

Minutes
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
May 15, 1991

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, May 15, 1991, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth St., Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Joe Antilley, Chairman
Harvey Davis, Vice Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, 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
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Janet Gonser, Planner
Stephen Deiss, Planner
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

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

Chairman Antilley called the meeting to order. He introduced and welcomed Paul Robertson as a new Board member who replaced Fred Squyres in Area I.

On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the minutes from the March 20, 1991, board meeting were approved as corrected.

John Millican then presented District Director appointments. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Paul Robertson, the following District Director appointments were approved:

Ralph H. Willberg, Concho SWCD #201
Marvin Waddleton, Jr., Smith Co. SWCD #426

Bill Neiser discussed grant allocations. He provided the Board a copy of a letter from King Soil and Water Conservation District No. 168 requesting reconsideration of the amount of technical assistance allocations for their district. As there are no funds available at this time the Board decided to hold the request should funds become available at a later time.

Subchapter H Technical Assistance was then discussed. Mr. Neiser advised the Board of the total amount of funding that was available and gave a proposal of allocations for each of the five state areas. He then discussed the breakdown by district as recommended by the field staff with two corrections in Area V in the proposed amounts. Dick Schendel made the motion to adopt the allocations as corrected. Albert Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Copy attached).

Mr. Neiser then discussed 1991 Conservation Assistance funds. He said each district had until May 15th to claim two-thirds of their Conservation Assistance funds before it would be reduced.

Mr. Neiser reviewed the District Audits Exceptions Report. Four audits had not been received as of the Board meeting date and 13 audits are awaiting corrections or clarifications.

The current expenditure report was reviewed by Mr. Neiser. He said spending was on track on all activities.

The agency drug-free workplace policy was discussed. A policy was approved last year in order to obtain federal grant funds. An amendment to this policy was presented the Board to cover all employees as required by rules of the Texas Workman's Compensation Commission. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the amendment was adopted.

John Millican discussed plans for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in Corpus Christi on October 21-23, 1991. He advised the Board that the planning committee would meet following the Board meeting to discuss plans for the annual meeting. He asked for suggestions on workshops and speakers. He said the Marriott Hotel would be the headquarters hotel and other rooms have been blocked in the Sheraton and Royal Nueces Hotels. Meetings will be held at the Bayfront Plaza Convention Center.

Beade Northcut discussed the feasibility report on Gunsolus Creek Watershed. The application was disapproved in the January, 1991 Board meeting pending a feasibility report. Mr. Northcut recommended it be approved as feasible. On motion of Harvey, seconded by Paul Robertson and Dick Schendel, it was approved as being feasible.

James Moore discussed a Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Texas and the US Forest Service concerning the management of nonpoint source pollution on national forest lands. Mr. Moore discussed proposed changes that the Forest Service had agreed to make and indicated that a corrected copy had not been received. The Board declined to take action until a final version

of the Memorandum of Understanding had been received and reviewed.

James Moore briefed the Board on the status of the Nonpoint Source Management Program. He reported that work was progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. Moore briefed the Board on the new Coastal Zone Nonpoint Source Management Program being developed by EPA and NOAA.

James Moore presented the Board with a copy of a letter transmitting the state's 1991 Sec. 319 grant request to EPA. (copy attached).

Clyde Gottschalk gave a Public Information/Education report. He brought the Board up-to-date on the National Environmental Education Act. He said the current status of the textbook bookcover order as of May 13th was 94,000 additional bookcovers above the base order. He also reported that thirteen two-day teacher seminars would be conducted this summer for Project Learning Tree and Project Wild. He said plans were being made to hold another District Director training seminar hopefully in September.

Mel Davis reported on the Texas Conservation Awards Program. He said there were 193 districts that paid dues for the 1991 awards program which is the largest number of districts to participate in the program. An incomplete breakdown of expenses for the awards banquets was provided each Board member.

Dick Schendel reported that he had not been able to attend the last two meetings of the Galveston Bay Program because of prior commitments. Janet Gonser reported on the meetings.

James Moore reported on the Gulf of Mexico Program. A proposal for a project in the Lower Rio Grande Valley was submitted by the Southmost Soil and Water Conservation District for a nutrient management demonstration project. Mr. Moore said it appears probable that the project will be at least partially funded by the Gulf of Mexico Program.

