

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
July 19, 1984

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 19, 1984 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 1006, First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

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

Others present were:

Waldo Smith, Vice President, Association of Texas SWCDs
Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
O'Gene Barkemeyer, Soil Conservation Service
Charles Thompson, Soil Conservation Service
George Marks, Retired, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Bob King, Texas Department of Agriculture (arrived 11:15 a.m.)
Jim Butler, Texas Department of Agriculture " " "

Chairman Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed all the guests.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the minutes of the May 17, 1984 meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

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

Walter Henson - Cap Rock SWCD # 126
J. C. Sheffield - Freestone-Leon SWCD # 424
Charles G. Hooks, III - Harris SWCD # 442

Technical assistance allocations for fiscal year 1985 were discussed. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the following procedure for establishing an allocation for each district for fiscal year 1985:

Each area will receive the following amounts for the area to be allocated to individual districts as agreed on by the Board member and field personnel for that area. (copy of allocation for each district attached)

Area I	\$284,840
Area II	168,880
Area III	233,444
Area IV	188,840
Area V	299,996

Total 1985 allocations \$1,176,000

Technical assistance funds for fiscal year 1984 were discussed. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board ratified Harvey Davis' approval in allocating additional technical assistance funds to the following districts since the board meeting of May 17, 1984:

San Patricio SWCD # 324	\$. \$648.00
Washington SWCD# 348	\$. \$152.00
Bedias Creek SWCD # 428	\$. \$1,500.00
Upper Elm-Red SWCD # 524	\$. \$1,000.00

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved an additional \$1,600.00 in technical assistance funds for the Wilbarger SWCD #537.

The following districts released technical assistance funds for fiscal year 1984:

Davy Crockett SWCD # 404	\$3,240.00
Freestone-Leon SWCD # 424	1,500.00
Dalworth SWCD # 519	1,937.75
Wichita-Brazos SWCD #544	10,000.00
(Plant Materials Center)	

The Board discussed the guidelines governing the technical assistance grant funds program. The survey of 164 districts presently receiving allocations revealed only two districts requested a change in the salary rate of \$6.50 per

hour to a higher rate. After due consideration the Board agreed to leave \$6.50 per hour as the pay rate for fiscal year 1985 for hourly employees.

Harvey Davis explained technical assistance grant funds allocated to Plant Material Centers in Knox City, Kingsville and Nacogdoches are being disbursed thru the Wichita-Brazos, Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg and Lamar Soil and Water Conservation Districts respectively. The Knox City Plant Materials Center has established 3 full time summer employees thereby releasing funds in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Allocation of Conservation Assistance (matching funds) for fiscal year 1984 were discussed. The Harrison Soil and Water Conservation District #412 requested a special supplemental allocation of \$415.00 due to an oversight creating a loss of 2/3 of their original allocation. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board granted the \$415.00 in supplemental matching funds.

Supplemental claims for Conservation Assistance funds have been received from 109 districts to date. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board agreed that supplemental claims would be allocated as in previous years with each district allocated the maximum amount possible from the balance of funds remaining.

The Board reviewed a special request from the Pedernales SWCD # 218 and the Central Colorado SWCD # 517 for an increase in 1985 Conservation Assistance funds. Pedernales requested their allocation be raised from \$1,100.00 to \$4,000.00 and Central Colorado requested their allocation be raised from \$3,420.00 to \$7,500.00. Since the maximum allocation had previously been established at \$3,800.00 per district by the Board, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board allocated \$3,800 in Conservation Assistance funds to the Pedernales SWCD # 218 and to the Central Colorado SWCD #517 for the 1985 fiscal year.

The proposed operating budget for the 1985 fiscal year was presented to the Board. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the 1985 operating budget in the amount of \$3,497,460. (copy attached)

The 1986-87 biennium budget request was discussed. Harvey Davis and Jay Kuykendall informed the Board of assistance provided to Senator Bill Sims in the development of a program for brush control with major emphasis on water conservation. Hermon Petty discussed the possibility of State funding to assist soil and water conservation districts in the operation and maintenance of floodwater retarding structures and moved that a line item be included in the State Board budget request for this purpose. The motion died for lack of a second. The Board, by consensus directed the staff to prepare information on the need for such funding for the September Board meeting. Harvey Davis discussed the inclusion of nearly \$2 million in the 1986-87 biennium budget request of the Texas Department of Water Resources for the purpose of hiring irrigation technicians; some which would be hired through soil and water conservation districts.

