

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
July 18, 1985

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 18, 1985 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  
Frank Gray, 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  
Carl Gray, Agronomist  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Bill Reece, Soil Conservationist  
Fred Squyres, Soil Conservationist  
Barney Jefferson, Soil Conservationist  
Moe Seidensticker, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist  
Joe McKay, Soil Conservationist  
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist  
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist

Others present:

Waldo Smith, President, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Larry McCasland, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service  
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service  
Pat Henson, Soil Conservation Service  
Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service

Chairman Petty called the meeting to order.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the minutes of the May 16, 1985 meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the board approved the following district director appointments:

Charles Alvin Morris - Winter Garden SWCD # 326  
Lloyd E. Ashley - Alamo SWCD # 330  
Roland Holland - Bastrop County SWCD #340  
Laverne Odell - Hays County SWCD # 351  
Tommy Huckabee - Bosque SWCD #522  
Jess Spivey - Little Wichita SWCD #532

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

Billy Griffin reported the work plan on the Big Creek Watershed project in Bell, McClennan and Falls Counties was transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget on July 3 and would go to Congress for authorization upon approval. Griffin briefed the board on some minor problems with a contractor on the Leona River watershed project. Griffin informed the board that as of July 15, SCS personnel were down to 1,054 full time positions, but indicated that they would possibly hire 8 or 9 technicians in the near future. Griffin projected that by the end of FY 85, SCS personnel could be down to 1,050 positions, and could lose another 100 positions next fiscal year if they receive a 5 to 7 percent budget reduction.

Dale Fischgrabe briefed the board on recent activities by the Secretary of Agriculture to study streamlining USDA.

Pat Henson reported on current ACP guidelines for cost-sharing on brush control and indicated that SCS would like to see a pilot program set up to evaluate using water yield from brush control as a basis for cost-share eligibility. Harvey Davis indicated that the State Board is required to develop a State Brush Control plan under Senate Bill 1083 and that SCS, ASCS, and the State Board might find it beneficial to work together on development of such a plan.

Earl Burnett reported on attempts by the Agricultural Research Service to quantify water yield from brush control in the blackland prairie.

Fred Squyres was recognized as recipient of a plaque "For Outstanding Leadership in promoting Soil and Water Conservation, 1946-1985" presented by the Texas Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

The board discussed procedure for allocating supplemental conservation assistance funds for fiscal year 1985. The newly organized Hays County SWCD # 351 had requested additional conservation assistance funds. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the board allocated \$500.00 to the Hays County district. To date 122 districts have submitted supplemental claims for conservation assistance. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board agreed that supplemental funds would be allocated as in previous years with each district allocated the maximum amount possible from the balance of funds remaining.

The board discussed procedure for allocating supplemental Technical Assistance funds for fiscal year 1985. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the board agreed on the following procedure: All districts shall submit claims against their 1985 allocation by September 30, 1985. All unclaimed balances on that date will be re-distributed to other districts. Any district that has expended its allocated funds may file a supplemental claim also by September 30, 1985. To be eligible for for payment from 1985 funds, work for which reimbursement is claimed must have occurred on or before August 31, 1985. Supplemental Technical Assistance claims may be reduced depending on the amount of allocated funds released by other districts.

Bob Buckley explained the proposed Operating Budget for 1986. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the board approved the 1986 Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,285,91.00 (copy attached)

House Bill 20 Regular Session, 69th Legislature, the appropriation bill for fiscal year 1986 and 1987 included the following rider, "It is the intent

of the Legislature that the Soil and Water Conservation Board consider the financial wealth and fund balances of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in distributing funds appropriated above under Item 3 - Conservation Assistance and Item 6 - Technical Assistance."

In fulfilling the intent of the appropriation bill, districts were surveyed for fund balances as of June 1, 1985 to determine allocation of Conservation Assistance and Technical Assistance funds for fiscal year 1986.

