

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Work Session Minutes**  
**May 17, 2017**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 17, 2017, at 3:03 p.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, 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  
Beverly Krause, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, 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  
Joel Clark, 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  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Loren Warrick, Information Specialist  
Molly Dutton, Information 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  
Mark Shackelford, Engineering Technician  
Kirk House, Engineering Technician  
Chris Couch, Natural Resources Specialist

Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

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

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order and called roll of the Board Members. All members were present.

Chairman Buckles introduced Ms. Mohan, Office of Attorney General.

Chairman Buckles stated that this would be the last Board Work Session for Board Members Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Ward, and thanked them for their service.

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

**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**

There were no comments at this time.

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

There were no comments at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2017 State Board Meeting**

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 7: Fiscal Report for Fiscal Year 2017**

There were no comments at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Legislative Update**

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Flood Control Programs Status Report**

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider Water Quality Management Plan Program Fund Obligations**

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** 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 reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Consider Adoption for Amendment of 31 TAC, Chapter 523, §523.6(f)(2), Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management for Publication in the *Texas Register* for 30 Day Public Review and Comment

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information, and stated that the changes are recommendations from the recent internal audit.

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

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Consider Reallocation and Allocation of Fiscal Year 2017 Funds for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Parker stated that our information was at Earth Day on May 31-April 1, and that we will have a presentation and booth space at the upcoming South Central Monarch Symposium.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Gibson stated that all plans that were involved in the wildfires have been put on hold until grasses begin to grow again.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Review Plans for 2017 Annual State Meeting

Ms. Dutton and Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. It was stated that the Moody Gardens Hotel is currently fully booked, and we are working with the Best Western Hotel with no contract. We are working on last minute cancellations which cost us under the contract amount. There was also a discussion concerning registration fees.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 527, Removal of a District Director (§§527.1-527.7)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 518, Subchapter A, Employee Training Rules (§§518.1-518.2)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 523, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management (§§523.1-523.7)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 525, Subchapter B, Audit Requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (§§525.1-525.9)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 520, Subchapter B, Requirements to Receive State Funds of Administer State Programs (§§520.11-520.13)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Texas Conservation Awards Program Area Banquets and Award Winners

Ms. Warrick reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Public Relations and Information Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Human Resources Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 33:** Election of State Board Officers

Mr. Isom reviewed the agenda information.

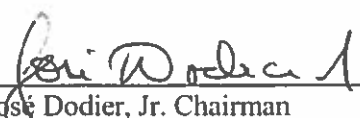
**AGENDA ITEM 34: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting**

Mr. Isom reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Isom handed the meeting over to Chairman Buckles.

Chairman Buckles stated that the State Board Members for Area I, himself, Area III, José Dodier, Jr., and Area V, Barry Mahler had all been reelected to serve on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Chairman Buckles commented that there is no limit set on Board Officers, but it has been customary for a 2 year limit.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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

July 20, 2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

July 20, 2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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, 2017.

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

July 20, 2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18, 2017**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 18, 2017, at 8:04 a.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, 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  
Beverly Krause, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, 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  
Joel Clark, 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  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
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  
Loren Warrick, Information Specialist  
Molly Dutton, Information 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  
Mark Shackelford, Engineering Technician  
Kirk House, Engineering Technician

Chris Couch, Natural Resources Specialist  
Fidencio Mesa, Planner  
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others present:

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Harold Collins, USDA, Agricultural Research Service  
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board

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

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order and called roll of the Board Members. All members were 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. Collins, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Collins provided a flyer and extended an invitation to State Board members and staff to their Field Day on June 1, 2017.

Mr. Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann provided updates on restoring the Texas coasts, grant contracts, the Total Maximum Daily Load Program, the Nonpoint Source Program, the 2016 integrated report, and Water Quality Standards.

Mr. Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout. Mr. Salinas provided updates on the new Secretary of Agriculture, NRCS budget/funding, easement program, Conservation Security Program, and NRCS personnel status.

Mr. Dodier asked Mr. Salinas about the funding of the Fever Tick, and Mr. Salinas stated that NRCS is not funding that project.

Mr. Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner provided dates of upcoming meetings, and stated that Texas is almost drought free.

Chairman Buckles introduced Ms. Mohan, Office of Attorney General.

