

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2013**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 28, 2013, at 1:02 p.m. at 303 Blum Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Tom Christensen, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 1:02 and welcomed those present.

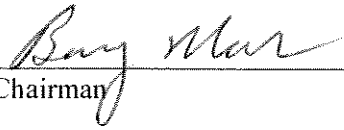
Mr. Salvador Salinas, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, introduced NRCS Regional Conservationist Tom Christensen.

Mr. Tom Christensen, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board and commented on NRCS budget reductions, hiring freeze, and a 90% Solution where they will focus 90% of their time on direct

customer service. Mr. Christensen commented on Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative process which is a client gateway that should be in use in approximately 2 years. This process will help customers in the field to access their own records, maps, conservation plans, easements, problems, etc. for better efficiency. Mr. Christensen also commented on Soil Health, National Water Quality Initiative, and the Landscape Initiative.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

March 6, 2013  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

March 6, 2013  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 28, 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

March 6, 2013  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 29, 2013**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 29, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at 303 Blum Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
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  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
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Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General  
Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Salvador Salinas, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Kerry Neiman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Carolyn Hefner, National Association of State Conservation Agencies  
Mike Brown, National Association of State Conservation Agencies  
Vicki Riser, South Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Opportunity for Public Comment

**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 NACD Annual Meeting, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service meetings, and the State Legislative Session.

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

Mr. Salvador Salinas, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board and reviewed the handout. Mr. Salinas commented on EQIP funding, staffing funds, vacancies, travel restrictions, Farm Bill funding, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation matching funds, and Soil Health.

Ms. Carolyn Hefner, National Association of State Conservation Agencies, addressed the Board. Ms. Hefner gave their Mission Statement and stated that they were partnered with National Association of Conservation Districts. Ms. Hefner commented on the forming of a Farm Bill Committee, having worked with the Turner Foundation, different programs in different states, the Certainty Program, ASK NASCA, their new website, and watershed structures. Ms. Hefner introduced Mr. Mike Brown, NASCA Executive Director.

Mr. Mike Brown, National Association of State Conservation Agencies, addressed the Board. Mr. Brown commented on the Farm Bill and the Certainty Program.

Mr. Kerry Neiman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Neiman commented on TMDL's, water quality standards, and nutrient criteria.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Consider Approval of Minutes from the November 14-15, 2012 Board Meetings

Chairman Mahler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14-15, 2012 Board Meetings. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Consider Approval of 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 Steve Chaney's appointment being contingent upon the approval of agenda item 17. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the following appointments with the contingency of the approval of agenda item 17 for Steve Chaney. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Martin 'Blake' McWhirter, Yoakum #150, Zone 3, Replace Shannon Patton  
Alison Sterling, Calhoun #345, Zone 1, Replace Mark Malaer  
Josh Storm, Hays County #351, Zone 4, Replace Laverne Odell  
Virgil Holbrook, Lower Trinity #435, Zone 1, Replace Lewis O. Casey  
Steve Chaney, Kaufman-Van Zandt #505, Zone 5, Replace Mike Bengé (pending approval of subdivision boundary changes on agenda item 17)  
Justin Latham, Hamilton-Coryell #506, Zone 1, Replace Greg Weber  
Greg Weber, Hamilton-Coryell #506, Zone 3, Replace R. Gregory Brooks  
Mark Daniel, Miller Brazos #542, Zone 4, Replace Wayne Cockrell

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Budget and Accounting Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Sunset Legislation Implementation Status

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Water Quality Management Plan Program Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Consider Approval of Amendments to 31 TAC Chapter 523 to be published in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day Review and Comment Period

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved to publish the rule in the *Texas Register* as presented for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers as per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(A) thru (F)

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Munz stated that the producer installed both practices making cost share ineligible. Mr. Dodier moved to deny the requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report

Mr. Helton reviewed the agenda information.

**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. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Consider Approval of Subdivision Boundary Change for Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD #505

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

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 518, Subchapter B, Historically Underutilized Business Program (§518.5)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved for the approval to re-adopt as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Consider Adoption of Amendments to 31 TAC, Chapter 518, Subchapter B, Historically Underutilized Business Program (§518.5)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved to adopt the amendments as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** 2012 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** 2013 Annual State Meeting Planning

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Davis stated that a planning committee needed to be formed, with the meeting in Area V, the committee will mostly consist of members from that area. Mr. Nichols moved to approve the planning committee as follows:

State Board Chairman

Board Member Area V

Governor Appointee Board Member (is from Area V)

Executive Director

Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts Area V Director

Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts President

Auxiliary of Soil and Water Conservation Districts President

District Employee Association President

Any others as the Executive Director appoints

Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Dues

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved to pay \$1,500 to NASCA. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Semiannual Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Prescribed Burn Board Update

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Texas Conservation Awards Program

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

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

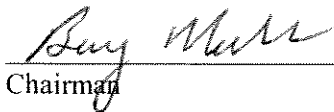
**AGENDA ITEM 33:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

March 5-6, 2013, to be held in Austin.

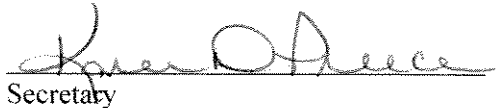
Mr. Dodier acknowledged Vicki Riser, South Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts President.

Chairman Mahler awarded Mr. Cochran with his 15 year service award.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

March 6, 2013  
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