

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 16, 2020**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 16, 2020, at 8:02 a.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Barry Mahler, Chairman  
Marty H. Graham, Vice Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
José Dodier, Jr., 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, Jr., Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
John Foster, Policy Advisor and Intergovernmental Affairs  
T. J. Helton, Program Administrator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Emily Jarratt, Nonpoint Source Program Manager  
Thomas (Jett) Preston, 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

Allen Nash, Engineer  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator  
Lina Nemeth, Accountant  
Jimmy McCurry, Natural Resource Specialist  
Fidencio Mesa, Planner  
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Darren Richardson, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Rick Schilling, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Harold Collins, USDA-Agricultural Research Service  
Matthew Brown, Texas A&M-Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Joel Pigg, Texas A&M-Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Lucas Gregory, Texas Water Resources Institute  
Lairy Johnson, MillerCoors

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** The Board may deliberate or take action on any item in this agenda

**AGENDA ITEM 2:** Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 8:02 and called roll of the Board Members. Mr. Polk, Jr. absent.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Excuse Any Absent Board Members

All Board members present with the exception of Mr. Carl Ray Polk, Jr.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Public Comment

Chairman Mahler acknowledged those present. No information was presented at this time.

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

Mr. Richardson, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Richardson reviewed the handout, commented that his role as Acting Assistant State Conservationist will end in February, and that Mr. Salvador Salinas continues to work in Washington D.C.

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

Mr. Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on Total Maximum Daily Loads, the Nonpoint Source Program, the Nonpoint Source Geographical

Information System Viewer, the 2018 Integrated Report, Water Quality Standards, and Workgroup Committee Meetings.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of 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 National Association of Conservation Districts and their Spring Fly-In to Washington D.C. Ms. Daniel commented on the joint booth between them and the State Board at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Convention and Trade Show. Ms. Daniel stated that awards are coming in, and that they are working on the upcoming district banquets.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Great Beer Great Water

Mr. Johnson addressed the Board and reviewed a power-point presentation on Great Beer Great Water. A discussion ensued concerning the water in Texas.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Minutes from November 21, 2019 State Board Meeting

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

Chairman Mahler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2019 Board Meeting.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the minutes as corrected to amend the date at the beginning of the minutes from November 1 to November 21. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion to approve as amended 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. Graham moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rodney Bruemmer, Pedernales #218, Subdivision 4, Replace Roy W. Bruemmer  
David Cole Schwartz, Glasscock County #251, Subdivision 3, Replace Lawrence Jost  
Robert Gonzalez, Maverick County #253, Subdivision 3, Replace Leah Gray

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Proposed Adoption of Amendments to 31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Flood Control, Subchapter B, Structural Repair Grant Program, Sections 529.51(14); 529.52(b); 529.52(e); 529.54; 529.55(c); 529.56(b)(6); and 527.57(b)

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval to adopt the amendments as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Conservation Initiatives Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Chapter 520, District Operations, Subchapter A, Election Procedures Rule Review

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval to submit the rule review to the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** State and Regional Flood Planning Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** 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 were no requests to be presented at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz stated that there no requests to be presented at this time.

Chairman Mahler called for a brief recess. Recess from 9:18-9:33.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Oswald stated that the aerial contractor that we had used in the past has closed his business, we will need to start over getting contractors, and that there are out-of-state contractors to look at our Request for Proposal. Mr. Oswald is currently working to find out ownership of the islands. Mr. Oswald stated that we will need to hand-treat the regrowth on Carrizo Cane, and that the concerns are financial, security, and wind conditions.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Review 2019 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** 2019 Annual Report of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** State-Level Memorandum of Understanding and Unfunded Cooperative Agreements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts Update

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Dues

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the membership dues to be paid at the amount request of \$3,000. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Terry County Soil and Water Conservation District Boundary Changes

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the boundary changes as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** State Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved to reaffirm the State Board Fraud Policy. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** State Board Ethics Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved to readopt the State Board Ethics Policy. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 33:** Conservation Outreach: Rural and Urban Outreach

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information and handout.

Chairman Mahler shared that his son had won first place in state competition Texas Farm Bureau, Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet, and will be competing in the national competition this coming weekend.

**AGENDA ITEM 34:** Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 35:** Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Heitman stated that the Get Fit Challenge is about to start. For those employees that participate and complete the challenge they will receive four hours of administrative leave. Ms. Heitman also commented on the State Agency Council Christmas donations, and that we were able to help with gifts for five children.

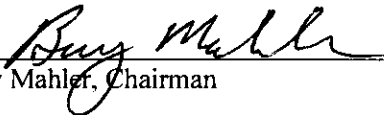
**AGENDA ITEM 36:** Employee Service Awards Presentation

- Mr. Jimmy McCurry – 5 years
- Ms. Pamela Manuel – 10 years
- Mr. Fidencio Mesa – 15 years
- Mr. Todd Oneth – 25 years
- Mr. Adrian Perez – 25 years

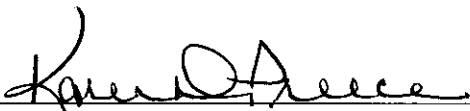
**AGEND ITEM 37:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

March 19, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

  
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Barry Mahler, Chairman

May 21, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Karen D. Preece, Secretary

May 21, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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, 2020.

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

May 21, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date