

Minutes
State Soil and Water Conservation Board
January 16, 1991

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, January 16, 1991, in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Joe Antilley, Chairman
Harvey Davis, Vice Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Fred Squyres, Member
Albert Evans, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs
James M. Moore, Engineer
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Janet Gonser, Planner
Stephen Deiss, Planner
Ramesh Chamala, Research Specialist
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Joe Camp, Hydrologist
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board
Ray Abbott, City of Temple
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Charles "Buddy" Clark, Assn. of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Antilley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Albert Evans, the minutes were approved as mailed.

John Millican reviewed information on appointees for district directors for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the following district directors were approved:

John Hruska, Concho SWCD #201
Larry Horwood, North Concho River SWCD #252
Robert L. Dodds, Jr., Robertson County SWCD #451
Joe Barker, Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD #505
Rodger Dawdy, Fannin SWCD #520
Kevin Carder, Fannin SWCD #520
Lewis Kirk, Jack SWCD #549

Mr. Millican discussed the division and reorganization of the Upper Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District #213 that had been tabled at the August 2, 1990 board meeting. After some discussion it was decided not take any action on this item at this time.

Bill Neiser reviewed the Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 1990 as it was submitted to the Governor's Office, State Comptroller, State Treasurer, Legislative Budget Board and State Auditor.

Mr. Neiser discussed the fiscal year 1991 Actual Expenditure Report for the four month period ending December 31, 1990.

Mr. Neiser provided the Board a status report on District Audits for the two-year period ended August 31, 1990, showing which district audits have been received, reviewed and corrected.

Bill Neiser discussed a letter from Tom Green SWCD #248 requesting an additional \$2,000 in Technical Assistance funds for fiscal year 1991. Since there are no unallocated funds at this time this request will be considered again at a later date if funds become available. Mr. Neiser reported that districts will be surveyed for additional technical assistance needs and for funds

available to be reallocated to other districts.

Mr. Neiser reported on the Uniform Statewide Accounting System implementation. He reported there had been very little progress since the last meeting but that the State Board had received additional funding from USAS to purchase additional terminals. He advised the Board that our agency is further along than any other agency participating in this pilot program.

Bob Buckley reported on the 1992-93 biennium recommendations from the Legislative Budget Board and advised the Board that they recommended the elimination of district directors' per diem and a reduction of technical assistance funding by 10%.

Joe Camp gave a progress report on the Statewide Watershed Study. He said the report would be printed in two volumes - a Main Study Report and an Executive Summary. The documents have been edited and will go out for re-bids since the first bid received was in excess of \$50,000. Mr. Camp expressed his thanks to the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Extension Service, Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Water Commission for the help and cooperation they provided. Mr. Camp passed out a summary of recommendations for the Watershed Study. Fred Squyres made the motion to adopt the recommendations and Dick Schendel and Albert Evans seconded. Motion passed.

Clyde Gottschalk reported on the District Director training session planned for February 21-22 beginning at 1 p.m. on the 21st and ending at noon on the 22nd. He said there would probably be need for a second session in the spring due to the large number of

directors expressing an interest in the workshop.

Mr. Gottschalk provided the Board with a summary of the National Environmental Education Act (PL 101-619) and said this could be a future opportunity for additional environmental education funding if we are eligible. It was the consensus of the Board to try to obtain any funding as it becomes available for environmental education in Texas.

Mr. Gottschalk also reported that he would be conducting teacher education workshops and Boy Scout workshops again this year.

Wes Oneth gave the Soil Conservation Service report. He reported there would be a CRP sign up later this winter. He also advised the Board that the field offices in Fort Worth and Dallas would be closed and a field office would be open in Arlington. Field offices in Glen Rose, Georgetown and West will also be closed. He also said SCS would be losing five positions out of the State headquarters office. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board instructed the Executive Director to convey the Board's wishes to the Texas Congressional delegation that additional funding for the Soil Conservation Service be used at the local level for increased technical assistance. Mr. Oneth advised the Board that a number of counties in Texas had been recommended for Great Plains contracts. He also said 15 new RC&D areas are soon to be announced and two of them could be in Texas.

