

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Work Session Minutes
January 16, 2019

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 16, 2019, at 2:31 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
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
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
Mel Davis, Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator
Loren Warrick, Project Manager
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Molly Christensen, Public Affairs 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
Kimberly York, Contract Specialist

Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Cody York

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. and Tina Y. Buford.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval to accept absences of Mr. Polk, Jr. and Ms. Buford. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments at the time.

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

There were no comments at the time.

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

There were no comments at the time.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Minutes from November 28-29, 2018 State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Fiscal Report for the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Zajicek to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the handout information. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval of staff recommendation on action item 1 as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of staff recommendation on action item 2 as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Fiscal Year 2019 Allocations for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13: 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), Concerning Criteria for Waivers

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

AGENDA ITEM 14: Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Conservation Initiatives Status Report

Mr. Gibson to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda and handout information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Review 2018 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Planning of 2019 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Conservation Outreach: Rural and Urban Outreach

Mr. Ray to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Ray to review agenda information at next day's Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Adoption of Amendments to 31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 525, Audit Requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Subchapter A, Audit of Districts, Section 525.5(a)(2); Section 525.5(b)(2); and New Section 525.8(c)(3)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: State Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: State Board Ethics Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Request by Rio Grande-Pecos River SWCD #237 for Subdivision Changes

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

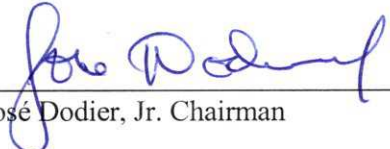
AGENDA ITEM 27: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Annual Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to adjourn meeting at 3:29. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



José Dodier, Jr. Chairman

March 20, 2019

Date




Karen D. Preece, Secretary

March 20, 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 January 16, 2019.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

March 20, 2019

Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2019

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 17, 2019, at 8:02 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 Buford, Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Beverly Krause, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
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Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Mel Davis, Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator
Loren Warrick, Project Manager
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Molly Christensen, Public Affairs 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
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others present:

Salvador Salinas, United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Services
Doug LaRue, Employees Retirement Systems of Texas, Glaze Studios
Tiffani Jenkins, Employees Retirement Systems of Texas, Communications
Michael Kuitu, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Water Resources Institute
Doug Smith, United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service
Tina Hendon, Tarrant Regional Water District
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. Mr. Polk, Jr. absent from meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Mahler moved to excuse Mr. Polk, Jr. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Presentation

Ms. Lloyd reviewed a power point presentation.

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

Ms. Mohan, Assistant Attorney General, stated that a letter had been drafted, and sent to the Attorney General's Office on January 16, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments at the time.

Chairman Dodier acknowledged guests.

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

Mr. Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout and stated that they have a new chief. Mr. Salinas commented on the Texas Soil Health Short Course, the federal government shutdown and that NRCS is operating on full force for at least the next 2 weeks, and the effects on soil and water conservation districts that are housed in NRCS office buildings. Mr. Salinas commented on the Farm Bill proposal for feral swine control, changes to the Farm Bill, Environmental Quality Incentives Program obligations to begin in March, and the reorganization of the national headquarters last fall; therefore, he used that as an opportunity to reorganize Texas NRCS. Mr. Salinas also commented on advertising for staff recruitment and participation in upcoming soil health events.

AGENDA ITEM 6: 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 555 Program requests, the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, the

Soil Health Meetings on February 12-13 being moved from Canyon to Amarillo, the Palestine meeting to be held on February 26-27, the Victoria meeting to be held on April 23-24, and the creation of a Soil Health Action Network.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Minutes from November 28-29, 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 November 28-29, 2018 Board Meetings.

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

AGENDA ITEM 9: 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. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Donald Miller, Kendall #216, Subdivision 2, Replace Whitney Whitworth
Stephen Ball, Bee SWCD #344, Subdivision 3, Replace Troy Berthold
Michael Meadows, Bowie County #408, Subdivision 3, Replace Doug Meadows
James Welton, Polk-San Jacinto #436, Subdivision 2, Replace Charles Dodd
Don A. Angonia, Jr., Brazos County #450, Subdivision 3, Replace Mark Carrabba
Chris D. Cannon, Ellis-Prairie #504, Subdivision 5, Replace Lee Harris

AGENDA ITEM 10: Fiscal Report for the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster stated that Mr. Munz and he had made a trip to Washington D.C. to attend and participate in the National Watershed Coalition Meeting. Mr. Foster commented on the Farm Bill, the Watershed Program funding through NRCS for 10 years, and that Ms. Parker was accepted into the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program representing the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board as well as TALL. Mr. Foster also commented on rural broadband internet connectivity and eminent domain, reviewing our budget to Ag Council, and contact by State Representative for Disaster Recovery Activities.

Mr. Isom stated that our Flood Control Program update is set to come out soon and commented about NRCS funding.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Fiscal Year 2019 Allocation for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 14: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: 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 16: 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 requests as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Buford excused herself to attend the Texas Women's Hall of Fame event at the Governor's Mansion in Austin.

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

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Conservation Initiatives Status Report

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information and provided an update on the National Association of Conservation Districts technical assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Review 2018 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Planning of 2019 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

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

Fifteen-minute break.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Adoption of Amendments to 31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 525, Audit Requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Subchapter A, Audit of Districts, Section 525.5(a)(2); Section 525.5(b)(2); and new Section 525.8(c)(3)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to adopt the proposed amendments as presented with a change of new section 525.8(c)(3) to be renumbered as section 525.8(d). Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Review, Amend, or Readopt State Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval to reaffirm as written. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Review, Amend, or Readopt State Board Ethics Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to reaffirm as written. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Request by Rio Grande-Pecos River SWCD #237 for Subdivision Changes

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 29: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Annual Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Davis commented that State Board Member Election letters to go out to districts by the end of January. Forms are due to Temple office by April 1, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Conservation Outreach: Rural and Urban Outreach

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information at previous day's Work Session.

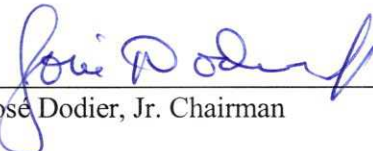
AGENDA ITEM 34: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of date set as March 20, 2019 in Austin due to coincide with Legislative Day. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Basinger moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Due to scheduled celebration, after close of meeting, **AGENDA ITEM 33:** Presentation of Employee Service Awards: Don Brandenberger – 50 years

Mr. Brandenberger was presented a plaque, and ERS and Temple Daily telegram took pictures and interviewed Mr. Brandenberger.



Jose Dodier, Jr. Chairman

March 20, 2019

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

March 20, 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 January 17, 2019.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

March 20, 2019

Date