

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Work Session Minutes**  
**March 27, 2018**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 27, 2018, at 3:03 p.m. at 303 Blum Street, San Antonio, Texas.

**Board Members present:**

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman  
Barry Mahler, Vice Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
Marty H. Graham, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Tina Y. Buford, Member  
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., Member

**Staff Members present:**

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Beverly Krause, Program Supervisor  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, 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  
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Dave Morris, GIS Specialist  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Molly Christensen, Information Specialist  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Dr. Ryan Banta, United States Geological Survey

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Dodier called roll to verify a quorum present. All members present. Chairman Dodier handed the meeting over to Mr. Isom to conduct the Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Consider Approval of Minutes from January 17-18, 2018 State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

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

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Consider District Biennial Budget Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Consider Fiscal Year 2018 Allocations for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Procedures for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler asked to revisit agenda item #11. Discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Consider Approval of Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Section 523.6(f)(4), Relating to Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Consider Plans for 2018 Annual State Meeting

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Consider Annual State Meeting Sites for 2019 and 2020

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Consider Adoption of Proposed Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Rules

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 519, Technical Assistance, Subchapter A, Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Admin Code, Chapter 521, Agricultural Water Conservation, Subchapter A, Agricultural Water Conservation, Technical Assistance Program for SWC Land Improvement Measures

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Flood Control, Subchapter B, Structural Repair Grant Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 517, Financial Assistance, Subchapter A, Conservation Assistance

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Review, Amend, or Readopt State Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Review, Amend, or Readopt State Board Ethics Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Isom commented on the trip to Washington, D.C. Persons attending this trip were Mr. Isom, Mr. Buckles, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Foster, and Mr. Cody York. Mr. Isom stated that the meetings went well. Some of the topics that were discussed were Flood Control Program funding, Watershed Operations, Farm Bill, Congress in April, and Carrizo Cane Eradication Program funding.

Mr. Buckles stated that they are aware of the watershed program issues, and he commended Mr. Isom for doing an excellent job in Washington D.C.

Mr. Dodier commented on the Carrizo Cane bill, and he commended staff for making the trip on the State Board's behalf.

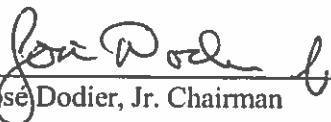
A break was taken to give time to set up for agenda item #19 power point presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Presentation for Carrizo Cane Eradication Program

Mr. Oswald introduced Dr. Banta. Dr. Banta showed a power point presentation. Dr. Banta also commented on an upcoming Field Day in Victoria on April 18. The Field Day is open to the general public. Some in attendance will be Mr. Salinas - NRCS, Mr. Dodier – TSSWCB, and Mr. Oswald – TSSWCB.

Mr. Isom handed the meeting over to Chairman Dodier.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

  
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Jose Dodier, Jr. Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen D. Preece, Secretary

May 17, 2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

May 17, 2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 March 27, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Isom, Executive Director

May 17, 2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 28, 2018**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 28, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at 303 Blum Street, San Antonio, Texas.

**Board Members present:**

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman  
Barry Mahler, Vice Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
Marty H. Graham, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Tina Y. Buford, Member  
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., Member

**Staff Members present:**

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Beverly Krause, Program Supervisor  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
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Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Dave Morris, GIS Specialist  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Molly Christensen, Information Specialist  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others present:

Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Services

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Dodier called roll to verify a quorum present. All members present.

**AGENDA ITEM 2:** Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Mr. Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout. Mr. Salinas commented that Undersecretary Northey will be coming to Texas April 24-25, and that the upcoming Farm Bill will include feral hogs.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Ms. Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented that the Washington D. C. trip was a productive trip. Ms. Daniel also commented on the effort to get the watershed project back in the Farm Bill, on NRCS's adding of the fever tick, NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Watersheds, the Carrizo Cane Eradication Program, and the Farm Bill. Ms. Daniel stated that the NACD 2019 Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio in February, and that she would be there April 13<sup>th</sup> for a planning meeting. She also commented on the San Antonio tour held in conjunction with our March State Board Meeting. Mr. Davis asked if NACD will be needing staff to help as in past years, and Ms. Daniel said that she will let us know at a later date. Ms. Daniel stated that there will be a NACD Regional Meeting in September.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Consider Approval of Minutes from January 17-18, 2018 State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece previously emailed a copy of the minutes to Board Members for their review.

