

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 16, 1986

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, January 16, 1986 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Hermon L. Petty, Chairman
Albert Roach, Vice Chairman
Joe Antilley, Member
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist III
Jay Kuykendall, Planner I
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Robert Gruner, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Waldo Smith, President, Association of Texas SWCDs
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Joe Pat Henson, Soil Conservation Service
O'Gene Barkemeyer, Soil Conservation Service
Charles Thompson, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. Gerald Arkin, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Dr. Kent Adair, East Texas Plant Materials Center, Stephen F. Austin University
Kraig Gallimore, Texas Department of Agriculture
George Fore, Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority
Billy Griffin, Retired, Soil Conservation Service
George Marks, Retired, Soil Conservation Service

Chairman Petty called the meeting to order.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the minutes of the November 14, 1985 meeting were approved as read.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Jimmy D. Counts - Upper Clear Fork SWCD # 165
William A. Gholson - Stonewall SWCD # 167
Kyle C. Brookshier - High Point SWCD # 230
R. Gene Graham - Upper Nueces-Frio SWCD # 238

David Meador - Eldorado-Divide SWCD # 247
Iven A. Neal - Frio SWCD # 325
Dudley Campbell - Copano Bay SWCD # 329
George Cason - Colorado SWCD # 333
William R. Justiss - Lamar SWCD # 415
Joe E. Hoffman - Lower Neches SWCD # 437
Jim Nerren - Upper Neches SWCD # 438

Public hearings were held on December 19, 1985 in Goldthwaite, Texas and Brownwood, Texas relative to the division and reorganization of the Brown-Mills Soil and Water Conservation District # 523. Testimony presented at the hearings was favorable. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the division and reorganization.

A petition and supporting documents to transfer the portion of Bee County in the Copano Bay Soil and Water Conservation District # 329 to the Bee SWCD #344 was considered. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board determined the transfer of territory practicable and feasible and approved the area and subdivision maps for Copano Bay SWCD # 329. The maps for Bee SWCD #344 will be considered upon receipt from the district.

The Board approved the estimated operating budget for fiscal year 1987 in the amount of \$3,448,678 as per attached.

Estimated budget projections thru 1991 are needed now by the Legislative Budget Board. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board agreed to re-submit the items that were cut from the 1986-87 biennium budget including an additional information specialist.

In estimated projections for the budget, the Board approved the following:

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, \$5,000,000 each biennium in brush control to implement Senate Bill 1083,

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, \$200,000 for technical assistance from the Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Fund,

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, an additional \$55,000 in Watershed Planning, Sedimentation & Erosion Control and Water Quality Planning

and \$200,000 in Soil Salinity,

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, \$25,000 to each Plant Materials Center in Kingsville and Nacogdoches,

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, \$2,000,000 in Technical Assistance and \$1,000,000 in Conservation Assistance.

The Board agreed to conduct a survey of soil and water conservation districts in determining needs in Technical Assistance funds and Conservation Assistance funds.

The Board considered requests from Soil and Water Conservation Districts for technical assistance funds for fiscal year 1986. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board allocated funds as follows:

Edwards Plateau SWCD # 222 - \$2,000.00
Loma Blanca SWCD # 328 - \$4,160.00
Lower Pease River SWCD # 162 - request for \$5,000.00 was denied
until March Board meeting

The Board considered requests from Soil and Water Conservation Districts for conservation assistance (matching funds) for fiscal year 1986. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board allocated funds as follows:

Upper Neches SWCD # 438 - \$2,500.00
Panola SWCD # 448 - \$535.00

Dr. Kent Adair, representing the Board of Directors of the East Texas Plant Materials Center at Nacogdoches, briefed the Board on the operations of the Center. In a letter dated December 19, 1985, the Board of Directors of the Center requested an allocation of technical assistance funds to support its operation. Chairman Petty stated this request will be considered in the March Board meeting.

The Board discussed acceleration of soil surveys. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board authorized a contract in the amount of \$10,000.00 be negotiated with USDA, Soil Conservation Service for the period of February 1, 1986 to August 31, 1986.

Hermon Petty welcomed the guests and asked if any had comments to make.

Dale Fischgrabe announced that Billy Griffin had retired from the Soil Conservation Service effective January 3, 1986, and that he was now Acting State Conservationist.

Pat Henson briefed the Board concerning the new Conservation Reserve Program, and explained a proposed rescission of \$7.5 million in Great Plains Conservation Program funds.

Dale Fischgrabe reported on anticipated effects of the 4.3% overall budget cut pursuant to the Gramm-Ruddman bill.

