

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD  
NOVEMBER 13, 1963

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session in its office in the First National Building at 8:00 a.m., November 13, 1963, at Temple, Texas.

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

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, and J. M. Norton, Engineer, of the State Board staff; C. W. Graham, Assistant State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service; and Don Jackson of the Governor's Budget Office.

The minutes of the October 10, 1963 meeting were discussed and on motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by J. C. Porter, the Board agreed to dismiss the reading of the minutes and approved them as written.

An amendment to Village-Farmers Creek watershed application was presented to the Board for their consideration. The amendment requested to change the name to Farmers Creek watershed and delete the Village Creek portion. After due consideration and discussion of economic feasibility, on motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved the amended application on Farmers Creek watershed.

A request was presented from T. D. Howard, County Judge, Montague County for the Board to hold a tour and hearing on the Farmers Creek watershed in consideration of a planning priority. The Board agreed to hold the tour and hearing next spring and directed Mr. Davis to so notify Judge Howard and other sponsors.

Harvey Davis then reviewed the requests of the Upper Elm-Red Soil Conservation District and Montague County Judge T. D. Howard to the State Board seeking the Board's endorsement and support of their action toward securing inclusion of Montague

County in the Great Plains Conservation Program. It was pointed out that the action was initiated by the Chamber of Commerce, later taken up by the County, and finally by the local Soil Conservation District. Harvey Davis had previously advised the group to take the matter up with the GPCP Committee and to submit a formal request to Mr. H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Texas. The Board suggested that Mr. Davis notify the sponsors that the State Board would advise with the State Committee on this problem.

Mr. Clyde Graham then reviewed the status of watershed planning and discussed the progress being made by the Cameron County watershed sponsors toward financing the Work Plan development of their three watersheds. Sponsors are trying to secure a loan from the Housing and Home Finance Agency in the amount of \$114,000 with which to finance engineering surveys and cost estimate data by Lockwood, Newnam, and Andrews for a bond election to finance the project development. Cameron County has agreed to put up \$40,000 in Trust Fund for Soil Conservation Service to develop the completed plan. No action was taken by the Board since the local sponsors have not completed arrangements for the development of the project.

A request for a planning priority by sponsors of the Upper and Lower Running Water Draw watersheds was reviewed and discussed by the Board. The steering committee and sponsors have raised \$70,000 for a Trust fund to finance work plan development of the two watersheds. The State of New Mexico has appropriated some funds for the development of the Clovis park and reservoir which can be used but which may be lost if not put to use this year, and the Soil Conservation Service in New Mexico is ready to initiate their part of the planning and have requested a date from the Texas State Conservationist as to when they could be ready to begin planning. The interest of the sponsors and participating groups is high, but they feel that a tentative priority is needed in order to remove all restrictions in declarations of assurance of local responsibilities for project development

and maintenance. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved the granting of a planning priority to the Upper Running Water Draw and the Lower Running Water Draw watersheds with the following conditions:

1. The sponsors must provide all funds to finance the Work Plan development.
2. The sponsors must assume all responsibilities for providing the necessary land rights, easements, and rights-of-way for the structural measures, finance the local share of the cost, administer the contracts, and provide for the operation and maintenance of structural measures.

No planning is to begin until these obligations are assured.

J. M. Norton then reviewed the results of the field examinations on the Upper Navasota River, Cornudas and North Draw, and California Creek watersheds. No action was taken by the Board due to the absence of reports from the Soil Conservation Service. The Sweetwater Creek watershed was discussed relative to carrying out the small watershed program and the action of the Red River Authority in promoting the development of a large municipal reservoir on the same creek. Sponsors of the watershed application have requested assistance in evaluating the cost of providing municipal storage in one of the retarding structures for the town of Wheeler. It was agreed that some assistance would be given in so far as could be determined with present data, as to an approximate local cost.

A request from the Brazoria-Galveston Soil Conservation District to change their name to the "Waters Davis" Soil Conservation District was presented to the Board for their consideration. Harvey Davis reported that he had questioned members of the Soil Conservation District Board and they are in favor of the change. It appears that some other Soil Conservation District is interested in doing the same thing and the local SCD wants the privilege since Waters Davis was a resident of their District and had served as a supervisor of their District. The Board discussed the possibility this sort of action might have in establishing a precedent for other Soil Conservation Districts to do likewise and what the results might be.

The Board further took into consideration the difficulties encountered by this SCD in their recent supervisors election and the fact that the situation was yet unresolved. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J.S. Sharp, the Board agreed to table the request for further information and action.

The Board then considered the request and resolution of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts that Operating funds for Soil Conservation Districts be included in the State Board's budget request. Don Jackson commented that each SCD should prepare a budget to be submitted to the State Board for evaluation. The separate requests should then be summed up and presented in the Board's budget request as a line item with ample justification. The Board agreed, after much discussion, that each SCD would have to submit a plan and budget with suitable justification to a committee of Board members and directors of the Association for their approval. The request for funds would be submitted as a line item in the Board's budget request.

Harvey Davis then reviewed the applications for the position of the Assistant Executive Director with the Board. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board approved that selection of applicant to fill the position vacancy be left to the judgment and descretion of Mr. Davis.

Harvey Davis reported to the Board the statistical results of attendance at the Annual State Meeting in McAllen, and the returns of the recent statewide supervisor elections. Of the 182 Soil Conservation Districts, 169 have completed their returns. Field men are checking on those not heard from.

The supervisors training meetings being planned and scheduled statewide were discussed with the Board. These meetings are proposed by areas to acquaint new and old supervisors with functions of the Board, duties and responsibilities of the supervisors, the provisions of the law, and the basic fundamentals. Members of the Board and their staff together with Directors of the Associatinn and its staff will conduct the programs.

The Board then considered and evaluated the several invitations from different cities relative to hosting the 1964 Annual State Meeting of District Supervisors. After deliberating, the Board narrowed their selection to that of Brownwood and Sherman.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 noon.

The State Soil Conservation Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m. in the Hawn Hotel with the Directors and Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation District Supervisors together with Mr. H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, and C. W. Graham, Assistant State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

Representatives of the Association present were A. L. Bading, Gilbert Kretzschmar, A. L. Black, W. P. Coleman, George Johanson, Dan Sparks, Bill Goldsberry, and Claude Franklin.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman J. Frank Gray turned the meeting over to H. N. Smith. Mr. Smith reviewed the new Resource, Conservation, and Development Program (RC&D) with an explanation of the plan and criteria as well as budgeted funds and procedures in applying for and developing the projects. Mr. Smith discussed certain aspects of the Great Plains Conservation Program and in particular the brush eradication phase. He then discussed the RAD Program, Technical Action Panels, and County Program Building Committees.

The Board discussed the invitations for the next Annual Statewide Meeting with representatives of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation District Supervisors. The State Meeting in Sherman is scheduled for 1965.

On motion by J. C. Peckham, the 1965 Annual State Meeting will be held in Sherman, Texas.

The meeting adjourned.

*J. Frank Gray*  
Chairman

1-16-64  
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to a \_\_\_\_\_  
minutes dated \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks very \_\_\_\_\_

*John*