Chairman Dodier called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17-18, 2018 Board Meetings. Mr. Mahler 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. Graham moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Slayden, Blackwater Valley #111, Subdivision 1, Replace Clay Grant  
Miles Gibbs, Devil's River #224, Subdivision 4, Replace Henry Mills, III  
Stacy Jackson, Comal-Guadalupe #306, Subdivision 5, Replace Curtis Koehler  
George P. Pierson, Anderson-Houston #421, Subdivision 5, Replace Dan Huff  
Billy Manning, Freestone County #424, Subdivision 1, Replace Wesley Ratcliff  
Eugene Bible, Hill Country #534, Subdivision 1, Replace Ralph H, Whitman, Jr.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Fiscal Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2018

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek commented on the new Centralized Accounting and Payroll/Personnel System (CAPPS) that we are converting to. We have finished the prototyping phase, security clearance, and will soon begin the training in Temple and Austin. Mr. Zajicek stated that the accounting department will have a dead period from about August 10<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> due to testing phase of system, and that no payments will be able to be made by the accounting department during this time. Mr. Zajicek commented on Request for Quotes for the Flood Control Program for an Engineering Assistant for a two-year term with three one-year renewals, the same for the Water Quality Management Plan Program, and a Request for Proposal for an Internal Auditor.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Consider District Biennial Budget Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on the Washington D. C. trip, that there is \$150 million available for the Watershed Program, and that he will be working on an updated Strategic Plan for the Legislative Budget Board which is due in June.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz and Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Consider Fiscal Year 2018 Allocations for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the allocations as presented. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Procedures for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the procedures as presented with a change to the date from March 27, 2018 to March 28, 2018. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**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 Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Section 523.6(f)(4), Relating to Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz stated that there are no requests at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz stated that there are no requests at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the handout.

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

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information and the handout of the 2017 Annual Report.

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald and Mr. Chapa reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Robert Rodriguez has been hired as the new district employee to work with the Carrizo Cane Eradication Program.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Oswald also stated that there will be a Field Day on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Consider Plans for 2018 Annual State Meeting

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

Board Members showed a consensus for the Planning Committee to choose the Keynote Speaker, the Breakout Session Topics, and the Tour.

Ms. Buford moved for the approval of the schedule as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Consider Annual State Meeting Sites for 2019 and 2020

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.



Mr. Polk, Jr. moved for the approval of sites Galveston Moody Gardens and San Antonio as the convention centers/hotels can accommodate us. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Consider Adoption of Proposed Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Rules, Chapter 530

Mr. Davis reviewed the handout.

Mr. Mahler moved to adopt rules as presented with the exception to correct misspelled word of Boar to Board. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 519, Technical Assistance, Subchapter A, Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Admin Code, Chapter 521, Agricultural Water Conservation, Subchapter A, Agricultural Water Conservation, Technical Assistance Program for SWC Land Improvement Measures

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Polk, Jr. moved to publish in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Flood Control, Subchapter B, Structural Repair Grant Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the handout.

Mr. Buckles moved to readopt as presented. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Title 31, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 517, Financial Assistance, Subchapter A, Conservation Assistance

Mr. Davis reviewed the handout.

Mr. Mahler moved to readopt as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Review, Amend, or Readopt State Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to readopt as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Review, Amend, or Readopt State Board Ethics Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Buford moved to readopt as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 33: State Board Member Elections Status Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 34: Public Relations and Information Status Report**

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 35: Public Information and Education Status Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 36: Human Resources Status Report**

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Heitman stated that there has been one new position added for an IT Specialist in Temple, gave updates on the Groups Benefit Advisory Committee, the Get Fit Texas Program, and the human trafficking video from the Governor's Office.

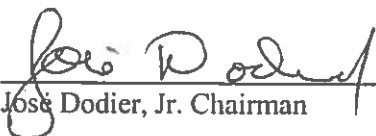
Mr. Dodier thanked Mr. Salinas for allowing NRCS employees to attend our February Workshop.

Mr. Dodier stated that Mr. Nichols will be retiring his seat as a member on the State Board as of May 1, 2018, but that Mr. Nichols will attend our May State Board Meeting to transition to the new State Board Member. Mr. Nichols thanked all the staff.

**AGENDA ITEM 37: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting**

May 16-17, 2018 in Temple.

Mr. Mahler moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Jose Dodier, Jr. Chairman

May 17, 2018  
Date

  
Karen D. Preece, Secretary

May 17, 2018  
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 March 28, 2018.

  
Rex Isom, Executive Director

May 17, 2018  
Date