

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Due to Governor Greg Abbott's March 13, 2020 proclamation of a state of disaster affecting all counties in Texas due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, this meeting will be held by video conference call, as authorized under Texas Government Code section 551.127.

Members of the public will have access and a means to participate in this meeting, by two-way communication, by visiting: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GV_BklRgTlGe8okK9mkaDA

An electronic copy of the agenda is now available at <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/about/state-board-meetings>. A recording of the meeting will be available on the webpage after the meeting.

For public participants, please use the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom to indicate that you wish to speak during the meeting. You may also email comments@tsswcb.texas.gov in advance of the meeting if you would like to provide public comment. When the Board reaches the public comment item, the Chair will recognize you by name and give you an opportunity to speak.

The Board will meet at the above-stated time to consider and take appropriate action on the items listed below.

Board Members present:

Barry Mahler, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
José Dodier, Jr., Member
David Basinger, Member
Tina Y. Buford, Member
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Operations and Fiscal Officer
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator and Invasive Species Coordinator
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, 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
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
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
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
Lee Munz, Program Administrator and Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator and Engineer
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Allen Nash, Engineer
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator
Clay Wright, Information Resources Manager and Information Security Officer
Shannon Kennedy, Information Technology Coordinator
Marilyn Koelder, Administrative Assistant
Mark Shackelford, Engineering Technician
Kim Gamez, Natural Resources Specialist
Pam Blanton, Administrative Assistant
Mikel Thomas, Natural Resources Specialist
SuLin Olvera, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Skinner, Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Welch, Natural Resources Specialist
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Dennis McKinney, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Clint Evans, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Randall Rush, Environmental Protection Agency
Grady Gibson

The Board may deliberate or take action on any item in this agenda

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 9:00 and called roll of the Board Members. Mr. Graham, Mr. Basinger, and Mr. Polk, Jr. absent.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

All Board members present, with the exceptions of Mr. Marty H. Graham, Mr. David Basinger, and Mr. Carl Ray Polk, Jr.

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comment

No information was presented at this time.

Mr. Carl Ray Polk, Jr. joined the meeting at 9:03.

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

Mr. Clint Evans, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Evans commented on Phase I of 14 days of re-opening offices and ranking on June 26th and July 10th.

Mr. David Basinger joined the meeting at 9:06.

Mr. Randall Rush, Environmental Protection Agency, addressed the Board. Mr. Rush commented that their office re-openings have been postponed, that great work is going on with the 319 program, herbicide issues, that the final ruling came out in April to take effect in June concerning Waters of the United States, and that Keri Meadows in their new Agriculture Advisor.

Mr. Isom stated that the herbicide is going to be a big deal in Texas.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Minutes from State Board Meetings

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 May 21, 2020 Board Meeting.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Polk, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: 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. Basinger moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gary Proffitt, Hall Childress #109, Subdivision 4, Replace Mike Ferrel
Dorothy S. Henke, Lavaca #334, Subdivision 2, Replace Phillip Geissen
Brandon Hagle, Piney Woods #429, Subdivision 5, Replace Greg Burks
Timothy Boone, Panola #448, Subdivision 1, Replace Bryan Murff (switching subdivisions from 4 to 1)
Bryan Murff, Panola #448, Subdivision 4, Replace Timothy Boone (switching subdivisions from 1 to 4)

AGENDA ITEM 7: Plan Identifying Savings That Will Reduce Appropriations for the 2020-21 Biennium

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek stated that in approving this, it will include approving the 2021 Operating Budget.

State Board Members and Mr. Isom all stated their appreciation to Mr. Zajicek for his work toward this plan.


Mr. Polk, Jr. moved for the approval of the proposed 5% Biennial Savings Plan for 2020-21 along with the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGEND ITEM 8: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the next State Board Meeting to be held tentatively August 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. using Zoom videoconferencing. Mr. Polk, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dodier stated that he is pleased that the reduction plan will cause minimal impact to districts. Other Board Members echoed those sentiments.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.



Barry Mahler, Chairman

August 27, 2020

Date

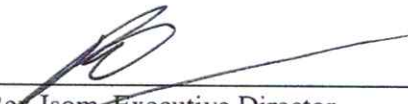


Karen D. Preece, Secretary

August 27, 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 June 11, 2020.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

August 27, 2020

Date