

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2013

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 20, 2013, at 2:05 p.m. at 4311 S. 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, 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
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant


Others present:

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 2:05 and welcomed those present.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary

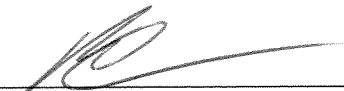
January 16, 2014

Date

January 16, 2014

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 20, 2013.



Executive Director

January 16, 2014

Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2013

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 21, 2013, at 8:03 a.m. at 5247 S. General Bruce Drive, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, 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
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
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
Dave Morris, Geographic Information System Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist

Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Volney Hough, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
David Basinger, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kerry Nieman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kelly Holligan, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Randall Rakowitz, Texas Water Development Board
Jeff Gerhard, Helena Chemical Company
Lynita Foster, Madisonville FFA
Shaylee Turner, Madisonville FFA
Lydra Crow, Madisonville FFA
Clayton Fraley, Madisonville FFA
Mason Terry, Madisonville FFA
Zulema Parga, Madisonville FFA
Jewel Smith, Madisonville FFA

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

Chairman Graham called on Ms. Lynita Foster, Madisonville FFA teacher, who introduced her students. The Madisonville FFA students presented "Does Proposition 6 Hold Water for Rural Texas?" A question and answer period followed.

Chairman Graham called on Mr. Jeff Gerhard, Helena Chemical Company, who addressed the Board with concerns of brush control problems.

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

Mr. Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout, and commented on the budgets for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, Conservation Stewardship Program sign-ups, funding cuts, and the sequester. Mr. Salinas stated that there were several NRCS retirements including Susan Baggett, which Alfonso Leal will be covering that position.

Chairman Graham acknowledged Mr. David Basinger, Ms. Tamara Daniel, and Mr. Randall Rakowitz.

Mr. Kerry Neimann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Neimann commented on TMDL's, the iplan program, Nonpoint Source, the 2014 Integrated Report, and the Clean Rivers Program.

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

Mr. Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. James commented on their new board members, and that they would be holding their first board meeting following our board meeting. Mr. James commented on the Annual State Meeting, and stated that the Association needs the use of the State Board's Field Representatives in future meetings. Mr. James also stated that the Association wants to rebuild the relationship with State Board employees.

Chairman Mahler acknowledged Mr. Kelly Holligan.

AGENDA ITEM 4: State District III Report

Mr. Adrian Perez and Mr. Tony Franklin, Program Specialists Field Representatives for Area III, and Mr. Lawrence Brown and Mr. Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisors for Area III, gave a power-point presentation of State District Area III. They stated that Mr. José Dodier, Jr. is the State Board Member that represents this area.

The presentation covered the coastal waters, major rivers, livestock, wildlife, Flood Control structures, controlled burns, district education days, and the more than 40 crops that are grown in South Texas. The presentation also covered the districts that are in Area III, and the regional offices staff. They addressed 'Conservation on the Ground' and the practices that have been applied.

The presentation stated that the Wharton Regional Office covers 47 counties, and that those counties have an estimated population of 10,931,342 people, which accounts for 42% of Texas' population.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Minutes from the September 18-19, 2013 Board Meetings

Chairman Graham called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18-19, 2013 Board Meetings. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of 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. Nichols moved for the approval of the following appointments. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Justin Russell, Hemphill #138, Zone 4, Replace Mike Arrington
Jana Middleton, Garza #158, Zone 3, Replace Tom Middleton
Cary M. Abney, Harrison County #412, Zone 2, Replace Thomas G. Ford
Kenneth Henager, Central Texas #509, Zone 5, Replace B. G. Welch

AGENDA ITEM 7: Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended August 31, 2013

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Sunset Legislation Implementation Status

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

AGENDA ITEM 9: Legislative Update

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

AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers as per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(A) thru (F)

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

AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Water Quality Management Plan Program Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Consider Approval to Conduct New Brush Control Feasibility Studies for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to conduct new brush control feasibility studies as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Adoption of Water Supply Enhancement Program Policies and Procedures

Mr. Wendt asked for this item to be removed from the agenda at this time until further information may be obtained.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Consider Allocation of Fiscal Year 2014 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald asked for this item to be removed from the agenda at this time until further information may be obtained.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Consider Re-Adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 529, Subchapter A, Operation and Maintenance Grant Program (§§529-1-529.9)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of readopting the rule as currently written. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Review 2013 Annual State Meeting Planning

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Review Plans for 2014 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved to keep the 2014 meeting with the same format as the 2013 meeting. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Consider Future State Meeting Sites Selection

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Suggestions include Waco, Amarillo, San Antonio, El Paso, McAllen, San Marcos, and Nacogdoches. Mr. Graham moved to use Waco or San Antonio for the years of 2016 and 2017, in any order, if facilities are available. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Review, Amend, or Reaffirm State Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved to reaffirm the Fraud Policy as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Review, Amend, or Reaffirm State Board Ethics Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved to reaffirm the Ethics Policy as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

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

AGENDA ITEM 26: Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts Report

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

AGENDA ITEM 29: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

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

AGENDA ITEM 30: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

January 15-16, 2014, to be held in Temple.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Matt H. Graham

Chairman

Karen D. Aece

Secretary

January 16, 2014

Date

January 16, 2014

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 21, 2013.

[Signature]

Executive Director

January 16, 2014

Date