

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 27, 1996

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met March 27, 1996 at 8:00 a.m. in Board Room # 3 in the Inn at Scott and White, Temple Texas.

Board members present were:

Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Chairman
C.F. "Dick" Schendel, Vice Chairman
Paul Robertson, Member
Albert Evans, Member
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director
Leonard Pietzsch, Jr., Chief Accountant
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Sam Unberhagen, Program Specialist
Cherié King, Director of Programs
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs
Stephen Deiss, Regional Manager
Andy Garza, Regional Manager
Charley Rodgers, Regional Manager
John O'Connor, Regional Manager
Steven Jones, Regional Manager
W. T. Crumley, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Johnny Oswald, Program Specialist
Roy Freeman, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
David Powell, Program Specialist
Robert F. Gruner, Program Specialist

Rex Isom, Program Specialist
Vicki Davis, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

Harold Bryant, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Comer Tuck, Jr., Texas Water Development Board
Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service
Bill Dugas, Blackland Experiment Station

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Paul Robertson minutes of the January 17, 1996, Board meeting were approved as mailed.

Mel Davis submitted subdivision boundary changes for Lower Sabine Neches SWCD #446. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis the subdivision boundary changes were approved as presented.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration. Mr. Davis advised the Board the following appointments appeared to be in order:

Curtis Scrivner, Hall-Childress SWCD #109
Joe Francis, Hale County SWCD #132
Allen Dale Brown, San Saba SWCD #250
Robert C. Armstrong, Lower Sabine Neches SWCD #446
Mac Yocham, Brazos Valley SWCD #557

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the appointments were approved as presented.

James Moore reviewed the Senate Bill 503 Status Report with the Board including: number of water quality management plans certified this fiscal year; totals for FY 93 to FY 95; accounting of cost share funds; statewide funds; and complaint activity. He reported that at the May Board meeting, recommendations will be made for

allocation of statewide funds, including six new requests. He also reported on annual status reviews which are still in the developmental phase.

Bo Spoons updated the Board on 319 activities including: 319 workshops held in various cities; water bodies requesting addition to the affected water body list; and the FY 97 319 funding process.

James Moore reported that a Memorandum of Agreement with Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission regarding nonpoint source management should be back from TNRCC's policy committee in approximately one month and will then be published in the Texas Register, if accepted and signed by both parties.

Bob Buckley updated the Board on problems in the Waters Davis SWCD #318 concerning the 503 program. Because of circumstances beyond the district's control several producers in the district were found to be out of compliance with 503 rules. The district requested a waiver to the rules to allow payment to those producers. After discussion a motion was made by Dick Schendel and seconded by Paul Robertson to waive the rules in this particular instance. Motion carried. Harvey Davis requested that Program Specialists discuss this problem with every district they are assigned to assist.

James Moore reported that Cross Timbers SWCD is ready to select two small watersheds for the North Bosque River Project. These watersheds will then be modeled by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and recommendations will be made to the district as to where potential pollutant loads may be originating. At that point the district, along with State Board and NRCS personnel, will make final decisions as to how to deal with problem areas.

Mr. Moore brought to the Board's attention that TNRCC has four new inspectors to work in the Erath County area who will be housed in NRCS's facility. Beade Northcut attended their training session and made a presentation on the State Board, soil and water conservation districts and programs dealing with nonpoint source pollution.

James Moore reported on the Texas Coastal Management Program which included the schedule for Federal approval for the State's CMP; formation of the Executive Committee; three types of grants available through the CMP; and certification of agency rules. After discussion a motion was made by Dick Schendel to submit our 503 rules for certification by the Coastal Management Program. Albert Evans seconded. Motion passed.

James Moore informed the Board that Andy Garza represents the State Board on the Corpus Christi Bay National Estuary Program Action Plan task force and the San Patricio SWCD #324 is involved in the agricultural runoff task force. He then went over the task force action agenda and our comments on the agenda. In response to a question from Harvey Davis, background and explanation was provided to the Board regarding the relationship of the CCBNEP Management Plan and the Texas Coastal Management Program.

Clyde Gottschalk reported on Public Information/Education Program activities which included: 503 program support activities; the Texas Farmer Stockman's interest in publishing news articles on successes of the 503 program; update of the 503

Reference Guide; and inquiries from state FFA leaders about the 503 program. Albert Evans gave a short report on a recent meeting to develop a State Wildlife Clinic.

Mr. Gottschalk also reported that work had begun on developing training modules for new district directors which will be available to Program Specialists to work with directors on an individual basis; TNRCC's summer environmental institute training workshops; and a planned North East Texas Environmental Workshop.

