

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
April 6, 1976

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on April 6, 1976 at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room of the Texas A & M Systems Building (Administration Building), College Station, Texas.

Board members present were: Albert Roach, Joe Antilley and Frank Gray. In the absence of Chairman Henry Turney, Vice-Chairman Albert Roach presided.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director; Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist; Dr. Bill Harris, Land and Water Use Specialist, Agricultural Extension Service and George Marks, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

Since copies of the minutes of the March 4, 1976 meeting were mailed to each Board member, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the minutes were approved without being read.

Harvey Davis reported to the State Board on an unfavorable field exam concerning Santa Clara Creek in Guadalupe County. Reading from a letter written by George Marks, State Conservationist, Mr. Davis said that the previously approved application for the Santa Clara Creek Watershed will not now result in a feasible project for planning under PL-566. The entire watershed was reevaluated and found, under present day cost and planning criteria, to have an unfavorable benefit-to-cost ratio in the amount of 24 cents of benefits for each one dollar of project cost. Mr. Davis recommended that the State Board disapprove this application since it is no longer feasible for project type planning under PL-566.

Frank Gray made the motion and Joe Antilley seconded that the project be disapproved. Motion carried.

A letter dated March 9, 1976 from Gene Gilbreath, chairman of the Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District concerning a request from the City of Rising Star to withdraw its sponsorship of the Sabanna River Watershed was reviewed. Harvey Davis told the State Board that financial problems is the reason Rising Star no longer wants to be considered as a sponsor of the project. The city claims that, because of their financial problems, they will not be able to secure municipal water from one of the Sabanna sites as originally planned. Mr. Davis recommended that the city be allowed to withdraw as a sponsor in the Sabanna River Watershed Project. Joe Antilley made the motion that the request be honored. Frank Gray seconded. Motion passed.

Harvey Davis read a memorandum from R. M. Davis, administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, regarding a deauthorization of watershed projects approved for operations. The memorandum calls for deauthorization of PL-566 watershed projects which have not started construction within eight years after they were approved for installation and to delete them from working records. Harvey Davis indicated that the concept seemed sound. Frank Gray asked if any formal action was necessary on the part of the State Board. Harvey Davis said nothing more is required other than a concurrence if that is the wish of the State Board. The State Board agreed with the idea of deauthorizing dormant PL-566 watershed projects.

The State Board reviewed a district zone boundary adjustment request submitted by the Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District No. 232. Harvey Davis read a letter dated March 30, 1976 from Cone Robinson, Chairman of the Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District. Robinson said the district passed a motion requesting the State Board to change their subdivision boundary line from Oak Creek Road to the Bronte-Winters Highway, F.M. 384, to make it easier to distinguish between Zones 3 and 4. Joe Antilley moved that the change be made. Frank Gray seconded. Motion passed.

An audit problem relevant to Agua Poquita Soil and Water Conservation District No. 321 was reviewed. Harvey Davis reported that their audit did not meet the prescribed requirements for a certified audit under state law. The problem is that the so called audit is nothing more than a record of the district's financial transactions. Mr. Davis said that a copy of the audit was reviewed with the State Auditor's office. The State Auditor's office advised that the district's financial report does not qualify as an audit primarily because the auditor, William A. Southerland of Corpus Christi, stated that he is not in a position to express an opinion as to the fairness of the statements presented within the report. Mr. Davis said he wrote a letter to the District Board urging them to obtain a complete audit as soon as possible in order to comply with State law regarding audits of soil and water conservation districts. Mr. Davis added that, because of the State Board's policy of not honoring matching fund claims until a current audit is on file, the State Board will not process their matching fund request.

The State Board agreed that no further action should be taken until May 15, 1976, which is the deadline for claiming two-thirds of their matching funds to see if the district files an official audit.

Harvey Davis discussed a meeting he and Sonny Kretzschmar had with Roy D. Payne, Director of the Railroad Commission's surface mining division. The assistance of the State Board and Districts was offered to the Commission and prospective applicants in the preparation of the reclamation part of applications. Mr. Payne wanted districts to know when public hearings are to be held. Harvey Davis said that he agreed to notify districts when hearings are to be held in their area.

The State Board reviewed Executive Order (D.B. 18-A) which officially designated the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board as the planning agency for non-point source planning relative to Section 208, PL 92-500 with respect to agricultural and silvacultural practices. The amended Executive Order became effective on 17 February 1976 and was signed by Governor Dolph Briscoe on 23 March 1976. Harvey Davis said that the Governor's Office has retained the primary responsibility as the State Planning Office on "208" matters. Harvey Davis also reported that he, Hugh Yantis and General James Rose were designated as a Management Committee by Governor Briscoe for Section 208 planning in the State of Texas with General Rose as Chairman. Mr. Davis stated that their assignment was to direct the non-point source management planning in the State planning area, and coordinate the non-point source management planning within the State planning region with management plans in the designated areas. Harvey Davis said that the role of districts in "208" planning

had been discussed several times and it seemed to be the general consensus that the State Board should work the districts in whatever areas are appropriate rather than a direct designation by the Governor.

Frank Gray reported on the trip to Washington, D.C. taken by Harvey Davis, Sonny Kretzschmar and himself on March 22 and 23 where they met with the Directors of the National Association of Conservation Districts and several members of Congress in respect to various programs and activities that directly effect the work of the State Board and Districts. Mr. Gray stated that he thought their trip was successful.

Harvey Davis reported on a meeting held with State agency heads in Austin on March 26, 1976. He said that 13 agency heads who administer to 85 per cent of the State's employees agreed to support the Governor's economy move with regard to holding down state expenditures. Harvey Davis added these agency heads advocated a two step salary increase for employees each year of the next biennium which amounts to 6.8% and a merit fund increase of 1.7% each year in order to offset inflationary increases. Harvey Davis asked for guidance in the preparation of this agency's budget for the next biennium relative to salaries. Joe Antilley recommended that a two step raise be included each year for the classified salaries and the Executive Director be raised to \$26,000 the first year and \$27,800 the second year which is essentially 6.8%. The other State Board members concurred.

Harvey Davis asked for authorization to attend a meeting of State Soil Conservation Administrative Officers, NACD Executive Committee members, Mel Davis and other SCS representatives in Washington, D.C. The meeting is to be held sometime in April or May. Frank Gray moved to

grant the request. Joe Antilley seconded. Motion passed.

The State Board reviewed the agency's expenditures for the six-month period ending February 29, 1976.

The State Board discussed the date and time for its next regular meeting. It was decided that the next meeting be held May 7, 1976 at 2 p.m. at the Sheraton-Fort Worth Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas unless the Chairman needed to call a meeting before then.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

*H. T. Tinsley*  
Chairman

*Josephine Chupik*  
Secretary

*April 29, 1976*  
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 April 6, 1976.

*April 29, 1976*  
Date

*Harvey Davis*  
Executive Director