

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Work Session Minutes**  
**May 16, 2018**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 16, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

**Board Members present:**

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman  
Barry Mahler, Vice Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
Marty H. Graham, Member  
David Basinger, Member

**Staff Members present:**

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Beverly Krause, 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  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Operations and Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Policy Advisor and Intergovernmental Affairs  
T. J. Helton, Program Administrator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Liza Parker, Policy Analyst and Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Dave Morris, Geographic Information Specialist  
Mel Davis, Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator  
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  
Chris Couch, Natural Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

**General Counsel:**

Assistant Attorney General Ellen Sameth, Office of the Attorney General

**Others Present:**

Jerry Nichols, Former State Board Member  
Todd Kercheval, Texas Conservation Association of Water and Soil  
Mike Bira, United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Randy Rush, United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Emily Lindley, United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Anne Idsal, United States Environmental Protection Agency  
James Grimm, Texas Poultry Federation  
Bob Turner, Consultant; Texas Poultry Federation; Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association  
Darren Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen  
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Jay Bragg, Texas Farm Bureau  
Robert Rodriguez, Starr County SWCD #332  
Mathew Argullin, Southmost SWCD #319

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

Chairman Dodier called roll to verify a quorum present. All members present with exception of Carl Ray Polk, Jr. and Tina Y. Buford.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Environmental Protection Agency Overview**

Mr. Rush, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), addressed the Board. Mr. Rush introduced Ms. Idsal, Ms. Lindley, and Mr. Bira all from EPA.

Ms. Idsal, Environmental Protection Agency, addressed the Board and explained the EPA as it relates to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Ms. Idsal spoke on the mission of the EPA with the first mission being that Americans have clean air, land, and water. Ms. Idsal also commented that the EPA is working on improving their customer service.

Chairman Dodier and Mr. Isom thanked EPA for coming to our meeting, and for their working relationship with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Opportunity for Public Comment**

Mr. Kercheval, Texas Conservation Association of Water and Soil (TCAWS), addressed the Board. Mr. Kercheval commented that they are focusing on helping the TSSWCB, agriculture policies, and partnerships.

Mr. Buckles asked Mr. Kercheval about the Line Item Veto for the Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP), and if this would be a good time to make that fund request again. Mr. Kercheval commented that it would be good to add the WSEP request into the Exceptional Items.

Chairman Dodier acknowledged Assistant Attorney General Ellen Sameth.

Mr. Bragg, Texas Farm Bureau, addressed the Board. Mr. Bragg commented on Waters of the US rule, reduced emissions, Farm Bureau's investments, and the Monarch Butterfly Program. Mr. Bragg also stated that they are aware of the United States Department of Agriculture changes, and are working on getting the Farm Bill passed.

Mr. Grimm, Texas Poultry Federation, addressed the Board. Mr. Grimm commented that all poultry operations are to work under the Water Quality Management Plan if not under Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Mr. Grimm commented on Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds, and stated that he appreciates the TSSWCB staff.

Mr. Turner, Texas Poultry Federation, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner state that he appreciates working with the TSSWCB, and that water is the number one issue with leadership being the number two issue.

Mr. Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen, addressed the Board. Mr. Turley stated that Texas is the fifth largest dairy state. Mr. Turley commented on watershed requirement, that he has a very good working relationship with the TSSWCB, and that they are continuing to move forward to be a leader in the dairy business.

Chairman Dodier acknowledged Mr. Kerry Niemann from Texas Commission on Environment Quality, Mr. Robert Rodriguez and Mr. Mathew Argullin from the TSSWCB Carrizo Cane Eradication Program.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Comments from Federal, State, and Local Governmental Entities**

There were no comments at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

There were no comments at this time.