After consideration of fund balances of 202 soil and water conservation districts and a thorough discussion, the board decided that a balance of \$30,000.00 per district of undedicated funds would not be given primary consideration in allocating funds. All districts that had undedicated fund balances in excess of that amount were not allocated conservation assistance funds but will be given an opportunity to justify their need for receiving State funds either in writing or in person at the September 1985 board meeting. The Conservation Assistance funds allocated by the board to each soil and water conservation district for fiscal year 1986 are attached.

The board reviewed its guidelines for the expenditure of technical assistance funds. The board agreed that the guidelines remain the same with the exception of "no over time will be paid for working in excess of 40 hours a week". Districts will be notified by letter of this provision.

The board considered allocation of technical assistance funds to soil and water conservation districts. Using the same criteria that was established for allocation of conservation assistance funds, the board allocated technical assistance funds to each soil and water conservation district for fiscal year 1986 as per attached.

In accordance with SB 229, Section 21 (b), Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session, 1985, procedure for appointing soil and water conservation district directors was discussed. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by

Frank Gray, the board agreed to re-appoint every district director serving as of the September board meeting date. Directors not wishing to serve another term of office may resign thru regular procedure.

Harvey Davis briefed the board on requirements contained in Section 201.019, Subsection (i) Agriculture Code requiring the agency to set policy which separates the respective responsibilities of the State Board and the Staff of the State Board. Harvey Davis provided the Board with recommended wording. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the board adopted the recommended policy. (copy attached)

Harvey Davis informed the board that existing Board policy regarding State Board member travel did not address travel within the State outside of Board Member zones. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board voted to amend existing policy to read, "travel by board members within the State does not require board approval" and to replace the wording that dealt with travel within Board Member zones with the new wording.

Harvey Davis explained the need for a Board position on the recently passed water legislation. The board by consensus agreed to endorse HB 2 and the constitutional amendments proposed in HJR 6.

Bob Buckley presented the board with copies of the newly developed employee performance plan and agency employee manual. Buckley briefly reviewed them with the board and explained they would become effective September 1, 1985.

Harvey Davis briefly discussed legislation passed by the 69th Legislature which will affect conservation programs.

Bob Buckley discussed reductions in State Board member travel and per diem rates contained in the appropriation bill for fiscal year 1986 and 1987.

In accordance with Article V, Section 86, of HB 20, 69th Legislature,

Regular Session, requiring financial statements of employees responsible for signing contracts and expenditures be approved by the board and filed annually. Harvey Davis presented a copy of his financial statement that had been filed with the Secretary of State. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the financial statement was approved and accepted by the Board.

John Millican briefed the board on sales tax requirements on sales made by soil and water conservation districts and provided a copy of a May 15, 1985 letter from the State Comptroller identifying taxable and non-taxable items.

Harvey Davis reviewed a resolution on management of forest prepared by the Texas Society of American Forestry supporting the work of professional foresters in control of the southern pine beetle in national forests and wilderness areas. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the board adopted the resolution and instructed that a copy be sent to Dr. Kent Adair at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Harvey Davis reviewed a letter from the Ochiltree Soil and Water Conservation District # 142 suggesting changes in the area awards program. Due to the fact that the area awards programs are usually held in connection with State Board Member elections increasing the attendance of both activities and the apparent satisfaction with the way the awards program is being handled throughout the State, the board took no action.

Harvey Davis reviewed bids received for the addition of a head table in the conference room and informed the board that the low bidder was Original Texas Mill Works. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, Harvey Davis was authorized to proceed with installation.

The board discussed travel arrangements to attend the South Central Area meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts to be held in Afton, Oklahoma on July 28, 29 and 30, 1985.

The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for September 19, 1985.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Harmon L. Petty  
Chairman

Josephine Chujik  
Secretary

9-26-85  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the board meeting held on July 18, 1985.

Sept. 26, 1985  
Date

Harvey Davis  
Executive Director