

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 6, 2000

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 6, 2000 at 8:00 a.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Gene Sollock, Chairman
James K. (Rooter) Brite, Vice Chairman
Dayton Elam, Member
Charles D. (Buddy) Clark, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. (Bob) Buckley, Executive Director
James M. Moore, Director of Conservation Programs
Mel Davis, Director of District Operations
Bobbie Stephens, Director of Administration
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator
Lois J. Cain, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

George Noelke, Attorney General's Office
Edward Albrecht, Association of Texas SWCDs
Norm Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Elisha Kuehn, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Chairman Sollock called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

On motion of Rooter Brite, seconded by Dayton Elam, the minutes from the February 24, 2000 Board meeting were accepted as presented. Buddy Clark questioned if discussion process for evaluation of the executive director could be done. George Noelke, Attorney General's Office, advised it could be done in a limited fashion, but enough to get started.

Gene Sollock read the order, which would allow the Board to go into executive session. Rooter Brite moved to go into executive session. Dayton Elam questioned the use of a tape recorder for the closed session. Discussion followed. Dayton Elam then moved not to tape record the closed session. Rooter Brite seconded, but wanted to discuss further. Mr. Noelke then explained the pros and cons and explained whether the minutes of the closed session were written or recorded they both would be sealed and would require a court order to open. Rooter Brite then withdrew his motion to go into executive session since it did not receive a second to the motion.

Dayton Elam moved not to use recorder and not to go into an executive session. Gene Sollock seconded. There were two votes for the motion and two against. More discussion followed on not recording the executive session. Mr. Noelke advised the Board he was prepared to give legal assistance but it would have to be done in an executive session. Dayton Elam moved to go into an executive session to only receive legal counsel per Government Code Chapter 551, Section 551.071.02. Rooter Brite seconded the motion and motion carried. The executive session began at 8:15 a.m.

The meeting convened back into open session at 9:10 a.m.

James Moore discussed the North Concho River Brush Control Project. He explained that Board member Buddy Clark had expressed some concerns about the possibility of sedimentation resulting from large amounts of mechanical brush control and whether provision for re-vegetation are adequate. Mr. Moore read an excerpt from the law concerning re-vegetation and explained the project

as currently constituted does not provide cost share for re-seeding. He further explained that the project does provide a cost share incentive for basic deferment after initial treatment. Discussion followed on conservation plans and the fact that the plans do provide for adequate re-vegetation. After lengthy discussion, staff recommended the following:

1. Implement information and education programs and activities to stress the importance of carrying out conservation plans aimed at participants in the project.
2. Amend the project monitoring and evaluation program to monitor and evaluate the extent of re-seeding and its impact on re-vegetation and watershed health. Through the planning process identify areas in the watershed where the Field Office Technical Guide indicates that range condition and use make reseeding necessary.
3. Assure consideration of the need for proper re-vegetation in the eight ongoing feasibility studies.
4. Re-evaluate district needs for implementing future projects to assure they can hire qualified personnel.

It was the consensus of the Board to direct staff to implement the above recommendations and proceed with the program.

James Moore then discussed brush control activities on the Fort Hood Military Reservation. He updated the Board on staff efforts to implement a 319 project recently approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Central Texas Cattlemen's Association, the contractor, had requested a change in

planned location of work. EPA had indicated unwillingness to approve a change. Mr. Moore advised the Board that a meeting had been scheduled with the Central Texas Cattlemen's Association at which he felt the project areas could be re-defined in a way that would be accepted by EPA. After discussion and on motion of Dayton Elam, seconded by Gene Sollock, the Board directed staff to proceed with the meeting and attempt to work out a project that would satisfy both entities' needs.

The Board then returned to item #3 on the agenda - deliberate, take formal action and possibly vote on the appointment, employment, reassignment and duties of the executive director and other personnel. At 10:47 a.m. on motion of Dayton Elam, seconded by Rooter Brite, the Board voted to go into executive session as authorized by the Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.074. This closed session ended at 11:46 a.m.


The meeting reconvened in open meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Chairman Sollock asked for a motion. Buddy Clark moved to begin to develop criteria and credentials for selection of the next executive director whenever that happens to be. Dayton Elam seconded. Mr. Clark explained this is merely to begin the process to figure out how we are going to identify the next executive director. This process is to get the Board started in the right direction. Mr. Clark continued to explain this would be a long-term process, something down the road and in place for anytime the need occurs. Rooter Brite called for the question. Chairman Sollock called for a vote, which carried. Mr. Clark then asked

about the development of an evaluation form for the executive director. The Board agreed by consensus to begin the formulation process at the next meeting.

The next Board meeting will be on March 16, 2000 in Temple in the Hearings Room to begin at 8:00 a.m.

On motion of Dayton Elam, seconded by Rooter Brite, the meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

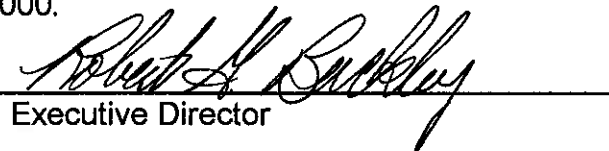

Chairman


Secretary

March 16, 2000
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 6, 2000.

March 16, 2000
Date


Executive Director