

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
January 17, 1974

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met at 8:35 a.m., January 17, 1974 in the Conference Room, 1016 First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were: Frank Gray, Chairman; E. W. Wehman, Vice-Chairman; Joe Antilley, Albert Roach and Henry Turney.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director; John Millican, Assistant Executive Director; Sonny Kretzschmar, Engineer; and Josephine Chupik, Office Manager of the State Board staff; Ed Thomas, State Conservationist; and Logan Crews, Assistant State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the October 30, 1973 meeting were approved as read.

A request had been received from the Bastrop Bayou watershed (Angleton) to amend the original application by delineating new boundaries resulting in a change of acreage which increased the size of the watershed. On motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the amendment of the Bastrop Bayou watershed application.

A new watershed application under Public Law 566 on Chocolate Bayou in Brazoria County was discussed. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board ratified the action of December 11, 1973 by Harvey Davis to disapprove the application pending a field examination.

Correspondence dated October 5, 1973 from Fred Dwyer of the Wichita Valley-Pond Creek watershed was discussed. (copy attached) As recorded in the minutes of May 31, 1967, this watershed among five others was granted a planning priority contingent upon the ability of local sponsors being able to handle their share of costs whatever these may be. On motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board withdrew the priority as a result of the sponsors' inability to carry out local responsibility.

A letter was read from Honorable Jerome H. Decker, County Judge, Medina County written to Ed Thomas, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, in which Judge Decker advised that the sponsors did not wish to use condemnation in order to carry out a Public Law 566 program on Seco Creek. Due to the fact that Seco Creek is over 90% planned, that Medina County Commissioners' Court had previously agreed to do whatever was necessary to carry this project out and that the State Board had already expended over \$40,000 in planning this watershed, the Board agreed that E. W. Wehman contact Judge Decker on this matter and report back to the Board at a later date.

Sonny Kretzschmar gave a detailed report on Public Law 566 watersheds with completed projects, projects under construction, projects planned with no construction, projects in planning status and projects ready for priority consideration. On motion of Henry Turney, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board granted a planning priority on the Big Creek watershed near Marlin, Texas.

Logan Crews reported on the status of watershed planning as of 12-31-73.

Ed Thomas passed out "Guidelines for Developing State Plans for USDA Service Centers" dated January 14, 1974, for the review of Board Members. Under this plan federal agricultural agencies consisting of the ASCS, FHA, FCIC and SCS will be grouped together to share facilities of a Service Center. He also reported on shortage of fuel with a Soil Conservation Service reduction of consumption by 20%.

On motion of Henry Turney, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved appointment of the following District Directors:

Wrather Holmgreen - Nueces-Frio-Sabinal SWCD #221
Ray Mangel - Loma Blanca SWCD #328
James S. Green - Upshur-Gregg SWCD #417
Sid F. Smith - Limestone-Falls SWCD #501
T. L. Roberts - Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD #505
Benn A. Gleason - Hamilton-Coryell SWCD #506
L. B. Bellah, Jr. - Miller-Brazos SWCD #526
Floyd R. Boren - Collin County SWCD #535
Bob King - Collin County SWCD #535
Tom Bounds - Hill County-Blackland SWCD #540

A petition to divide and reorganize the Miller-Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District #526 was considered by the Board. A motion was made by Henry Turney, seconded by E. W. Wehman, to proceed with the division and reorganization of this district without holding a public hearing. Motion carried.

John Millican explained the new State budgeting procedure. It will be based on (1) zero budgeting, (2) internal program developing and (3) system of performance and auditing.

Mr. Davis discussed the energy situation. A letter had gone to the chairman of each Soil and Water Conservation District giving instructions on obtaining diesel fuel through the Federal Energy Office for constructing permanent-type soil conservation measures.

The 1974 Annual State Meeting site was discussed. El Paso was ruled out as a possible site due to insufficient facilities and the energy situation. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to select either Austin or San Antonio and if neither of these are feasible, to select Fort Worth.

Harvey Davis reported on the attendance at the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in Fort Worth, Texas on October 30, 31 and November 1, 1973. Of the 587 people in attendance, 247 of these were directors representing 120 districts, 127 were directors' wives, 37 other ladies and 176 other men. A financial statement on the meeting was given to each Board member. (copy attached)

The Board was advised that the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce would not sponsor the Texas Conservation Awards Program after this year. Mr. Bill King has retired from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce but will complete this year's program. The Fort Worth Fat Stock Show was suggested by Bill King as a possible sponsor for the program. A motion was made by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Henry Turney, that we not choose them as a sponsor at the present time but

that we check into the possibility of a statewide organization as a sponsor of the program such as the Texas Bankers Association. Motion carried.

Harvey Davis told the Board that he was a member of the State Advisory Board of the Rural Environmental Conservation Program under Memorandum 1829 of the Secretary of Agriculture for the 1974 program year. The Advisory Board provides assistance and advice to the State RECP Committee.

A this time, 2:30 p.m., the following Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts met with the Board: Dee Brune, President; Kenneth Kuykendall, Vice President; Charles Wood, Secretary-Treasurer; W. S. Gibbs, Director; and Doyle Hutcheson, Director.

The group discussed needs of districts and proposed federal legislation that was directly effecting soil and water conservation districts.

The Association Directors and Board members agreed to request an appointment with Governor Briscoe to discuss several proposals including regulatory sediment and erosion control, land use regulations and other matters effecting the work of the State Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

3-28-74
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on January 17, 1974.

3-28-74
Date

Harvey Davis
Executive Director