O'Gene Barkemeyer updated the Board on the status of planning under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program and indicated that a feasibility study was about to begin on the Deer Creek Watershed in Bell, Falls and McLennan Counties. He made the Board aware of recently published rules concerning dam safety which could have a significant effect on dams built under watershed programs of the Soil Conservation Service.

Earl Burnett explained that budget cuts under the Gramm-Ruddman bill will be made by the Agricultural Research Service based on program priorities, and that the effect on conservation related research is not yet known.

Dr. Kent Adair reported that Stephen F. Austin State University had recently received funds for completion of a conservation education center to be located at Lake Sam Rayburn.

Kraig Gallimore informed the Board that budget cuts may do away with the long range weather forecasting activities of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. He also expressed concern that the number of farm foreclosures and farmers going out of business on the High Plains are causing conditions which could result in severe wind erosion if something is not done soon to prevent it.

George Fore briefed the Board on work being done for the Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority concerning a proposal to assess user fees

for waste disposal and commit the funds to a range improvement and wildlife management program. Hermon Petty suggested that the Board might want to support such a concept. Joe Antilley moved that the Board endorse the concept of funding a large-scale, long-term range improvement and wildlife management project on state lands through user fees from the low level radioactive waste disposal site. Dick Schendel requested that the Board be given more time to consider the proposal. Joe Antilley withdrew the motion.

Charlie Thompson discussed amendments to the Federal Farmland Protection Policy Act contained in the 1985 Farm Bill which make provisions for law suits by governors of states which have farmland protection laws.

Joe Antilley reintroduced a motion that the Board endorse the concept of funding a large-scale, long-term range improvement and wildlife management project on state land through user fees from the low level radioactive waste disposal site. The motion, seconded by Dick Schendel, carried and the staff was instructed to notify by letter the Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority of their endorsement.

George Fore briefed the Board on a law suit to be filed by the National Wildlife Federation alleging violation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Corps of Engineers and the Delta Irrigation District in Willacy County. He discussed the recent Supreme Court ruling on Section 404 jurisdiction and the National Wetlands Inventory being prepared by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On motion by Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the staff was instructed to prepare information in support of the Great Plains Program and other conservation programs for transmittal to the Texas Congressional Delegation when President Reagan announces the proposed rescissions.

The Board considered the results of a recently completed feasibility study on the Lower Aquilla-Hackberry Creek watershed which indicated that a land

treatment project under P.L. 83-566 would have a benefit-cost ratio of 1.8 to 1.0. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the project as practicable and feasible for planning. In response to a request from Soil Conservation Service for one additional planning priority, on motion by Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board granted a planning priority on the Lower Aquilla-Hackberry Creek watershed.

The Board discussed a hearing held on December 18, 1985, by the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Subcommittee on the Effects of the Water Plan on Agriculture, concerning legislation to implement Proposition 2, and discussed rules drafted by the Texas Water Development Board to implement agricultural water conservation programs authorized in Title III of House Bill 2, Acts of the 69th Legislature. The Board reviewed draft rules prepared by the State Board staff to implement the Technical Assistance Program for Soil and Water Conservation Land Improvement Measures also authorized under Title III of House Bill 2. On motion by Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the proposed rules and authorized the staff to proceed with publishing them in the Texas Register.

Jay Kuykendall briefed the Board on activities relative to development of a State Brush Management Plan as called for in Senate Bill 1083, Acts of the 69th Legislature, and presented cost estimates to implement a \$5 million pilot brush management program during the 1987-88 biennium.

Clyde Gottschalk reviewed various projects on information and education activities. The filming on the brush film is on schedule. Work is underway with the Soil Conservation Society of America to develop conservation films into audio visual type programs. Work is progressing with Texas Retail Grocers getting conservation awareness slogans out to the public. Eleven of the 21 Councils of Boy Scouts in Texas are actively involved in conservation workshops for scouts.

Work is underway with "Texas Agriculture in the Classroom" and "Project Learning Tree" organizations in developing educational materials on conservation. The Board discussed a twelve minute slide program on "Rocky Creek". The slide show presents a historical over view of watershed management which contributed to water conservation measures on Rocky Creek. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized securing several copies of this slide program for availability to all 202 SWCDs to tell the story all over the State.

The State Employees Training Act of 1969 was discussed as per letter of November 14, 1985, from Governor White. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board adopted a policy concerning implementation of this Act. (Copy attached) A copy of the policy will be sent to Governor White.

The National Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on February 2-6, 1986 at the Grand Ole Opry Hotel.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board is March 20, 1986.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Harmon L. Petty
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

February 24, 1986
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 16, 1986.

February 24, 1986
Date

Laney Davis
Executive Director