Dr. Bill Harris reported the hydrologic units that were approved last year - Seco Creek and North Bosque River - were going very well. Two new projects that are almost ready to be funded and

have been approved are Seymour Aquifer and Lake Fork Creek. Dates for meetings to discuss these projects have been set for January 31 in Sulphur Springs at the USDA Bldg. at 9 a.m. and in Haskell on February 5th at the State Bank Community Room at 9 a.m. He also advised the Board that training sessions have been held for County Agents on Water Quality and that James Moore and Mel Davis from the State Board office have been involved in these sessions. He said all Agents in Texas will have been trained by the end of March.

Dr. Clarence Richardson reported that his agency, Agricultural Research Service, had received additional funding in several new areas, two being in climate control and water quality.

Comer Tuck reported that the Chairman of the Texas Water Development Board has resigned and the Governor would appoint a new person. He said Dan Dotson had been named as the new Deputy Administrator. He advised that the Texas Water Plan had been approved on December 13 and was now in the process of being printed.

Mr. Buckley advised the Board of the condition of Frank Gray, a former State Board member from Lubbock. He had recently had a severe heart attack.

Dr. Allan Jones from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Temple praised the work of the Watershed Study team - Joe Camp, Ramesh Chamala and Stephen Deiss and appreciated the opportunity for the Experiment Station to be involved with the State Board on this study. He said they plan to push new projects on blackland farming systems for better service to blackland farmers.

Ray Abbott from the City of Temple reported they were working

on a project to form a Temple Ag Initiative. He also advised that Scott and White Hospital was now doing statewide water quality testing.

Charles Clark, President of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts reported that the Association Board would meet on January 30th to discuss NACD resolutions before the national meeting of NACD on February 3-6, 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia. He said the Association's Water Task Force Committee had met and that Charles Haenisch, chairman of the committee, will meet with the National Coalition in Atlanta, Ga. prior to the national NACD meeting.

James Moore reported on the status of Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Work Plans and advised that all contracts have been approved and are in place. He indicated that additional work plans would be forthcoming with work under way for funding under Sec. 205(j)5 of the Clean Water Act and EPA guidance should be forthcoming on the fiscal year 1991 Section 319 funding.

C. F. "Dick" Schendel reported on the Galveston Bay Program. He said the committee met on Dec. 10th and heard reports from the subcommittees and conducted routine business. He also reported on the December 9th public hearing on Coastal Zone Management.

James Moore reported on the Gulf of Mexico Program and advised that the State Board had been placed on the Nutrient Enrichment Committee and on the Coastal and Shoreline Subcommittee. He updated the Board on the progress of the grant program funded through the Gulf of Mexico Program for nutrient management on rice in Colorado, Matagorda and Wharton Counties and indicated that the

chlorophyll meters had been ordered and three had been shipped with one to follow later.

Beade Northcut reported on the Erath County Groundwater Study. He advised that pesticides were identified in one of the water samples. The well owner has been informed and additional samples taken to verify the presence of pesticides. The significance of the risk hazard level established by EPA was also discussed.

Mr. Northcut presented an application for a P.L. 83-566 project for the Gunsolus Creek Watershed but had no formal feasibility. He recommended it to be disapproved pending a feasibility study. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Harvey Davis to disapprove pending a feasibility study. Motion carried.

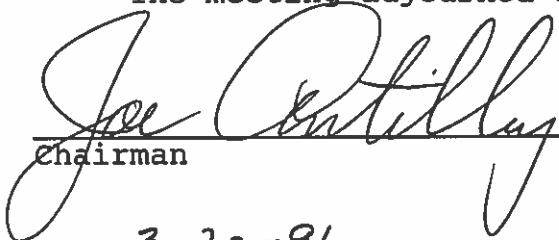
Bob Buckley discussed proposed recommendations for the 72nd Legislature. One proposal was to change the portion of the law to allow the State Board to accept donations for the Annual State Meeting. Another recommendation was in filling vacancies of district directors. It was also recommended that a change be made in the law to allow directors to conduct an audit of district accounts according to rules adopted by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The last proposal was seeking cost-share assistance for soil and water conservation land improvement measures. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Harvey Davis the Board agreed to proceed with the four recommendations to seek changes in the state conservation law.

Mr. Buckley provided information on the four upcoming NACD Leadership Conferences. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Albert Evans, Board members were authorized to attend any of the

four meetings.

The national NACD Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 3-6, 1991, was discussed. All Board members plan to attend except Fred Squyres.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary

3-20-91
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 16, 1991.

3-20-91
Date


Executive Director