

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2015

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 18, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. at 4311 S 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, 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
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
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, GIS Specialist
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs 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
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: Mr. Isom stated that the Madisonville FFA team would be making a presentation at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark stated that they are working on items #2, #5, #6, #7, #8.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

January 21, 2016

Date

January 21, 2016

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 November 18, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

January 21, 2016

Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2015

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 19, 2015, at 8:03 a.m. at 5247 S. General Bruce Drive, 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
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, 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
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
Ashley Wendt, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
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
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs 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
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Brian Koch, Regional Watershed Coordinator

Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Ellen Sameth, Office of Attorney General
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Mark Habiger, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kelly Holligan, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Antonio Delgado, Texas Water Development Board
Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Matt Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Lori Hazel, Texas Forest Service
Lynita Foster, Madisonville FFA
Bethany Bullard, Madisonville FFA
Mia Caperton, Madisonville FFA
Morgan Manning, Madisonville FFA
Matthew Lougain, Madisonville FFA
Morgan Howell, Madisonville FFA
Pheaktra Lu, Madisonville FFA

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Clark introduced Ms. Lynita Foster, Madisonville FFA teacher, and the Madisonville FFA students who presented the pros and cons of the EPA Revisions of the Clean Water Act. A question and answer period followed to help the students better prepare for competition.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Farm and Ranch Land Program

Mr. Carter Smith, Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, thanked the State Board for collaboration efforts within our agencies. Mr. Smith commented on the losing of productive agriculture lands to development, the purchase of conservation easements on ranch lands, a new 12 member council to make decisions on grant awards, a RFP for easements, wanting to see how programs can help with water quality, wildlife habitat, and Chronic Wasting Disease.

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

Mr. Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environment Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann extended TCEQ's appreciation to staff on the joint Memorandum Of Understanding, the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program, the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program, the Concho River success story update, and the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Mark Habiger, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Habiger reviewed the handout, and commented on guidance for fiscal year 2016 to be released by the first week of December to field offices.

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

Ms. Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented on the resolutions, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) meeting in Las Vegas, and gate signs.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Minutes from Previous State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Buckles called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16-17, 2015 Board Meetings.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Ward 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.

Rusty Strickland, Salt Fork #133, Subdivision 2, Replace Tommy Coleman
Randall Bryan Lewis, Garza #158, Subdivision 2, Replace Sue Weaver
Billy Kirk Meador, Stonewall #167, Subdivision 2, Replace Dewitt Ellison, Jr.
James C. Hecht, Stonewall #167, Subdivision 5, Replace Glen Pierce
Neal Eckert, Gillespie County #220, Subdivision 3, Replace Kurt Geistweidt
Dustin Gragg, Midland #244, Subdivision 2, Replace Ray Teinert
Patrick W. Keller, Karnes County #343, Subdivision 4, Replace Adrian Opiela, Jr.
Clamens Tiemann, Jr., Washington #348, Subdivision 5, Replace Calvin Boecker
Josh Denman, Upper Neches #438, Subdivision 2, Replace Lynn Denman
Kenneth W. Ragle, Rusk #447, Subdivision 1, Replace Neil Osburn
Bryan Murff, Panola #448, Subdivision 1, Replace R. C. Nicholson

AGENDA ITEM 7: Temple Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek stated that construction is to begin January 1, 2016, with a completion date of June 30, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 9: External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information, and commented on the Monarch Butterfly.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: 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 14: Consider Approval of the Water Quality Management Plan Program Approved Practice List

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

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

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider for Texas Register Publication, Review, and Comment on Proposed Amendments to 31 TAC §523.5, Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

AGENDA ITEM 18: Consider for Texas Register Publication, Review, and Comment on Proposed Amendments to 31 TAC §523.5(b), Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information for agenda items 17 and 18 together.

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

AGENDA ITEM 19: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Consider Approval of Brush Control Feasibility Studies for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the study, establish the studied watershed as a priority watershed, and amend the Plan as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Consider Allocation of Fiscal Year 2016 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 23: Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's work session.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Evaluate 2015 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Review Plans for 2016 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. New committee consisting of staff.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Review, Amend, or Reaffirm Stat Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to reaffirm the current policy. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Review, Amend, or Reaffirm State Board Ethics Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to reaffirm the current policy. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 520, Subchapter A, Election Procedures (§§520.1-520.6)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 30: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Mr. Davis and Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to Improve and Restore the Gulf of Mexico

Mr. Davis and Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: Public Affairs Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Public Information/Education Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 37: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Buckles presented service award plaques to the following staff:

Tony Franklin – 5 years

Ashley Wendt – 5 years

Brian Koch – 10 years

Charlie Upchurch – 15 years

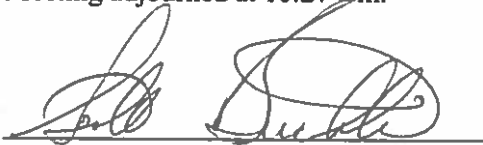
Vicki Davis – 35 years

AGENDA ITEM 38: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

January 20-21, 2016 in Austin.

Chairman Buckles thanked Mr. Davis and Staff for the work and success of the Annual State Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

January 21, 2016

Date

January 21, 2016

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 November 19, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

January 21, 2016

Date