

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2012

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 18, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. at 4311 South 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Barry Mahler, Chairman
Marty H. Graham, Vice-Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
José Dodier, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Steve Jones, Regional Office Coordinator
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Luis Pena, Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Programs Officer
Pam Casebolt, Nonpoint Source Grants Coordinator
Mitchell Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator
Loren Warrick, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Ashley Alexander, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
David Reeves, Database Administrator
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Lee Munz, Flood Control Programs Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Mary Jo Schooler, Public Affairs Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

A work session was conducted which covered all agenda items in detail. Questions were taken and answered.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

March 22, 2012

Date

March 22, 2012

Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on January 18, 2012.

Executive Director

March 22, 2012

Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2012

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 19, 2012, at 8:05 a.m. at 5247 South General Bruce Drive, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Barry Mahler, Chairman
Marty H. Graham, Vice-Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
José Dodier, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Steve Jones, Regional Office Coordinator
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Luis Pena, Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Programs Officer
Pam Casebolt, Nonpoint Source Grants Coordinator
Mitchell Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator
Loren Warrick, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Ashley Alexander, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Rusty Ray, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
David Reeves, Database Administrator
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Richard Egg, Engineer
Lee Munz, Flood Control Programs Coordinator
Ben Bowers, Flood control Specialist
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Mary Jo Schooler, Public Affairs Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Monica Harris, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
John Mueller, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. John Zhu, Texas Water Development Board
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Dr. Neal Wilkins, Texas Water Resources Institute
Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Volney Hough, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
William Thomas, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Ben Bono, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Dr. Neal Wilkins, Texas Water Resources Institute, addressed the Board. Dr. Wilkins introduced himself as the new Director for their agency, and stated that they currently have over 50 employees on staff. Dr. Wilkins stated that the TSSWCB is one of their primary partners, and that their agency is available to us. Dr. Wilkins commented on their projects, currently recruiting for a Chief Water Scientist, signed agreement with Texas A&M on engineering, and the development of a new water conservation center in San Antonio.

Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute, addressed the Board and stated that they will continue to work closely with the TSSWCB.

Ms. Monica Harris, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Ms. Harris stated that February 8, 2012 is the date for adopting 8 TMDL's. Ms. Harris commented on the Cocono Bay Stakeholder Meeting, NPS strategies for the state, their annual report being under review, February 23-24, 2012 meeting with EPA on Nonpoint Source, and drought-water restrictions going up.

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner reviewed handout. Mr. Turner commented on research topics, water reuse program, water use survey, and water yield data due to brush control.

Mr. Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Harmel commented on budget cuts, agriculture bill debates, the value of the agriculture voice getting smaller, and ARS's loss of ten laboratories due to budget cuts.

Mr. John Mueller, Natural Resources Conservation Service, presented a video message from Mr. Salvador Salinas. Mr. Salinas stated in the video that funding decreased by 19%, with Technical Assistance decreasing by 8%. Mr. Salinas commented on the Farm Bill, wildlife funding shifts, the NRCS received no Technical Service Provider funding but will continue the program with the TSSWCB, and NRCS office closings due to budget cuts. Mr. Salinas thanked the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts for their help. Mr. Mueller stated that there was a correction to be made on the CFP sign up deadline to be January 27th, and that there is \$5 million in watershed funding for hurricane Alex.

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

Mr. Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. Richmond commented on the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Meeting Las Vegas, Nevada and the Association receiving two NACD awards. Mr. Richmond also commented on the Legislative Committee Meeting, Farm Bill, and a March meeting in Washington D.C.

Chairman Mahler recognized Mr. Jule Richmond, Mr. Bill Thomas, Mr. Volney Hough, Mr. Ben Bono, and Ms. Tamara Daniel, and expressed the State Board's appreciation for their service to the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Minutes from the November 16-17, 2011 Board Meetings

Chairman Mahler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16-17, 2011 Board Meetings. Mr. Ward moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications with the exception of Mr. Ralph Ebeling, III's missing his approval request. Mr. Nichols moved the following appointment be approved contingent upon all original paperwork being received in the Temple office. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ralph Ebeling, III, Concho County #201, Zone 1, Replace Charles E. Cypert (missing Approval Request)
Woodridge Scott Roosevelt, El Paso-Hudspeth #205, Zone 4, Replace Kenneth L. Carr
Ernest M. Bruni, III, Webb #337, Zone 4, Replace Margaret Martin
Wayne Guess, Wharton County #342, Zone 3, Replace Harold M. Graf
James L. Payne, Jr., Piney Woods #429, Zone 3, Replace Alvin Beauchamp
Morris R. White, Parker County #558, Zone 2, Replace Vernell Hutcheson

AGENDA ITEM 6: Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Soil and Water Conservation Districts Biennial Budget Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Sunset Legislation Implementation Status

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers as per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(A) thru (F)

Mr. Jones stated that there are no requests at this time. Mr. Foster reviewed the 503 SWCDs and SRM Watersheds map handout.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information, and stated that there is also a second request for Burleson County SWCD #338, in the amount of \$11,025.00 for an incinerator. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Review and Address Watershed Protection and Flood Control Program Issues Discovered on January 18, 2012 Floodwater Retarding Structure Tour

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Board members stated that they were impressed with the tour.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report

Ms. Warrick and Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Consider Approval to Publish 2012 Revision of the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved to publish the notice in the *Texas Register* as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Wood reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Adoption of Amendments to 31 TAC, Chapter 517; Subchapter B, Cost-Share Assistance for Brush Control

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Buckles moved to publish the proposed rule amendments in the *Texas Register* as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Consider Request for Subdivision Boundary Change by the DeWitt County SWCD #339

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the changes as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Consider Adoption of Amendments to 31 TAC, Chapter 520; Subchapter A; Election Procedures; §520.3(d)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved to publish the proposed rule amendment in the *Texas Register* as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 20: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Review Plans for 2012 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Carter Smith was suggested as a possible speaker.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Davis stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis stated that the agenda item was covered by Mr. Richmond under agenda item 3.

AGENDA ITEM 24: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Daniel commented on scholarships, and the submission of names for such.

AGENDA ITEM 25: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 26: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Dues

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to pay \$1,500.00 in annual dues. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Semi-Annual Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Mahler presented a plaque to Richard Egg for 15 years of service.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

March 21-22, 2012.

Chairman Mahler thanked the staff and partners for their support.

Mr. Dodier moved to adjourn. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary

March 22, 2012

Date

March 22, 2012

Date

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Executive Director

March 22, 2012

Date