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

There were no comments at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Consider Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2017 State Board Meeting

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

Chairman Buckles called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2017 Board Meeting. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Jacobs 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. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rex Henard, Salt Fork #133, Subdivision 5, Replace Dan Henard, Jr.  
Matt Whittington, Sherman County #159, Subdivision 1, Replace Mark Hartman  
Jeff Burns, Bastrop County #340, Subdivision 3, Replace Norman Zetka  
Kenneth Christian, Piney Woods #429, Subdivision 3, Replace James L. Payne, Jr.  
Larry W. Joiner, Upper Neches #438, Subdivision 2, Replace Josh Denman  
Craig Champion, Limestone-Falls #501, Subdivision 5, Replace J. B. (Jim) Sackett  
Harold Remmele, Wise #548, Subdivision 4, Replace Merlin Remmele

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Fiscal Report for Fiscal Year 2017

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz and Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. It was discussed that there is \$150,000,000 in additional NRCS funding, which we are working on receiving some of those funds. \$53,000,000 should qualify for 100% cost share. Discussion ensued about O&M, repair, and new dams.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Consider Water Quality Management Plan Program Fund Obligations

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

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** 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 12:** 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. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Consider Adoption for Amendment of 31 TAC, Chapter 523, §523.6(f)(2), Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management for Publication in the *Texas Register* for 30 Day Public Review and Comment



Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to publish the rules in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day public review. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Buckles asked Mr. Cochran about following up on complaints. Mr. Cochran stated that they investigate complaints, and make sure that they are following their WQMP, and refer to TCEQ if it is not a WQMP problem. Chairman Buckles asked about the distance from complaints, and Mr. Cochran stated that it is mostly neighbors that complain about odor. Mr. Mahler asked for an example of odor causes. Mr. Cochran stated that it could be composts, dead birds, or litter barns. Mr. Cochran stated that another new facility, Sanderson Farms, will have approximately 80 new farms near Tyler. Discussion ensues about hazardous materials.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report**

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Conine stated that the 2017 Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program is out for public comment with TCEQ.

**AGENDA ITEM 16: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Reallocation and Allocation of Fiscal Year 2017 Funds for the Water Supply Enhancement Program**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

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

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

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19: Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas**

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Parker stated that we will have a presentation and booth space at the upcoming South Central Monarch Symposium.

**AGENDA ITEM 20: Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast**

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken**

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22: Review Plans for 2017 Annual State Meeting**

Ms. Dutton reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Dutton recommended deleting the Sponsor Breakfast from the program due to lack of participation and expense.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to remove the Sponsor Breakfast from the program, and to recognize the sponsors at the Awards Banquet. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 527, Removal of a District Director (§§527.1-527.7)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to conclude the rule review and readopt as written. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 518, Subchapter A, Employee Training Rules (§§518.1-518.2)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to conclude the rule review and readopt as written. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 523, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management (§§523.1-523.7)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval to send notice to the *Texas Register* to conclude review and readopt rule review as written, pending the outcome of proposed amendment of previous agenda item 13. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 525, Subchapter B, Audit Requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (§§525.1-525.9)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to conclude the rule review and readopt as written. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 520, Subchapter B, Requirements to Receive State Funds of Administer State Programs (§§520.11-520.13)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to conclude the rule review and readopt as written. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Texas Conservation Awards Program Area Banquets and Award Winners

Ms. Warrick reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Graham revisited Agenda Item 28, and read a letter from Lillie Ball from Llano.

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

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 31: Public Relations and Information Status Report**

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 32: Human Resources Status Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session. Mr. Davis stated that the State Comptroller is requesting the return of funds from our staff vacancies including benefit funds.

**AGENDA ITEM 33: Election of State Board Officers**

Chairman Buckles reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols nominated Mr. Dodier to become Chairman, and Mr. Mahler to become Vice Chairman by acclamation. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Daniels, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniels stated that the Association is beginning the resolutions process, reviewing the policy manual, and featured a district spotlight. Ms. Daniels commented on the reorganization of NACD, and their upcoming meetings.

**AGENDA ITEM 34: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting**

July 19-20, 2017

Chairman Buckles presented service award plaques to the following staff:  
Trey Watson – 10 years

Chairman Buckles presented service award plaques to Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Ward.

Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Ward thanked all the fellow Board Members, Rex, staff, and partnering agencies for a great experience, and appreciation for all.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

  
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Jose Dodier, Jr., Chairman

July 20, 2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

July 20, 2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 18, 2017.

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

July 20, 2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date