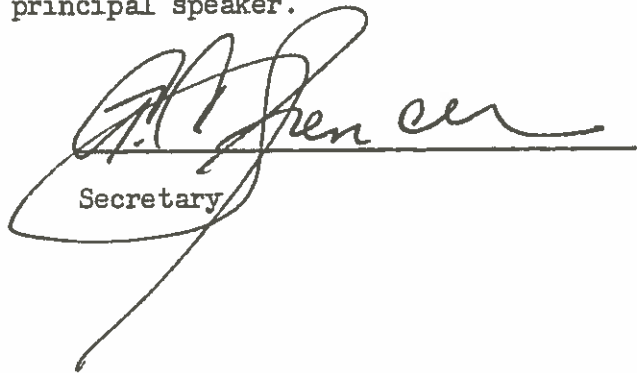
concerning responsibilities of the local people. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Vice President of the United States have been invited as speakers but no reply has been received.

A. C. Spencer, Executive Director of the State Soil Conservation Board since July 1, 1955 and previously Field Planning Engineer for the Board for five years advised the members of his desire to resign effective December 1, 1961 to accept employment with the Huntsville National Bank. Mr. Spencer expressed appreciation for the complete harmony and cooperation that has existed throughout his tenure. Reason given was the necessity of caring for family property at Huntsville. After much discussion Gray made a motion, seconded by Leesch that the resignation be accepted with regrets. Chairman Sharp requested a called meeting at Wichita Falls, Texas on Monday, October 16 to consider a replacement.

The purpose of holding this meeting in Houston was to inspect the facilities of the Shamrock Hotel and receive a proposal from the hotel pertaining to accommodations should the Board determine to hold the January 1963 meeting there.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to permit the Board to attend the 12:30 p.m. presentation of the U. S. Study Commission Water report to Governor Price Daniel. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was the principal speaker.


Chairman


Secretary


Date