Comer Tuck reported that TWDB is going through strategic planning and process mapping activities; they are working on a drought response program; and field work has begun on irrigation system evaluations involving NRCS, local soil and water conservation districts and underground water conservation districts.

Bill Dugas informed the Board that Rick Perry had visited their facility and conveyed some of the things that were discussed with him at that time.

Clarence Richardson stated that Dr. Floyd Horn is their new agency administrator and that their budget for agricultural research involves an increase in funds with integrated farming systems as one area of increased funding.

Harold Bryant reported that the final draft of the conservation partnership strategic plan was taken to the printer with 5,000 copies to be ready in April for distribution (a copy will be sent to each district); field office structure and reorganization is continuing; a regional office appraisal will be conducted in May by the national office; a state RC&D meeting will be held April 16-18 in Nacogdoches; the Emergency Watershed Program in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas is looking into results of recent fires; the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) which is not a line item in the

budget did receive funding; a public affairs meeting to market grazing lands conservation program to make it a long term education information program; early out provision for some CRP land; public information campaign initiated on the Farm Bill at national level; offered satellite downlinking at NRCS office to the State Board and employees; and informed the Board of an increased amount of cooperation in other states and Texas for PI/E programs. Buddy Clark questioned the future role of the Texas Coalition for the GLCI now that GLCI has been written into the 1996 Farm Bill and a discussion followed. The Board stated that the present partnership is ready and able to go forward with the GLCI program. After lunch Harold Bryant handed out the revised Regional GLCI Strategic Plan from the conservation partnership.

Cherié King summarized Memo Benavides' activities to the Board and reported on the last Association meeting and the Governor's signing of the Soil and Water Stewardship Week Proclamation.

Bill Neiser gave an update of the Public Funds Investment Act and showed a training film prepared by the Governor's Office that satisfies the training requirements in the Act for members of statewide boards and commissions.

Mel Davis reviewed delegates to the Area II and IV State Board member elections which will be held May 7 in San Angelo and Nacogdoches, respectively.

Mel Davis reminded the Board of the Annual State Meeting scheduled for September 16-18 in Fort Worth and stated it was time to appoint a planning committee. Chairman Clark appointed the Chairman of the State Board, President of State Association, State Board member and Association director from Area V, the Auxiliary

President and the Executive Director along with any staff he needed. Mr. Davis reviewed the survey of district directors on their preference for future state meeting sites. Paul Robertson made a motion that the State Meeting be scheduled for San Antonio in 1997 since it was most preferred. The motion died due to lack of a second. Harvey Davis made a motion to check out facilities in South Padre Island, Corpus Christi and San Antonio for meetings in '97 and '98 since they were the three most preferred sites. Dick Schendel seconded and the motion passed by a vote of 4 for, 1 against.

○ Mel Davis reviewed the Conservation Awards Program and informed the Board that district financial support remained high but that district entries were very low this year.

○ Mel Davis reviewed the Revised Basic and Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding drafted by a NACD Committee. Harvey Davis asked if staff had met with the Governor to determine if he wanted to sign the Basic MOU or if he would defer that to the State Board. Bob Buckley informed Harvey Davis that the meeting had not yet occurred, but would be scheduled in the near future. Mr. Buckley reported that discussion at NASCA meeting in Washington were on a cooperative working agreement between NRCS and individual districts that could be adjusted to the needs of each district.

Bob reported on the NACD Spring Board Meeting including: appointment of a Grants to Districts Task Force which plans to have a report due out in June; heard reports on the Farm Bill; and reviewed visits with Congressmen while in Washington.

Mel Davis discussed NACD's view on the Farm Bill and the districts' role in administering EQUIP.

Randy Jones presented a hand out which tracked training activities for staff members; reported on openings and hiring of staff members; and hiring of employees by districts.

Bill Neiser reported that expenditures were on track with the operating budget.

Mr. Neiser gave a report on our strategic planning process, and presented for the Board's review a proposal to change performance measures as submitted to the Legislative Budget Board, and Governor's Office of Budget and Planning.

Bill Neiser reviewed the agency response to our Management Control Audit.

Mr. Neiser reviewed the Summary Assessment of Agency Performance Report issued by the Legislative Budget Board.

Bill Neiser reviewed Board member travel. A motion was made by Dick Schendel to approve Buddy Clark's travel to Washington, D.C. Albert Evans seconded and the motion carried.

The Board tentatively set the next meeting date as May 16, 1996.

Albert Evans was presented a plaque by the Board in appreciation of his years of service.

Buddy Clark called the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Charles O. Clark
Chairman

Dicki A. Davis
Secretary

5-16-96
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 27, 1996.

5-16-96
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director