



Texas State  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
Board



# Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts





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# An Important Question...

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**What is the difference between the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD)?**

The TSSWCB is an agency of the Executive Branch of Texas State Government similar to the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or State Department of Health Services.

The ATSWCD is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is not a governmental entity.

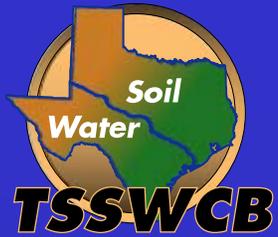


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# The ATSWCD Board

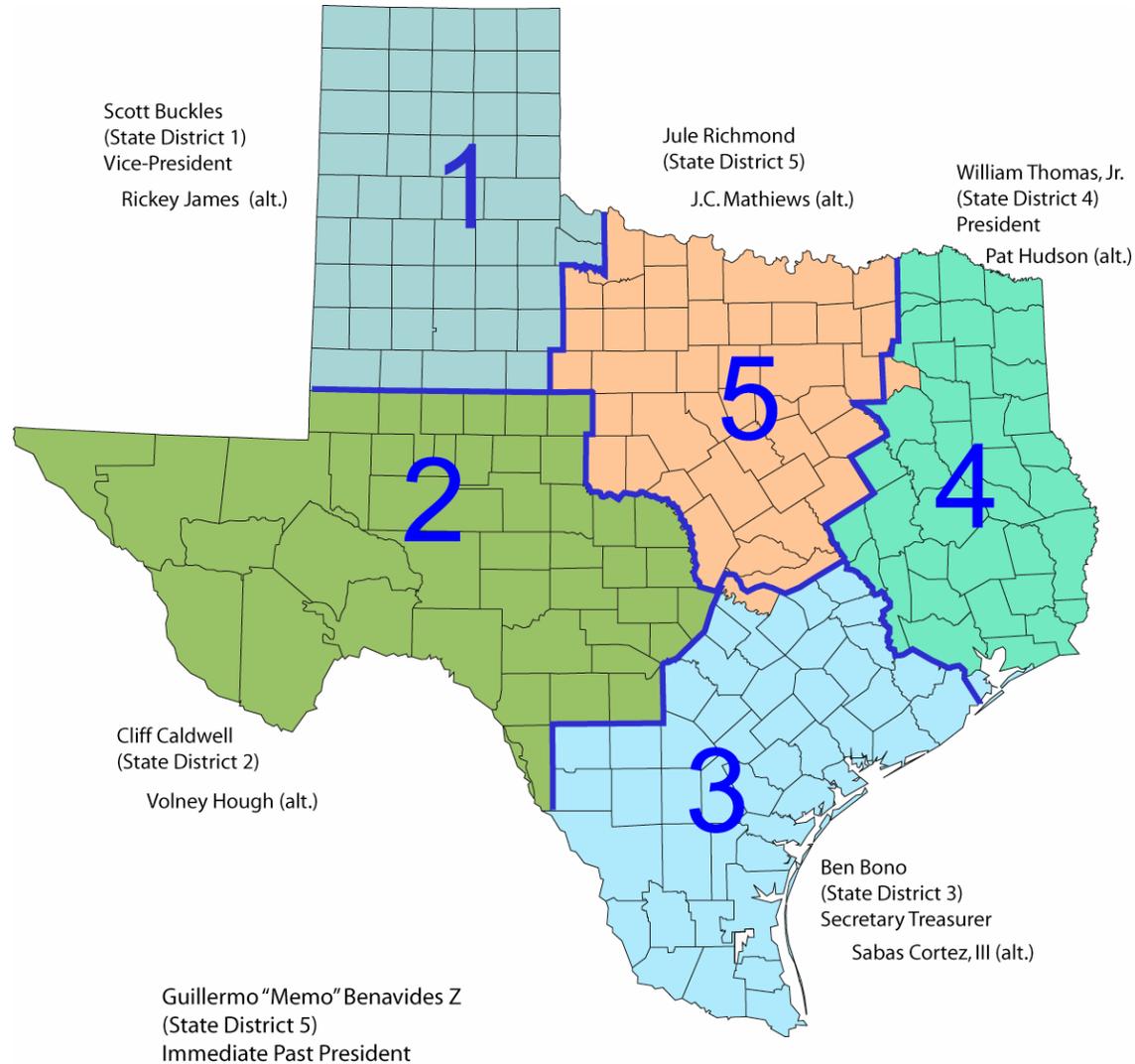
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- Commonly referred to as the “Association Board,” as opposed to the “State Board” which is used to refer to the TSSWCB.
- Composed of 5 individuals that represent the same 5 State Districts used by the State Board
- The Immediate Past President of the ATSWCD is also a voting member
- There are also 5 non-voting individuals known as alternates representing the 5 State Districts



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# Association Areas, Directors, and Alternates





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## Cooperative Agreement Between TSSWCB & ATSWCD

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- Formal agreement in writing
- 15 Articles within agreement
  - Officers
  - Committees



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# Provisions of Agreement

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## State Board Agrees to:

- Authorize Executive Director to serve as advisor to the ATSWCD
- Authorize TSSWCB staff to assist the ATSWCD on areas of mutual interest under direction of Executive Director
- Authorize Executive Director to supervise ATSWCD employees



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# Provisions of Agreement

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## ATSWCD Agrees to:

- Maintain an office close to TSSWCB
- Provide its own supplies and office equipment
- Employ a secretary with concurrence with Executive Director



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# Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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By-Laws incorporate 15 articles which are the rules that govern the ATSWCD. The articles define the:

- Organization of the ATSWCD Structure
- Functions
- Procedures



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# Article 1

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Establishes the name of  
the organization



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## Article 2

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Establishes the educational, scientific, charitable, and religious purposes of the ATSWCD relative to the conservation, maintenance, improvement, development and use of:

- Land
- Soil
- Water
- Trees
- Vegetation
- Fish & wildlife
- Open space
- Other renewable natural resources



# Article 3

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## Voting Membership

Note that....

