

Minutes  
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
January 16, 1992

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, January 16, 1992, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Harvey Davis, Chairman  
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Vice Chairman  
Joe Antilley, Member  
Albert Evans, Member  
Paul Robertson, 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  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Beade Northcut, Engineer  
Stephen Deiss, Planner  
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Kenton Inglis, Soil Conservation Service  
Dr. Clarence Richards, Agricultural Research Service  
Dr. Allen Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station  
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
Charles "Buddy" Clark, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Allen J. Shultz, Scott & White Environmental Laboratory  
Mario Salinas, Comptroller's Office

Harvey Davis called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Evans, the minutes were approved as mailed with two minor corrections.

John Millican presented District Director appointments for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of C.

F. Schendel, seconded by Paul Robertson, the following District Director appointments were approved.

Robert M. Jackson, Jasper-Newton SWCD #441  
Bobby G. Waddle, Dalworth SWCD #519  
Charles H. Kincaid, Hood-Parker SWCD #529

John Millican presented the Board a petition for division and reorganization of the Hood-Parker Soil and Water Conservation District #529. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board accepted the petition and asked the staff to proceed with the public hearings. Motion carried.

Bob Buckley and John Millican reported on their trip to South Padre Island to check on convention facilities as requested by the Board at their regular board meeting on November 20, 1991. They advised the Board that the accommodations at South Padre were ample and could accommodate the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board voted to hold the 1992 Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors at South Padre Island on October 19, 20 and 21, 1992. Motion carried.

John Millican presented a District Director appointment that was received in the late morning mail. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel the appointment for Charles Darter from Delta Soil and Water Conservation District #443 was approved. Motion carried.

John Millican advised the Board that Board member elections would be held on May 5, 1992, for State Districts Two and Four. State District Two will be held in San Angelo at Angelo State University in Room 204 of the Houston Harte University Center.

State District Four will be held in Lufkin in Room S209 of the Science Building at Angelina College.

Bill Neiser presented a letter from the Cross Timbers SWCD #556 requesting that the amount of \$1,326.75 in Technical Assistance funds be transferred to the Hood-Parker SWCD #529 so the funds could be used for work in the proposed district for Hood and Somervell Counties. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Paul Robertson, the transfer of funds was approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Neiser discussed the Fiscal Year 1992 expenditure report ending December 31, 1991. He advised the Board that after the first four month of the fiscal year the budget was on schedule.

Mr. Neiser advised the Board of the status of the Productivity Bonus Program Plan submitted by the agency. He said the Board plans to cut costs by eliminating partial per diem beginning January 1, 1992, revising mailing procedures and eliminating the replacement of office furniture.

Bob Buckley discussed the Agency Strategic Plan required by each state agency in Texas by the deadline date of March 1, 1992. A list of suggested area goals was provided each Board member and their suggestions were requested. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that a meeting would probably be needed by the end of February to discuss goals for the agency plan.

Bill Neiser discussed a draft for proposed rules for district audits. Mr. Neiser requested the Board's input and suggestions and advised the Board that the field staff would be meeting on January 30th to provide their input. He said a final draft could be discussed and approved at the called Board meeting in late

February. There was much discussion. One suggestion was to do a financial statement annually and to make it be due 60 days after the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Buckley reported on the Uniform State Service Regions. He told the Board this may be used in addition to the Strategic Plan for future state budget allocations.

Mr. Buckley reported on the District Director workshop to be held in the State Board Conference Room on January 21-22, 1992. He advised the Board that interest was very high in these workshops and that it increases the interest of the directors and makes them anxious to get involved in the district programs. Another workshop is scheduled for February 10-11, 1992.

Mr. Buckley discussed the Public Information/Education report in the absence of Clyde Gottschalk. He advised the Board that Mr. Gottschalk was in Austin at a Texas Education Agency Environmental Education Advisory Committee Conference representing the State Board as a member of the committee. The Board was provided a copy of Mr. Gottschalk's written report. (Copy attached).

Kenton Inglis gave the Soil Conservation Service Report and informed the Board that because of the heavy rainfall in Texas in December there had been 18 watershed structures that experienced emergency spillway flow. He said a preliminary assessment of flood damages in 70 Texas counties has been completed and over \$22 million in damages have been documented. Total Emergency Watershed Protection assistance needs may exceed \$30 million when final assessments are completed.

