

**Meeting Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**March 17, 2010**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 17, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at 1749 Scott Blvd, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Barry Mahler, Vice-Chairman  
Aubrey Russell, Member  
Marty Graham, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Larry Jacobs, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Steve Jones, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist  
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Programs Officer  
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liaison  
T. J. Helton, Watershed Planning Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator  
Pam Casebolt, NPS Project Manager  
Loren Henley, NPS Project Manager  
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager  
Byron Koch, Watershed Coordinator  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Richard Egg, Engineer  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist  
Meredith Whitley, Information Specialist  
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Jack DeLoach, USDA-ARS  
Allen Knutson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 March 17, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**March 18, 2010**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 18, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. at 1749 Scott Blvd, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Barry Mahler, Vice-Chairman  
Aubrey Russell, Member  
Marty Graham, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Larry Jacobs, Member  
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Steve Jones, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Programs Officer  
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liaison  
T.J. Helton, NPS Program Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator  
Pam Casebolt, NPS Project Manager  
Loren Henley, NPS Project Manager  
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager  
Byron Koch, Watershed Coordinator  
Donna Long, Programs QA Officer  
David Reeves, Database Administrator  
Richard Egg, Engineer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Meredith Whitley, Information Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, HR Coordinator  
Pam Manuel, Accountant  
Anita Mungia, Accountant

Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Vice Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed those present.

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

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

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service, reviewed the activity report for his agency.

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

Tamara Daniel discussed the National Association of Conservation Districts' meeting in Orlando, the Texas Ag Summit and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raiser's Association meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Minutes from the January 20-21, 2010 Board Meeting

Vice Chairman Mahler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20-21, 2010 Board Meeting. Mr. Nichols moved the minutes be accepted as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications. Mr. Russell moved the following appointments be approved as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shannon Leavitt, Oldham County #153, Zone 1, Replace Larry Berry  
Steve Baskin, Sherman County #159, Zone 4, Replace Scott Buckles  
Scott Buckles, Sherman County #159, Zone 5, Replace Roger Wells  
Aaron Phillips, Lower Pease River #162, Zone 3, Replace K. D. McNabb  
K. D. McNabb, Lower Pease River #162, Zone 4, Replace Aaron Phillips  
Tully Shahan, West Nueces-Las Moras #236, Zone 3, Replace Jim McDaniel  
Bryan Morris, Upper Leon #525, Zone 3, Replace J. W. Sadberry

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Sunset Staff Review of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved the Board accept the agency's response to the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Five Percent Biennial Budget Reduction

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved the Board adopt the line item plan as presented to achieve a 5% savings for 2010. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Soil and Water Conservation District Budget Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved the Board adopt the Soil and Water Conservation District budget request for 2012-13 as presented. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Consider Approval of Revised Guidance Notes for Practices Eligible for Cost Share

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved the Board approve the revised guidance notes for practices eligible for cost share as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Consider Approval of Additions to Master List of Practices Approved for Cost Share Assistance

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved the Board approve the additions to the master list of practices approved for cost share assistance as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Review and Approve Revised Addendum to the Application for Cost Share Assistance

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved the board approve the revised addendum to the Application for Cost-Share as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(B),(E)

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved the Board approve requests for waivers as presented. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Consider Approval to Propose Amendments to 31 TAC § 523.3(c) and (j)(3)(D) for Review and Comment in the Texas Register

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved the proposed amendments be published in the Texas Register. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Steffey reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Wood reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved the Board approve the request from Mason County #223 as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt, Mr. Helton, and Mr. Koch reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** Consider Adoption of Proposed Amendments to 31 TAC § 529.2 and § 529.3, and New §§ 529.50 - 529.62

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved the Board approve the adoption of amendments to 31 TAC 529, Subchapter A, and 31TAC 529, Subchapter B as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Consider Adoption of Standardized Rates for In-Kind Contributions of Match Funding Related to Flood Control Operation and Maintenance Activity Reimbursement Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Russell moved the Board approve the standardized rates as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Consider Request from Shelby County SWCD #449 for Subdivision Boundary Change

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved the Board approved the subdivision boundary changes as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Davis reported: advisory committee has met twice and adopted by-laws, new members will not be added until they are more organized, Mr. Oswald's trip to Washington, main emphasis at this time on arundo cane, giant salvia and feral hogs.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Report

Mr. Davis reported the task force has developed sub-committees to work on Houston toad, Camp Bullis and the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008; Section 1619 Compliance

Mr. Davis informed the Board that a letter was sent to all districts from the State Board and NRCS explaining Section 1619. Districts are currently working on compliance.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Revision of Cooperative Working Agreement between the USDA-NRCS, the TSSWCB and Individual SWCD's

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. The Board stated this item will be put on hold for further review and should be an agenda item for the May meeting. Mr. Gohmert asked that all districts sign the agreement once it has been approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** State Board Member Elections and Texas Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Review Plans for 2010 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reported that he conducted a site visit of the Overton Hotel in Lubbock and felt the hotel would be able to accommodate the get acquainted function.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Consider Future Annual State Meeting Sites

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

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Ms. Daniel informed the Board Mr. Jeff Isenberg has been named as the new CEO of NACD. She stated the South Central Regional Meeting will be held in Lubbock on August 16, 17, 18.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

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

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Consider Re-Adoption, Revision or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 518, Subchapter B, Historically Underutilized Business Program  
and

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Consider Adoption of Amendments of 31 TAC, Chapter 518, Subchapter B, Historically Underutilized Business Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved the Board readopt the rule concerning Historically Underutilized Business and adopt amendments to the rule to make references accurate. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 33:** Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 34:** Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 35:** Set a Date for the Next State Board Meeting

Mr. Graham moved the next board meeting be held on May 12 & 13 at the Doubletree in Austin. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jacobs moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 March 18, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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