Chairman Dodier handed the meeting over to Mr. Isom to conduct the Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of Minutes from March 27-28, 2018 State Board Meetings**

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Consider Approval of Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments**

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Fiscal Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2018**

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Consider Selection of Internal Auditor**

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information, and stated that our current internal auditor is retiring.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Approval of Strategic Plan**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Flood Control Programs Status Report**

Mr. Bednarz 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 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 16:** Consider Approval of the Water Quality Management Plan Program Approved Practice List

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**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:** Public Relations and Information Status Report

Mr. Helton stated that he will present a slideshow at the end of the Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald stated that he will show a presentation at the end of the Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken Status Report

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Consider Plans for 2018 Annual State Meeting

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Annual State Meeting Sites for 2019 and 2020 Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27: Texas Conservation Awards Program Banquets and State Winners**

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28: State Board Member Elections Status Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 29: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 30: Public Information and Education Status Report**

There is no agenda information to present at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 31: Human Resources Status Report**

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

A break was taken to give time to set up for agenda item #20 presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM 20: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report**

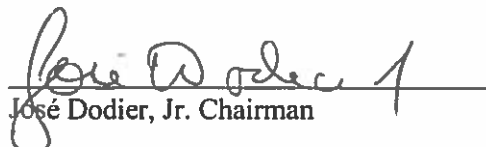
Mr. Oswald revisited agenda item #20 with a presentation of Google Earth which showed approximately 60 miles of Carrizo Cane that was treated in 2016 and 2017, and that Maverick County has an 85% kill of what was treated. Mr. Oswald stated that Ms. Ray has been working with local SWCD Boards and landowners.

**AGENDA ITEM 19: Public Relations and Information Status Report**

Mr. Helton revisited agenda item #19 to show the new agency seal and logo to the State Board Members.

Mr. Isom handed the meeting over to Chairman Dodier.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
José Dodier, Jr. Chairman

July 31, 2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

July 31, 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 May 16, 2018.

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

July 31, 2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 17, 2018**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 17, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

**Board Members present:**

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman  
Barry Mahler, Vice Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
Marty H. Graham, Member  
David Basinger, 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  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
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Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Operations and Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Policy Advisor and Intergovernmental Affairs  
T. J. Helton, Program Administrator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Liza Parker, Policy Analyst and Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Dave Morris, Geographic Information Specialist  
Mel Davis, Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Molly Christensen, Information Specialist  
Clyde Gottschalk, Program 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  
Chris Couch, Natural Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Ellen Sameth, Office of the Attorney General

Others present:

Jerry Nichols, Former State Board Member  
Linda Nichols  
Darren Richardson, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Services  
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Michael Kuitu, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Tom Gerik, Texas A&M AgriLife Research  
June Wolfe, Texas A&M AgriLife Research  
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board  
Doug Smith, USDA – Agricultural Research Service  
Charles Maley, South Texas Property Rights Association  
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. Richardson, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), addressed the Board. Mr. Richardson reviewed the handout, and stated that NRCS had approved emergency Conservation Reserve Program funds.

Mr. Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on the Total Maximum Daily Load Program, the Nonpoint Source Program, the 2017 Annual Report, requests for grant applications, and Water Quality Standards.

Mr. Kuitu, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, addressed the Board. Mr. Kuitu thanked the Board for their support for research and education.

Mr. Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on funding for the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT), Financial Assistance workshops, Ag Water Conservation Grants Program, Texas weather monitoring stations, and gave a drought update.

Mr. Smith, USDA – Agricultural Research Service (ARS), addressed the Board. Mr. Smith reviewed the Field Day flyer handout, stated that ARS is updating their office space, and hiring to fill their vacancies. Mr. Smith acknowledged Mr. Gerik, Ms. Wolfe, and Mr. Maley.

**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 on the Texas Soil Health Symposium and presented a book handout for it. Ms. Daniel also commented on the April planning meeting with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and that the NACD 2019 Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio in February

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Board Member Recognition**

Mr. Nichols addressed the Board, and performed the swearing in of new State Board Member Mr. David Basinger. Mr. Nichols was recognized for his service to the State Board, received a plaque, picture, and gave a short speech of gratitude and offered words of encouragement to the Board Members and staff.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of Minutes from March 27-28, 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 March 27-28, 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 7: 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.

