

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 16, 2019, 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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator and Invasive Species Coordinator
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
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
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 Legislative Liaison
Mel Davis, Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Molly Christensen, Public Affairs Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Lee Munz, Program Administrator and Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator and Engineer
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist

Ronnie Skala, Engineer
Jeremy Welch, Natural Resources Specialist
Troy Freeman, Natural Resources Specialist
Yolanda Brown, Contract Specialist
Anita Brazzle, Accountant
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Ellen Sameth, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Brian Wenberg, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
John Ellis, Texas Water Development Board
Monday Rufus, Monday Rufus & Co., P.C. (Internal Auditor)
Robert Gonzales, Monday Rufus & Co., P.C. (Internal Auditor)
Matt Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Bryan Gentsch, Association Strategies
Joni Carswell, Texan By Nature
Wendy Munz

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Dodier called the meeting to order and verified that there was a quorum present. All members present with exception of Carl Ray Polk, Jr.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Graham moved for the approval to accept absence of Mr. Polk, Jr. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Status Report on Letter to the Office of the Attorney General Regarding Eligibility Requirements for Board Members' Participation in Agency Programs

No information was presented at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

No information was presented at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Mr. Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner introduced Mr. John Ellis. Mr. Turner commented on funding, Conservation Program Grants, and partnership opportunities with the TSSWCB.

Mr. Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on the Total Maximum Daily Loads Program, Nonpoint Source Program, the 2016 Integrated Report, Water Quality Standards, and the Clean Rivers Program.

Chairman Dodier acknowledged Mr. Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the United State Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service

Mr. Wenberg, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Wenberg reviewed the handout, commented on staffing issues, Watershed Plans, and the Farm Bill. Mr. Wenberg stated that Beverly Moseley had relocated to Washington D.C., Salvador Salinas will be stationed in Washington D.C. for a 120-day detail, and that Kristy Oates will be filling in for Mr. Salinas in his absence.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of 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 National Association of Conservation Districts meeting, Awards Banquets, Technical Assistance Grants, and that the Hemp Bill passed.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Texan By Nature Presentation

Mr. Ray introduced Joni Carswell. Ms. Carswell addressed the Board. Ms. Carswell outlined the Texan By Nature Program, shared the benefits of nature, has been holding round-table discussions around the state, implementing conservation practices, and issuing a Roundup conservation newsletter.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Minutes from March 20, 2019 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 20, 2019 Board Meeting.

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

AGENDA ITEM 10: Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including:

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

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

Eric Philipp, Ochiltree #142, Subdivision 4, Replace Donald Pshigoda
Jeff Daniel, King #168, Subdivision 5, Replace Charles Mongrain
Kenny McClure, Mitchell #207, Subdivision 5, Replace Russell Erwin
M. E. "Dusty" Bruns, Kendall #216, Subdivision 1, Replace Edward Seidensticker (moving to Subdivision 5)
Edward Seidensticker, Kendall #216, Subdivision 5, Replace Hoyt Seidensticker
Cayla Holt, Middle Concho #234, Subdivision 2, Replace Steve Wayne Coates
Edmond Pruski, Jr, Wilson County #301, Subdivision 3, Replace Patrick J. Moczygemba
David Siemonsma, Jim Wells County #355, Subdivision 5, Replace Santiago Recio
Charlie Smith, Nueces #357, Subdivision 5, Replace Charles Kosarek
J. B. Raymond, Shelby #449, Subdivision 3, Replace R. G. Peace
Rick Kittley, Haskell #546, Subdivision 1, Replace Dickie Sloan

AGENDA ITEM 11: Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Rufus, Monday Rufus & Co., P.C., addressed the Board. Mr. Rufus introduced Mr. Gonzales. Mr. Rufus reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the audit plan as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Fiscal Report for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information and the handout.

Mr. Isom commented on the funding of the Carrizo Cane Eradication Program, the Water Supply Enhancement Program, and the Flood Control Program.

Ms. Buford asked about the Water Supply Enhancement Program funding. Mr. Isom stated that we had all the information possible and received zero dollars in funding to keep the program. Mr. Isom commended Ms. Parker, Mr. Foster, Mr. Zajicek, and other staff that had worked on gathering the information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information and the handout. Mr. Munz thanked Mr. Foster and the Regional Office Managers for their work on the reference guide.

AGENDA ITEM 16: 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), Concerning Criteria for Waivers

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

AGENDA ITEM 17: 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 18: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald introduced Mr. Gentsch. Mr. Gentsch reviewed the handout.

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Oswald stated that the boat spray operator may not return to work due to his boat being shot; he was the only boat spray operator to submit a bid. Mr. Oswald stated that the boat operator checked on a semi-bullet-proof boat, but the cost is around \$600,000.

Chairman Dodier called for a break. 9:30-9:45

AGENDA ITEM 21: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Oswald stated that TSSWCB is making plans to close the program as of August 31, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Conservation Initiatives Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: National Association of Conservation Districts Grant Status Report

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Planning of 2019 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Christensen stated that the hotel block will open on August 1, 2019. Ms. Christensen requested the Board to consider a \$20 registration fee increase for the 2019 San Antonio meeting.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the \$20 registration fee increase as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Conservation Awards Program Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Revised Written Description of Austin County SWCD #347 Subdivision Boundaries

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 29: State Board Member Elections Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: State Board Member Election in State District No. 1

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Manual of Fiscal Operations Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Dues

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to pay \$3,000 as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Conservation Outreach: Rural and Urban Outreach

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information and the handout.

Mr. Isom complimented Ms. Heitman on the outcome of her Civil Rights Audit.

AGENDA ITEM 37: Election of State Board Officers

Chairman Dodier opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the State Board.

Mr. Graham nominated Mr. Mahler. Mr. Buckles moved to cease nominations and vote by acclamation. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahler thanked the Board for their confidence in him.

Nominations for Vice Chairman of the State Board opened.

Mr. Mahler nominated Mr. Graham. Mr. Buckles moved to cease nominations and vote by acclamation. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dodier passed next agenda items to the new State Board Chairman, Mr. Mahler, who took control of the remainder of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 38: Employee Service Awards Presentation

Mr. Jeremy Welch – 10 years

Mr. Lee Munz – 20 years

Mr. Kenny Zajicek – 20 years

Mr. Joel Clark – 25 years

Ms. Yolanda Brown – 30 years

AGEND ITEM 39: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

Mr. Isom asked the Board to consider July 25, 2019.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of July 25, 2019. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dodier moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Barry Mahler, Chairman

July 25, 2019
Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

July 25, 2019
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, 2019.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

July 25, 2019
Date