Dr. Allen Jones informed the Board that Dr. Herb Richardson

is now the new Chancellor at Texas A&M University and that effective January 1, 1992 Charles Arnson had been replaced by Dr. Charles Lee on an interim basis as Deputy Chancellor for Agriculture.

Comer Tuck advised the Board the Texas Water Development Board is being realigned into three branches - finance; data processing and administrative services. He said the Texas Water Development Board had approved new rules for the agriculture loan program.

Charles "Buddy" Clark informed the Board that the Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts would meet in Temple on January 27, 1992 to review resolutions that would be considered at the national NACD meeting to be held in Reno, Nevada on February 2-6, 1992. He said there would be a good delegation from Texas going to the meeting and he hoped to get more Texas people involved on national committees.

James Moore brought the Board up to date on the status of the nonpoint source program. He advised the Board of four contracts that were in place. He also discussed a meeting he had with the Zapata Soil and Water Conservation District and of their desire for an awareness program and of a citizens water monitoring program to monitor the Rio Grande River above Falcon Reservoir. He advised the Board that the Texas Water Commission is setting up an Agriculture Committee and that Buddy Clark was serving on the committee. He talked about the North Bosque project and said a cooperater has a plan developed on his dairy and hopes to develop a demonstration project to educate dairy producers in Erath County.

Mr. Moore discussed Senate Bill 818 and brought the Board up

to date on its activities. He said the staff had been working with various river authorities to obtain membership for district directors on their steering committees and assignments have been made as far as possible.

James Moore discussed 319 proposals for Fiscal Year 1992. He said Congress has approved funding and Texas will get a share of the funding. He said the Board had until February 15th to get proposals together. Mr. Moore suggested several projects that the funding could be used for this year.

Mr. Moore presented an update to the Board on the EPA Wetland Conservation Program. He said EPA would like for this agency to put together a watershed demonstration project.

James Moore advised that the State Board had been invited to cooperate with the Texas Farm Bureau on a water quality survey that was produced primarily for the Seco Creek project. He said the Board was asked to provide assistance along with computer assistance. He said a meeting had been set for January 29 to discuss this survey with Farm Bureau and asked for the Board's input. It was the consensus of the Board for this agency to work with the Farm Bureau on this project.

James Moore informed the Board of the status of the Texas Water Commission's rules on confined animal feeding.

Bob Buckley discussed a meeting of the Joint Interim Committee of the Environment. He said a subcommittee on agriculture nonpoint source pollution had been set up with Representative Robert Saunders serving as chairman.

Mr. Moore advised the Board that there were no new

developments concerning reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Moore told the Board that comments were submitted on the Coastal Zone Management Act as discussed at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Moore brought the Board up to date on the Gulf of Mexico Program and advised them that Mel Davis would be attending, in his place, a meeting of the Nutrient Enrichment Subcommittee in New Orleans, La.

Dick Schendel reported on the Gulf of Mexico Program meeting he had just attended. He said they reviewed the proposed budget with the steering committee for the next year. The program is now in its fourth year and the main thing now is developing a master plan during the next two years. He said Bay Day was planned again for this year since it was so successful last year. This day promotes the estuary program on Galveston Bay.

James Moore discussed the Farmland of Statewide Importance program and asked for the Board's guidance. The Board agreed to provide the Soil Conservation Service with guidelines for prime farmland so they can print a list of soils that go with the guidelines.

Harvey Davis reported that he had met with two soil and water conservation districts concerning the High Speed Rail Authority proposal. He said the proposed high speed rail system would go through 19 soil and water conservation districts and these districts are very concerned because the system would be taking up farmland on which many conservation practices have been installed.


Bob Buckley advised the Board that now is the time to start looking at the Fiscal Years 1994-1995 budget request. He said

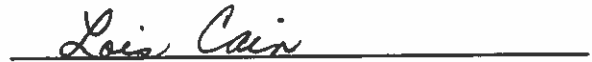
there would be only one submission this time instead of two as in the past and the request would probably be submitted in July or August. He asked the Board if they wanted to survey the districts for their needs as in the past. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board agreed to survey the districts for their needs for the next biennium. Motion carried.

Board member travel was then discussed. Mr. Buckley advised the Board of the need to reduce each Board member's travel allotment by \$300 each. He said staff allocations had already been reduced. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board agreed to reduce their travel allocations by \$300 each.

The Board set February 26, 1992, as their next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

  
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Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

2-26-92  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 16, 1992.

2-26-92  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director