Kathy Henson, Terry #151, Subdivision 1, Replace Perry Brewer  
Al Lovell, Concho #201, Subdivision 3, Replace Ben Sims  
Richard Huegele, Victoria #346, Subdivision 2, Replace Bill Murphy

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Fiscal Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2018**

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek commented on working with the Legislative Budget Board, that the Legislative Appropriations Request is usually due in August, and the transition to the new Centralized Accounting Payroll/Personnel System (CAPPS) will go Live September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Consider Selection of Internal Auditor**

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information, and stated that our current Internal Auditor is retiring, therefore we are looking for a replacement.

**AGEND ITEM 10: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on the Teas Ag Land Trust and invited Ms. Blair Fitzsimmons to speak briefly. Mr. Foster commented that there was a request to return some Flood Control Program funding, and commented on feral hogs and a discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Approval of Strategic Plan**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster requested of the Board to allow Chairman Dodier the authority to review and sign the Strategic Plan once it is complete to meet the deadline of June 8, 2018.



Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to allow Chairman Dodier authority to review and sign the agency's Strategic Plan once it is complete in order to meet the June 8, 2018 deadline. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz 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 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 reviewed the agenda information.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Consider Approval of the Water Quality Management Plan Program Approved Practice List

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

**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:** Public Relations and information Status Report

Mr. Helton reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Maley, South Texas Property Rights Association, addressed the Board. Mr. Maley read the 2017 Border Security Statement, and asked what they could do to help.

Chairman Dodier commented that they can share the Carrizo Cane Eradication Program information with the landowners.

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Oswald acknowledged Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Argullin as working with the Soil and Water Conservation districts. Mr. Oswald commented on writing a program plan to present in July showing the water savings from killing the Carrizo Cane, spraying the Carrizo Cane on dry land

instead of in the water, and the window available to spray the cane from May to November. Mr. Oswald also commented on spraying of Saltcedar from mid-October to first of November.

Mr. Perez stated that according to the River Authority, Carrizo Cane uses 24-48 gallons of water per plant per year.

**AGENDA ITEM 21: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Oswald stated that Chairman Dodier, Mr. Resendez, and himself all attended a tour about Huisache.

**AGENDA ITEM 22: Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas**

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 23: Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast**

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken**

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25: Consider Plans for 2018 Annual State Meeting**

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26: Annual State Meeting Sites for 2019 and 2020 Status Report**

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27: Texas Conservation Awards Program Banquets and State Winners**

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information and handout.

**AGENDA ITEM 28: State Board Member Elections Status Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 29: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 30: Public Information and Education Status Report**

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 31: Human Resources Status Report**

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Heitman commented on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Get Fit Texas Program, and gave the results. TSSWCB came in at 19% overall with 22 participants, 13 employees completed the program, and 5 completed all ten weeks. Ms. Pamela Blanton came in #1 for TSSWCB.

Mr. Isom stated that TSSWCB is in the process of changing the Organizational Chart.

**AGENDA ITEM 32: Consider Election of State Board Officers**

Mr. Mahler stated that routinely there is a two-year term for officers, and moved for the approval for the State Board Officers to stay as is. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

July 18-19, 2018 in Temple.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval to accept July 18-19, 2018. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

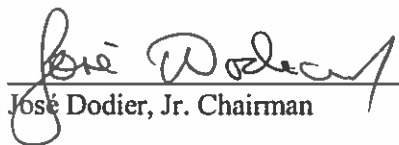
Mr. Mahler moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Service awards were presented to the following staff:

David Morris – 5 years

Christopher Couch – 10 years

Chairman Dodier thanked Assistant Attorney General for filling in for Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan.

  
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José Dodier, Jr. Chairman

July 31, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

July 31, 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 May 17, 2018.

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

July 31, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date