Chairman Schendel welcomed the visitors and asked for any remarks they might like to make.

Billy Griffin reported that the 1984 irrigation survey is well underway and should be the most accurate survey of irrigation in Texas ever done. Griffin informed the Board of the possibility of an administration re-organization within SCS, where state administrative staffs could be combined to form regional staffs serving several states.

O'Gene Barkemeyer reported to the Board that SCS had received \$16 million in supplemental watershed construction funding, which will have to be obligated by September 1984.

Dale Fischgrabe informed the Board about a new interpretation of the Great Plains Conservation Program limit on contracts which will allow the State Conservationist to authorize contracts to exceed \$35,000 under certain conditions.

Fischgrabe reported to the Board that SCS will begin using the district numbering system that is used by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Bill Harris discussed wind erosion demonstration work that is currently being planned. Harris discussed a paper being prepared by Dale Allen of SCS, Clyde Gottschalk on the State Board staff and himself dealing with history of soil conservation in Texas.

Bob King introduced Jim Butler, who will be working with the Texas Department of Agriculture on natural resource matters. King indicated that he was also in the process of hiring a soil conservationist to further increase their capabilities.

Harvey Davis reported to the Board that our new system of general accounting records has been reviewed with the State Auditor's Office and is acceptable as was formally recommended in the management letter dated June 12, 1984 from Karl D. Johnson, Jr. of the State Auditor's Office.

Harvey Davis informed the Board on the status of the lease of office space. After several contacts in regards to the present space, it was established by the Attorney General's Office and the State Purchasing and General Services Commission that the office cannot remain in its present location due to the fire code ruling. The low bidder awarded the contract is agreeable to constructing a building to be leased as office space on the corner of North 5th and Calhoun St., Temple, Texas. Details are incomplete.

James Moore briefed the Board on two field examinations. A field examination was conducted on Horse and Big Timber Creeks in Hemphill County during June 11-14, 1984. Neither were feasible projects. A field examination was currently underway on Cypress Creek near Comfort. Results will be forthcoming. Harvey Davis and O'Gene Barkemeyer reviewed a letter dealing with the liability and responsibilities connected with floodwater retarding structures. The Board directed Harvey Davis to pursue the legalities involved

in the issue as far as necessary to adequately define all responsibilities and liabilities connected with sponsorship of projects installing floodwater retarding structures.

Harvey Davis and Gary Westmoreland reviewed the final rules under the Farmland Protection Policy Act with the Board. Charlie Thompson indicated that the rules should have no major impact on the LESA program as it now exists. A general discussion of the Farmland Protection Policy Act and the LESA program followed.

Harvey Davis reviewed the program for the Annual Statewide meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in Corpus Christi October 22, 23, & 24, 1984 at the Bayfront Convention Center. The Planning Committee met on June 1, 1984. Speakers have been contacted and have accepted to be on the program. The same format will be used as last year with the exception of a noon luncheon with a program on Tuesday. The Federal Land Bank will again assist financially with the reception.

John Millican reported on the NACD meeting to be held in Hawaii on February 3-7, 1985. Travel and housing accommodations are being considered as a package thru GTU, Inc. or Transamerica Airlines. Pending additional information from these two travel agencies, the Board agreed to leave the final decision on the selection for the Texas group to travel to Hawaii to Chairman Schendel, Harvey Davis and John Millican.

The Seventh Annual Leadership Conference sponsored by NACD will be held in Portland, Oregon on August 21-24, 1984. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, C. F. "Dick" Schendel and Harvey Davis are authorized to attend the conference.

A National Conference on Conservation Tillage will be held October 3-5, 1984 in Nashville, Tennessee according to an invitation from Secretary of Agriculture, John R. Block. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board authorized C. F. "Dick" Schendel and Harvey Davis to attend

the conference.

Harvey Davis reviewed letters of comment from Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen regarding increases in federal funding levels for basic soil and water conservation programs.

A paper dealing with NACD concerns about the National Conservation Program was discussed with the Board. Harvey Davis was directed to respond to Bud Mekelburg favorably on behalf of the State Board.

Harvey Davis updated the Board on regulations being promulgated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Sunset Advisory Commission will meet on August 6 and 7 in Room E of the Reagan Bldg., Austin, Texas. Representing our agency will be C. F. "Dick" Schendel and Joe Antilley along with the staff members.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 20, 1984.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

C. F. Dick Schendel
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

September 20, 1984
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 19, 1984.

September 20, 1984
Date

Harvey Davis
Executive Director