Comer Tuck reported on activities of the Texas Water Development Board. He said the Governor had appointed John Hall to the Texas Water Commission replacing Cliff Johnson. He reported that no grants had been approved under the TWDB Supchapter H Grants to districts program. He clarified that nine applications were on a waiting list with seven of those nine from soil and water conservation districts. They hope to have these funded by July or August.

Wes Oneth reported that the Area Conservationist in Uvalde, Ervin Willard, was in the hospital suffering from a heart attack; the Area Conservationist position in Big Spring was still vacant and the new Area Conservationist in Pecos will be Alfonso Leal. Mr. Oneth reported he would be leaving for Washington, D.C. to receive a superior service award.

Mr. Oneth discussed the Food Security Act and said the Soil Conservation Service in Texas could only accomplish 60% of the Food Security Act work load with their present staff.

He advised the Board that the following counties in Texas were approved for Great Plains contracts: Comal, Brooks, Cook, Wilson, DeWitt, Karnes, Goliad and Jim Wells.

Mr. Oneth passed out and discussed a revised environmental assessment form and asked the Board to review and send in their comments and suggestions.

Bill Harris gave a report on status of USDA water quality programs. He suggested proposals be prepared in advance for anticipated 1991 water quality projects. He reported that all County Agents had received water quality training. Dr. Harris announced that there would be a tour of the North Bosque Water Quality Project on May 29th. He also informed the Board of a conservation workshop planned for Temple September 9-11, 1991.

Dr. Clarence Richardson from the Agricultural Research Service informed the Board that Ed King had been named the Acting Associate Area Director of the Agricultural Research Service. He reported the agency had received new money allocated in two fields for 1991 and prospects looked very good for the 1992 budget.

Ray Abbott from the City of Temple reported that Congressman Kika de la Garza, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, would be in Temple on June 14, 1991, to speak as part of series of visits sponsored by the Agriculture Committee of the Temple Chamber of Commerce. He also reported that Scott and White Hospital recently opened an environmental toxicology laboratory located in the Santa Fe Center.

Charles "Buddy" Clark, President, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts expressed his appreciation to the State Board members and staff, Wes Oneth and the Soil Conservation Service for the support he had received so far in his term of office. He advised the Board that the Association's Watershed Task

Force has had its first meeting and that the Chairman of the Committee, Charles Haenish, would be attending the Watershed Congress in Kansas City, Mo. on May 19-22, 1991. He also said the Great Plains Committee had met in Lubbock on May 8th and were developing a list of priority issues. He reported the Waterfowl Management Plan Committee had met and were trying to draft a policy recommendation.

Mr. Buckley advised the Board that three of the four bills introduced during the Legislative Session concerning activities of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board had passed. He expressed his appreciation to Joe Antilley and Buddy Clark for their support in Austin during the Legislative Session.

Bill Neiser provided the Board members a report on their travel balances through April, 1991.

Reservations were discussed for the NACD South Central meeting to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 14-16, 1991.

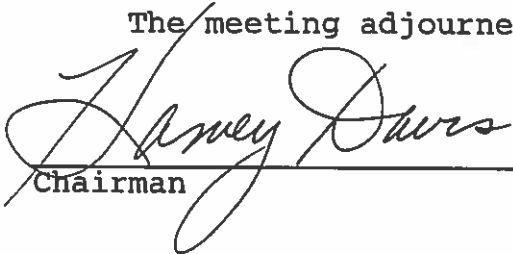
Election of officers was then held. Joe Antilley asked for nominations for chairman. Dick Schendel nominated Harvey Davis. Albert Evans moved that nominations cease and Mr. Davis be elected. Motion was seconded by Paul Robertson. Vote was unanimous for Harvey Davis to be elected as chairman. Joe Antilley then asked for nominations for vice chairman. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, Dick Schendel was unanimously elected vice chairman.

The next Board meeting scheduled for July 17, 1991 has been changed tentatively to July 31, 1991 since all Board members will be attending the NACD South Central Meeting in Little Rock,

Arkansas on July 16, 1991.

Harvey Davis expressed his appreciation to Joe Antilley for the good job he had done serving as Chairman of the Board this past year.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

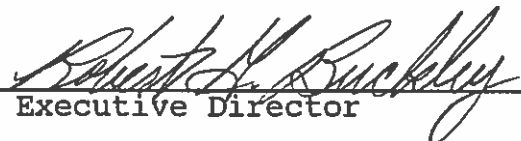

Chairman


Secretary

7-31-91
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 15, 1991.

7-31-91
Date


Executive Director