

Minutes
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
February 26, 1992

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, February 26, 1992, at 8:00 a.m. in the Doc O Lena Room in the Holiday Inn, Stephenville, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director
James M. Moore, Engineer
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Bob Glasgow, State Senator
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board
Kenneth W. Schrank, Soil Conservation Service

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

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Evans, the minutes of the January 16, 1992 Board meeting were approved as mailed.

Senator Glasgow discussed the role of agriculture in Texas and his perception of how environmental laws and rules may affect the agricultural industry and agricultural producers.

John Millican presented District Director appointments for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Joe Antilley, the following District

Director appointments were approved:

Melvin Dube, Bastrop SWCD #340
Hall J. DeBusk, Hamilton-Coryell SWCD #506

John Millican reported that the division and reorganization of the Hood-Parker Soil and Water Conservation District #529 was pending awaiting the receipt of an audit from the district. Harvey Davis reported that public hearings on the district division were held on February 13, 1992 and support of the division was voiced in both Hood and Parker Counties.

John Millican presented a request from the Menard Soil and Water Conservation District #215 to revise their subdivision boundaries. The requested changes are based on metes and bounds due to a lack of roads and other natural and identifiable features in the area. The requested changes involve the correction of some historical errors in the description of the district boundary between the Concho Soil and Water Conservation District #201 and the Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District #215 and the placing of one large ranch into another subdivision. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the subdivision boundaries were approved. Harvey Davis instructed the staff to make sure that all the boundary lines intersected and no gaps in the description were left open.

John Millican reported on the status of planning for the 1992 Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held at South Padre Island. The rental for the new convention center will be about \$3,100. Mr. Millican will visit South Padre Island soon to finalize more details. Harvey Davis requested that Mr. Millican contact Orion C. Samuelson, Farm

Service Director, WGN Radio and WGN-TV, Chicago, Illinois about the possibility of being a keynote speaker in the general session or banquet at our state meeting and report back at the next state board meeting.

Bill Neiser presented to the Board for final adoption an amendment to the Technical Assistance Rules relating to eligible salary rates for technicians. Mr. Neiser stated that the proposed rules have been published as required in the Texas Register and are now ready for final Board action. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board adopted the rule as final.

Bill Neiser reviewed a final draft of proposed rules for District Audit Procedures and reported the final draft had been reviewed by field staff and the State Auditor. Following discussion, the Board recommended by consensus that any financial statement issued in lieu of a regular audit be reviewed and approved by the district board and that adoption of the financial statement be reflected in the minutes of the district board meeting and that the affidavit submitted with the financial statement be signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the district. Following these revisions, Dick Schendel made the motion, seconded by Joe Antilley, and adopted by the Board to adopt the proposed rules for publication in the Texas Register.

James Moore reviewed a verbal request from the Soil Conservation Service for a planning priority for the Gunsolus Creek PL 566 Project in Stephens County. Mr. Moore reviewed the feasibility report on the project and pointed out that although a cost/benefit ratio was not provided that a separate Corps of

Engineer study indicated the cost/benefit ratio was favorable. Mr. Schendel stated that he would rather see work continue on plans already approved rather than give new priorities to work that might further delay projects awaiting action. Mr. Moore asked if the Board would like to have a status report on project planning and construction. On the motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board approved a request for the preparation and presentation of a status report for their next Board meeting and a review of the Board's guidelines on granting PL 566 planning priorities.

Clyde Gottschalk reviewed a grant application for funds under PL 101-619 National Environmental Education Act. The grant requested is based on the State Board and the Association providing the match that is required for Federal funded grants. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board approved the grant application. Paul Robertson recommended that the Association be requested to help with this project through the use of their Public Information/Education Program.

James Moore reported on the 1992 319 Grant Proposals submitted to the Texas Water Commission for transmittal to EPA. Each project grant proposal, as ranked by the Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee, was reviewed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board approved the project grant proposals being submitted.