- Every SWCD is a voting member (unless membership is expressly declined)
- Each SWCD is entitled to two votes on every question put to a vote
- Votes must be cast by two delegates who must be directors



# Article 4

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## Membership Dues

- Each SWCD is asked to pay annual quotas which is set annually by the ATSWCD Board of Directors.
- Quotas are voluntary and are currently \$535.00 (includes \$35.00 to support area awards program and \$200.00 PI program)





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## Article 5

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Addresses non-voting memberships which include:

- Contributing Membership...\$5 per year
- Sustaining Membership.....\$10 per year
- Affiliate Membership.....\$25-49 per year
- Associate Membership...\$50 or more/yr.

# Article 6

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## ATSWCD Board Elections

Directors of the ATSWCD are elected at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors.

- Areas 2 & 4 -- Even Years
- Areas 1, 3, & 5 -- Odd Years





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# Who's Eligible to Serve on the ATSWCD Board?

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- Candidate must be a district cooperator
- Candidate must have served two years as a SWCD director
- Candidate's home SWCD must be current on its quota payments



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# Article 7

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## Powers & Duties of ATSWCD Board of Directors

- Determine policies & procedures
- Make provisions for meetings
- Keep membership informed
- Determine budget, employee needs, rate of compensation for committees etc.
- Enter into agreements & negotiations
- Delegate functions to the president

# Article 8

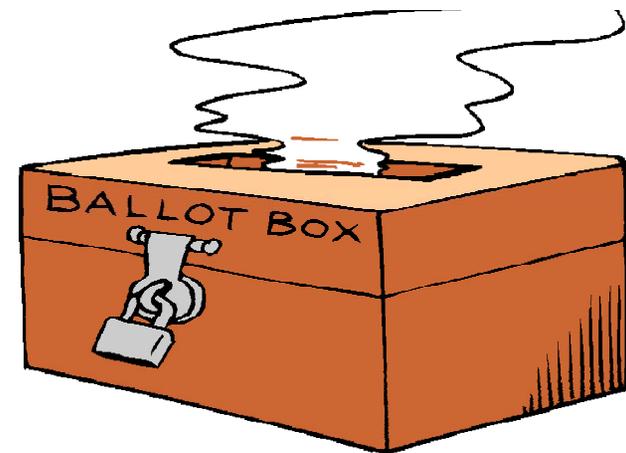
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## How ATSWCD Officers are Elected

The ATSWCD President and Vice President are elected at the annual meeting of SWCD directors by a written ballot vote.





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# How ATSWCD Officers are Elected

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- President-- Elected from 5 elected members of ATSWCD Board of Directors (or any person filling the Unexpired term of President)
- Vice-President-- Elected in the same manner as the President from the remaining persons eligible to serve as president.
- Secretary/Treasurer-- Appointed by the ATSWCD Board of Directors

# Article 9

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## Powers & Duties of Officers

### President:

- Preside at meetings
- Carry out policies of the ATSWCD
- May delegate authority to one or more officers



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# Powers & Duties of Officers

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## Vice President

- Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors the absence of the president
- Assume the office of President should a vacancy occur
- Represent Texas on the NACD Board of Directors
- Perform other duties customarily performed by the Vice President



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# Powers & Duties of Officers

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## Secretary-Treasurer

- Shall deposit all funds received by the ATSWCD in a bank selected by the Board of Directors
- Co-sign all payroll checks and travel vouchers (All other checks can be signed by ATSWCD employed secretary.)
- Perform other duties customarily performed by the Secretary-Treasurer



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## Article 10

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### Relates to official meetings of the ATSWCD

- An annual meeting of ATSWCD membership is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of SWCD directors
- ATSWCD Board of Directors to meet at the annual meeting & hold additional meetings as called by the President



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# Article 11, Committees

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- Audit Committee-- Responsible for conducting a review of the ATSWCD financial books and records.
- Soil & Water Stewardship-- Provides materials and coordinates statewide activities to promote annual soil stewardship week.



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# ATSWCD Committees

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- Public Information & Education-- Unique in that it was established by resolution
- Funding and budget separate and apart from ATSWCD's
- Programs driven by SWCDS





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# ATSWCD Committees

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- “Committee of 100”-- Responds to various legislative and program issues affecting the state’s soil and water conservation program.
- Other Committees (Examples)
  - Cropland Conservation Committee
  - Water Resources Committee



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# ATSWCD Committees

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## Resolutions Committee

- Must approve all resolutions submitted by SWCDS prior to being considered at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors.





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# Article 12

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## Resolutions

- SWCDS may submit resolutions to the President (no later than 60 days prior to the annual meeting)
- Resolutions must be approved by Resolutions Committee before being presented to directors in convention.
- Board of Directors may present resolutions at any time.



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# Article 13

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Rules of Order-- States that the ATSWCD shall conduct business under "Robert's Rules of Order." (Unless inconsistent with any policy or special rule adopted by the ATSWCD Board of Directors)



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# Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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## Article 14

By-law Amendment -- By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of voting members present at any regular or called statewide meeting.

## Article 15

By-law Adoption -- Upon adoption, all previous by-laws are repealed and new by-laws become immediately effective.



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# Area Associations of ATSWCDS

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- State currently divided into 13 area associations
- Provides opportunity for leadership development
- Provides opportunity to develop lines of communication
- Provides opportunity to deal with issues of regional concern

# AREA ASSOCIATIONS

OF

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



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