

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 15, 2009

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 15, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. at 720 East Blackland Road, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Jerry Nichols, Chairman
José Dodier Jr., Vice-Chairman
Aubrey Russell, Member
Marty H. Graham, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
John Foster, NPS Team Leader
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liason
T. J. Helton, NPS Program Coordinator
Pam Casebolt, NPS Project Manager
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager
Bryan Koch, Watershed Coordinator
Meredith Whitley, Information Specialist
Richard Egg, Engineer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Dawn Heitman, HR Coordinator
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Charles McGuire, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board

Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tomas Dominguez, Natural Resources Conservation Service
DeeAnn Littlefield, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mickey Black, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alisha Kuehn, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Scott Buckles, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Daren Harmel, USDA-ARS
Tom Gerik, Texas Agrilife Research

Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service reported on: audit process is finished for Texas, during the audit process 13,000 contracts were reviewed, proof of land ownership and control of land will be required on new contracts which will be shorter in term, priority for new money will be filling vacancies and updating the vehicle fleet, TSP allocation will be less than last year and the Ag Water Enhancement Rule was published in the Texas Register.

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality introduced Charles McGuire, assistant director of the newly formed water quality planning division that is part of the current chief engineer's office.

Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board reported on: Ag Water Enhancement Rule, requests for proposals for Ag Grant Project and the new outreach and education component of the Ag Grant Project.

Tom Gerik, Texas Agrilife Research reported on: AgriLife Conference, new vice and associate chancellors at Texas A&M, search for a new director of AgriLife Research, conservation assessment project and watershed repair and rehabilitation projects.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Scott Buckles, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts reported on: appreciation of communication and good working relations with State Board and their staff, legislative program in March, Washington DC trip in February 2010, carbon sequestration, work group sessions and the NACD national meeting in February.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Minutes from the November 19-20, 2008 Board Meeting

Chairman Nichols called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19-20, 2008 Board Meeting. Mr. Ward moved that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications with the following exceptions: Mr. Gibson's resignation letter was missing and Mr. Hogge's papers were fax copies. Mr. Dodier moved the following appointments be approved contingent upon all original paperwork being received in the Temple office. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lee Gibson, Moore County #137, Zone 3, Replace Brent Howard Clark (**need resignation letter**)
Kirk Flowers, Hemphill #138, Zone 5, Replace John Huff
Richard Wall Winters, Jr., McCulloch #249, Zone 1, Replace Larry Donop
Larry Howard, McCulloch #249, Zone 4, Replace Jesse B. Tate
Floyd Jack (Jackie) Brister, San Saba #250, Zone 5, Replace Alan Dale Brown
Mario A. Escobar, Winter Garden #326, Zone 1, Replace Margie L. Bourn
Charles Riedesel, DeWitt County #339, Zone 2, Replace Jim Pennell
Mike Hogge, Upper Sabine #530, Zone 5, Replace Louis Clark (**fax**)
Larry LeFevre, Haskell #546, Zone 4, Replace F. A. Ulmer

AGENDA ITEM 6: Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Consider Approval of Requests for Waiver per 31 TAC §523.6(e)(2)(E)

Mr. Garza stated no requests for waiver had been received.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the first Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Request as presented and deferment of the second. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information and discussed the Corrizo Cane Project in Webb County.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider Reallocation of FY 2009 Water Supply Enhancement Program Funds

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved the Board approve the reallocation of the FY 09 water supply enhancement program funds as presented. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Petition for Inclusion of Additional Territory in Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD #356

Mr. Davis informed the Board all the paperwork has not been received in the Temple office.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Petition for Dissolution of Maverick SWCD #228 and Chaparral SWCD #240 and Reorganization of New SWCD

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Russell moved the Board approve State Board personnel working with the districts to get matters in order to dissolve and reorganize. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: NASCA Membership Dues

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved the Board pay \$1,500 in dues to NASCA at this time. Mr. Ward seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Davis and Mr. Buckles reviewed the agenda information. The Board discussed the matter. No action was taken.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts Report

There was no report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 17: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: National Association of Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Semiannual Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier asked about the possibility of having the semiannual report changed to an annual report. Mr. Davis stated Senator Averitt would have to introduce legislation to make that change.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Interim Committee Studies

Mr. Davis stated the report was not available at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report

Mr. Foster, Mr. Helton, Mr. Koch, Mr. Conine and Ms. Casebolt reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier stated that some Coastal Management Program funds had been redirected to Hurricane Ike clean up. Mr. McGuire reported on the coordination between the two agencies concerning water quality activities. He informed the Board stakeholder meetings had been well attended and they were receiving positive feedback.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

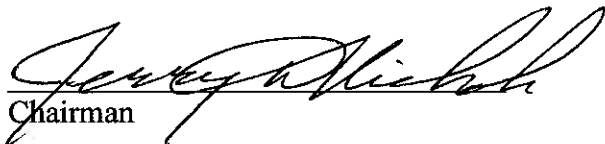
AGENDA ITEM 23: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information. After discussion, Mr. Gottschalk stated he would develop a letter for new directors encouraging them to participate in new director training.

Agenda Item 24: Set a Date for the Next State Board Meeting

Board set the next Board meeting date as March 12, 2009, in Austin, TX.

Chairman Nichols called the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.


Chairman

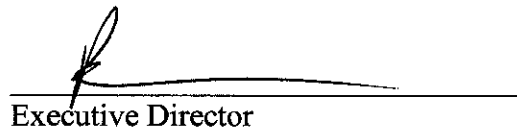
Date 3/12/09


Secretary

Date 3/12/09

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on January 15, 2009.

Date 3/12/09


Executive Director