

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2016

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 20, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. at 6121 N. Interstate 35, Austin, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, 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
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Andrew Weinberg, Texas Water Development Board
Jason Scaggs, Southwest Cattle Raisers Association
James Grimm, Texas Poultry Federation

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

Mr. Joe Ward presented each of the State Board Members and Executive Director, custom made, personalized pens. The pens were created by Mr. David Keene from a Bois D'arc tree. The Board Members were appreciative to Mr. Ward and Mr. Keene.

Chairman Buckles introduced Dr. Kevin Wagner and Mr. Andrew Weinberg.

Mr. Isom introduced Mr. Jason Scaggs, Executive Director, Government Public Affairs for Southwest Cattle Raisers Association. Mr. Scaggs and Dr. Wagner reviewed handout of Grazing Cattle Groundwater Use Assessment. Discussion ensued.

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

AGENDA ITEM 25: Review Plans for 2016 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis and Mr. Ray reviewed agenda item. The question was asked, "How do we make our meeting, 'The Conservation Meeting for the State of Texas?' ". Discussion ensued

Example of recommendations and guidelines that are being discussed:

- Monday a.m. Association and Committee Meetings - completed by noon
- Monday afternoon - breakout sessions
- Tuesday a.m. - Keynote Speaker
- Tuesday late a.m.- breakout sessions
- Tuesday afternoon - breakout sessions
- Tuesday 4:00-5:00 - social gathering
- Tuesday 5:00-6:00 - large auction items
- Tuesday p.m. - Awards Banquet
- Wednesday a.m. - Keynote Speaker
- Wednesday a.m. - breakout sessions
- Wednesday - Tour

Chairman Buckles acknowledged Mr. James Grimm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman

March 24, 2016

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

March 24, 2016

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 20, 2016.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

March 24, 2016
Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2016

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 21, 2016, at 8:03 a.m. at 6121 N. Interstate 35, Austin, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
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Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Andrew Lutostanski, Office of Attorney General
Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Beverly Moseley, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Alan Stahnke, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Matt Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Larry Redmon, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
June Wolfe, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Lori Hazel, Texas Forest Service
Anne McFarland, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research, Tarleton State University
Leah Taylor, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research, Tarleton State University
Mickey Black

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 8:03 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. Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute, addressed the Board. Dr. Wagner told of the new TWRI Director Dr. John Tracy, and his own new title with TWRI, Deputy Director of Engagement. Dr. Wagner commented on ongoing projects, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Mr. Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environment Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on funding, the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program, the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Annual Report being under review, the 2014 Integrated Report update, and the Water Quality Standards update.

Mr. Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout, and introduced two new employees, Beverly Moseley and Alan Stahnke.

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

Mr. Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. James commented on meeting with Oil Alliance Group, oil and the Lesser Prairie Chicken, the reworking of the Association's budget, and future Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) meetings.

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

Ms. June Wolfe, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, addressed the Board. Ms. Wolfe stated that Ag modeling is their main focus.

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on a North Plains Groundwater conference call, the study of irrigation efficiency (study of evapotranspiration), additional funding, funding on the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT), and gave a drought update.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Lone Star Healthy Streams

Mr. Helton introduced Dr. Larry Redmon and Mr. Matt Brown. Mr. Brown presented a PowerPoint presentation on Lone Star Healthy Streams.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Minutes from Previous State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Buckles called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18-19, 2015 Board Meetings.

Mr. Ward moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cameron Betzen, Running Water #136, Subdivision 3, Replace Richard Hunter
Tracie Johnson, Hemphill #138, Subdivision 4, Replace Justin Russell
Marc Hartzendorf, San Patricio #324, Subdivision 1, Replace Powell Brown
Lawrence E. Braswell, Willacy #349, Subdivision 4, Replace Troy Shewmaker
Andrew Parker, Willacy #349, Subdivision 5, Replace Lawrence E. Braswell
Rich Steinbrink, Hays County #351, Subdivision 5, Replace Dr. Frank Zimmerman

AGENDA ITEM 7: Consider Approval to Publish for Public Comment Proposed Revisions to 31 TAC, Chapter 519, Subchapter A, Technical Assistance Program, Eligible Pay Rates (\$519.8)

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to publish in the *Texas Register* the proposed revisions as presented for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

AGENDA ITEM 8: Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Temple Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek stated that closing on the property was December 28, and the builder is applying for permits.

AGENDA ITEM 10: External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Consider Approval of Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with 31TAC §523.6(f)(2) Relating to Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz stated that there is no information to present at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Consider Approval of the Water Quality Management Plan Program Approved Practice List

Mr. Munz stated that this item had been tabled at a previous meeting.

Mr. Mahler moved to remove the agenda item from the table and open for discussion. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the list as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Helton reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Davis had stated at the previous day's Work Session that there is no information to present at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Consider Adoption of Amendments to 31 TAC §523.5, Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Adoption of Proposed New Rule 31 TAC §523.5(b), Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the adoptions as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 520, Subchapter A, Election Procedures (§§520.1-520.6)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to readopt as amended. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Evaluate 2015 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Review Plans for 2016 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Staff to proceed with new organization as discussed at previous day's Work Session, and present to Board at next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Black addressed the Board and stated that the project began March 2015 with him as the coordinator and two contractors. In June 2015, two more contractors were hired. Since September 2015, one contractor is out on leave. Mr. Black reviewed the handout.

AGENDA ITEM 27: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to Improve and Restore the Gulf of Mexico

Mr. Davis and Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information. It was stated that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are to help with publicity for this project.

AGENDA ITEM 28: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to Improve and Pollinator Habitat

Ms. Parker and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. It was stated that there is a \$480,000 grant, and a NRCS match of \$250,000. It was commented that the contract details are currently being drafted, the funds are available to urban areas as well as landowners, and that there will need to be an agreement that the property will need to be maintained.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: National Association of Conservation Districts Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Dues

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to pay \$1,500 in dues. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 34: TSSWCB Annual Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Davis commented that the District Director Workshop will be held on February 23-24, 2016 in Temple.

AGENDA ITEM 37: Public Affairs Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 38: Review and Consider Appropriate Action on S.B. 273 and H.B 910

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 39: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 40: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to move the regular scheduled meeting due to scheduling conflicts to March 23-24, 2016 in Temple. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Buckles presented service award plaques to the following staff:

John Foster – 15 years
Kendria Ray – 15 years
Bob Gruner – 30 years

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

March 24, 2016

Date

March 24, 2016

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 21, 2016.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

March 24, 2016

Date