James Moore reviewed a State Wetlands Protection Development Grant Proposal submitted to EPA for funding. The proposal was prepared in response to Board instructions in their January 16,

1992 meeting to pursue funding from EPA for voluntary wetland conservation. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the wetlands grant proposal being submitted.

James Moore brought the Board up to date on the status of the nonpoint source program. He advised the Board the Texas Water Commission had established a Clean Water Council to assist in the development of State Water Management Program. The Council has established subcommittees to assist them, one of which is on nonpoint source pollution. An Agricultural Advisory Committee has also been organized to advise the commission on the organization of an agricultural section. An Agricultural Nonpoint Source Subcommittee has been named to provide input on agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Mr. Moore advised the Board that the Texas Water Development Board had contacted the office to discuss the development of a fact sheet on their State Revolving Fund Loan Program and its use to address agricultural nonpoint source pollution. He then discussed the development of a Pump Installer licensing program by the Texas Water Well Drillers Board and reviewed pertinent aspects of the rules being developed to implement the program. He advised the Board that the Texas Water Development Board had established the determination of effectiveness of nonpoint source best management practices as a priority for use of their research and planning funds for this year and that an application had been submitted for monitoring activities on Lake Fork Creek. He advised the Board that EPA had provided an opportunity to apply for funding to assess

potential environmental problems in the coastal region of Texas. The grant, if approved, would be for 95% of project cost with the Board providing 5%. He indicated that a proposal had been submitted for monitoring on the Arroyo Colorado in Cameron County. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board approved the grant application.

Clyde Gottschalk reported on public information and education activities. He advised the Board on the results and feedback received on recently held District Director Orientation Training Workshops. He advised the Board that the Soil Conservation Service Information Committee will address Absentee Landowner Concerns. As chairman of the Absentee Landowners Outreach Subcommittee, Gottschalk explained the broadbase and specific goals the Subcommittee wishes to achieve and then asked the Board if they concurred with the proposed program. Joe Antilley discussed the Tarrant County Farm and Ranch Club and recommended they be contacted for their experience and input on such a project. Paul Robertson recommended the Association be requested to consider assisting the absentee landowner outreach program through their Public Information/Education Committee. Mr. Robertson asked about the status of Public Information/Education Funds and the amount of Funds diverted from the Textbook Cover Project budget. Mr. Gottschalk explained the PI/E Committee had transferred \$24,000 from the textbook cover project budget into a new program development budget, but at this time the Association Board of Directors had not adopted the recommendation and no alternative project was recommended.

Atlan Pfluger reported on the activities of the Texas Water Development Board and the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund Program.

Bob Buckley reported that the deadline for submission of strategic plan for the State Board has been extended to April 1, 1992 and reviewed the draft of the plan. He advised the Board that state leaders are indicating the Strategic Plans of all state agencies will be used to guide the appropriation process during the next legislative session. He advised the Board that the strategic plan needs to reflect any new or increased agency budget request. He asked the Board for tentative approval of the mission statement and the agency goals of the strategic plan. By consensus the Board tentatively agreed to the proposed language as revised on the mission statement. The agency philosophy was reviewed. Bill Neiser reviewed the preparation of the external/internal assessment of the strategic plan. The Board expressed that the voluntary aspect of the program be emphasized and that a list of program strengths be compiled.

Bob Buckley discussed the 1994-95 agency budget request. He reported that instructions from the state on budget preparation have not been issued but it was time to begin considering budget development. Mr. Buckley reviewed those items that were sought in the 1992-93 request that did not receive funding.

Bob Buckley discussed State Board Member travel and informed the Board that the only out of state meetings he was aware of at this time was the NACD Regional Leadership Conference/Workshops and the NACD Spring Board Meeting. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded

by Dick Schendel, the Board authorized any Board Member to attend any one of the regional Leadership Conferences. and/or the Spring Board Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The Board set March 18, 1992 as their next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Harvey Davis
Chairman

W. L. Davis
Secretary

3-18-92
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held February 26, 1992.

3-18-92
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director