

## **TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 17, 2020 at 9:00a.m.**

#### **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\\_hudAJQsOQWWj1fkewPYDwQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hudAJQsOQWWj1fkewPYDwQ)

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](mailto: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  
Marty H. Graham, Vice 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  
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  
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  
Lee Munz, Program Administrator and Regional Office Coordinator  
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator and Engineer  
Allen Nash, Engineer  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator  
Clay Wright, Information Resources Manager and Information Security Officer  
Amy Devereaux, Fiscal Services  
Brian Koch, Regional Watershed Coordinator  
Marilyn Koelder, Administrative Assistant  
Chris Couch, Natural Resources Specialist  
Mark Shackelford, Engineering Technician  
Kim Gamez, Natural Resources Specialist  
Pam Blanton, Administrative Assistant  
Mikel Thomas, Natural Resources Specialist  
Jimmy McCurry, Natural Resources Specialist  
Jeremy Welch, Natural Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

**General Counsel:**

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

**Others Present:**

Clint Evans, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Claude Ross, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
David Villarreal, Texas Department of Agriculture  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Randall Rush, Environmental Protection Agency  
Carolann Corado, National Conservation District Employees Association  
Cody York, Pecan Bayou Soil and Water Conservation District

**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. All members present.

**AGENDA ITEM 2:** Excuse Any Absent Board Members

All Board members present.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Minutes from August 27, 2020 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 August 27, 2020 Board Meeting.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** 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. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeffrey Edwards, Lamb County #130, Subdivision 3, Replace Larry Edwards  
Kevin Spreen, Runnels #232, Subdivision 1, Replace Fred Wilde

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2022-23 Biennium

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Zajicek thanked Mr. Foster for his contribution in getting this information together.

Mr. Isom reviewed the Program Priority Ranking.

Mr. Buckles stated his appreciation to Mr. Isom for the work that was put into this ranking process, and to Mr. Zajicek for his work on the financial part. Mr. Dodier asked if this program ranking was state-wide. Mr. Mahler answered that it is. Mr. Mahler stated that he hopes that things will be better when Sessions resumes. Ms. Buford also thanked Mr. Isom. Mr. Buckles also stated that once the Legislative Budget Board reviews the rankings, that when the Legislative Sessions begin, we may have to defend our ranking process and programs. Mr. Mahler stated that we must remain active in making sure that our story is told to legislatures. Mr. Basinger thanked Mr. Isom, Mr. Zajicek and staff for their work on this ranking process. Mr. Isom thanked the staff that helped him work on this.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the Legislative Appropriations Request and Program Priority Rankings as presented. Mr. Isom called for clarification of motion.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval to accept the Executive Director's recommendation for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Legislative Appropriations Request with the understanding that priorities for the Board may change as the Session unfolds and the impacts of COVID become more clear. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGEND ITEM 6:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting


Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of October 29, 2020 using Zoom videoconferencing at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Isom stated that he appreciates the Board's support.

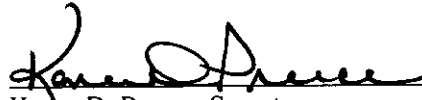
Mr. Graham thanked Mr. Isom for all his help and ideas.

Mr. Mahler thanked Mr. Wright for conducting the Zoom videoconference.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Mahler, Chairman

October 29, 2020  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen D. Preece, Secretary

October 29, 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 September 17, 2020.

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

October 29, 2020  
Date