

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
November 20, 2003

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 20, 2003, at 8:00 a.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Edward G. Albrecht, Member
Guillermo (Memo) Benavides, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Chairman

Board members absent:

Aubrey Russell, Vice-Chairman

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Interim Executive Director
Mark Cochran, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Program Specialist
Richard Egg, Engineer
John Foster, Natural Resources Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Johnny Oswald, Program Specialist
Tim Sims, Program Specialist
Tuffy Wood, Natural Resource Specialist
Kevin Wagner, NPS Team Leader
Jay Bragg, 319 Grant Coordinator
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
David Powell, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Carter Miska, Program Administrator
Andy Garza, Program Administrator
Judy Albus, Program Administrator
Steve Jones, Program Administrator
John O'Connor, Program Administrator
Mel Davis, Program Specialist

Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alfonso Leal, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Crumley called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m., welcomed those present and asked any visitors to sign in.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Minutes from the October 2, 2003 Board Meeting

Mr. Crumley called for a motion to approve minutes of the October 2, 2003 Board Meeting as mailed.

Mr. Albrecht moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2. District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they met all qualifications and were in order with the exception of Mr. Smith's being a faxed copy.

Mr. Benavides moved the appointments be approved contingent upon all original paperwork being received. Mr. Albrecht seconded and the following appointments were unanimously approved:

Leslie L. Nixon, Jr., Floyd County #104, Zone 3, Replace Bart Greer
Bart Greer, Floyd County #104, Zone 4
Chris Fails, Terry County #151, Zone 4, Replace Walter King
Dudley D. Chewning, Cottle County #163, Zone 2, Replace James Sweeney
Anne Holt, Pedernales #218, Zone 5, Replace Harold Lord
Pat Moczygemba, Wilson County #301, Zone 3, Replace Nick Kolenda, Jr.
Rudy Schroeder, Caldwell-Travis #304, Zone 3
J. D. McGuill, Copano Bay #329, Zone 2, Replace Philip Shay
John F. Smith III, Calhoun #345, Zone 3, Replace G. A. Jennings - **FAXED**
Jerry M. Anderson, Davy Crockett-Trinity #404, Zone 1, Replace Melvin Thompson
James Alford, Davy Crockett-Trinity, Zone 2, Replace Leon Dial
R. G. Peace, Shelby #449, Zone 3, Replace W. I. Davis
Allen L. Martin, Upper Sabine #530, Zone 4, Replace Eric Williams

AGENDA ITEM 3. Reports from Agencies and Guests

Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service discussed: NRCS operating on a continuing resolution due to the fact that their budget has not been approved, State Technical Committee, EQIP, Local Work Group Meetings.

Alfonso Leal, Natural Resources Conservation Service discussed Local Work Groups.

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality discussed: Governor appointment of Katherine White as chairman, Governor naming Larry Soward as new Commissioner, revision of AFO rules.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Subdivision Boundary Changes for Monte Mucho SWCD #331

Mr. Perez reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Benavides moved that the Board approve the subdivision boundary changes for Monte Mucho SWCD #331. Mr. Nichols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Brush Control Program Status Report

Mr. Sims reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Proposed Amendments to 31 TAC Chapter 517, Subchapter B, Cost Share Assistance for Brush Control

Mr. Sims reviewed the agenda information for 6A and took questions from the Board with input from Mr. Davis and Mr. Noelke.

Mr. Albrecht moved that the Board approve the proposed brush control rule amendment to §517.37 for submission to the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Nichols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information for 6B.

Mr. Albrecht moved that the Board approve the proposed amendments to §517.33-34 for public review and comment. Mr. Benavides seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Water Conservation Initiative

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Isom.

AGENDA ITEM 8. North Bosque River Watershed Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Crumley. Mr. Foster stated that he would present an update on the compost rebate program at the next Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Public Information/Education Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Daniels reported on the PI&E Committee: the committee reworked their budget, is putting together a database of directors involved with other groups, invited the Association Board to attend the next State Board meeting. She also reported that school finance as it pertains to ag exemptions and their impact on the ag industry may be part of the next special or regular session.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Revision to Disciplinary Actions and Performance Appraisal Policy

Mr. Isom reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Noelke and took questions from the Board.

Mr. Benavides moved that language be added to the existing Performance Appraisal Policy stating:

If the employee has a complaint against his/her supervisor(s), the employee should provide a written statement of such complaint in this space.

Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Future State Meeting Sites/Dates

Mr. Davis asked if the Board would like to decide on future meeting sites based on the 1997 survey results or send out a new questionnaire. Items discussed were adding Waco to the list and centralizing meeting sights to lower district expenditures.

Mr. Benavides moved that a new survey be mailed to all districts and the results be presented at the next Board meeting if time allowed. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Review Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information and took questions concerning Farm Credit Associations contribution to the annual state meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 14. Clean Water Act 319(h) Status Report

Mr. Bragg reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 15. TMDL Program Status Report

Mr. Wagner reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 16. Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 17. Board Member Travel Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board concerning travel funds for the appointed board members. He stated the agency could send the LBB a request for increased funding once the new board members are appointed.

AGENDA ITEM 18. Senate Bill 503 Program Status Report

Mr. Garza stated that he will present a report to the Board after the 1st quarter of the fiscal year is completed.

AGENDA ITEM 19. Proposed Amendment to 31 TAC Chapter 523.6, Cost-share Assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Land Improvement Measures

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Albrecht moved that the Board approve extending the cost-share obligation period to the last day of April of the fiscal year allocated. All unobligated allocations shall revert back to the State Board as of May 1st of that fiscal year. Mr. Benavides seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 20. Senate Bill 1339 Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21. Executive Director Position and Salary

No action was taken on this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 22. Set Date of Next Board Meeting

Mr. Benavides moved that the date of the next Board meeting be set as December 4, 2003 at 9:00 a.m., Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Crumley called for a motion to declare the meeting adjourned. Mr. Nichols so moved, Mr. Albrecht seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

W. T. Crumley
Chairman

Jackie H. Davis
Secretary

1/15/04
Date

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 November 20, 2003.

1/15/04
Date

[Signature]
Executive Director