

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

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 30, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.**

**1497 Country View Lane, Temple TX**

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

#### Board Members present:

David Basinger, Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Vice Chairman  
Marty H. Graham, Member  
Jose Dodier, Member  
Barry Mahler, Member  
Tina Buford, Member

#### Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Kenny Zajicek, Operating & Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Policy Advisor & Intergovernmental Affairs  
Heather Bounds, Government Relations Specialist  
T.J. Helton, Program Administrator  
Mitch Conine, Project Manager  
Jana Lloyd, Grant Coordinator  
Thomas (Jett) Preston, Project Manager  
Dakota Massey, Project Manager  
Anyssa Devers, Project Manager  
Lee Munz, Program Administrator & Regional Office Coordinator  
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator & Engineer  
David Hentzen, Flood Control Specialist  
Cary Williams, Engineer Reviewer  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist  
Molly Christensen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator  
Tory Matthys, Human Resources Coordinator  
Shirley Brister, Staff Services Officer  
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator & Invasive Species Coordinator  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Kim Gamez, Program Supervisor  
Mikel Thomas, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Jr., Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Ricky Johnson, 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  
Chris Couch, Program Specialist  
Matthew Beseda, Program Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

**Others Present:**

Amber Wodraska, Office of the Attorney General  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD)  
Kristy Oates, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Kerry Niemann, Texas Water Development Board  
Loreal Stepney, Texas Water Development Board  
Joel Pigg, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Texas Well Owners Network  
Liza Eicchorn, The Nature Conservancy

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Basinger called the meeting to order at 8:30 and called roll of the Board Members. All members present.

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

There were no absences.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Public Comment

There were no comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Mr. Niemann, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann introduced Ms. Stepney. Ms. Stepney presented an overview of the Texas Water Development Board and reviewed a handout.

Chairman Basinger introduced our new legal counsel representative, Assistant Attorney General Ms. Amber Wodraska.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service

Ms. Oates, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board, reviewed the handout, and commented on staffing issues and upcoming events.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of 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 Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors, resolutions, funding opportunities for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and their upcoming meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** The Nature Conservancy in Texas Presentation

Ms. Eicchorn, The Nature Conservancy, addressed the Board, and presented a PowerPoint presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Minutes from September 26, 2023 State Board Meeting

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda item and stated that she had previously emailed a copy of the minutes to Board Members for their review.

Chairman Basinger called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2023 State Board Meeting. Mr. Graham moved for the approval of the Minutes as presented. Mr. Buckles 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. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Patrick W Middlebrook, Lubbock County #108, Subdivision 4, Replace Patti Jones  
Jacob Shaw, Hockley County #129, Subdivision 1, Replace Glen Borland  
Laura Taylor, Dallam #131, Subdivision 1, Replace Dale Schmidt  
Benjamin Allen Riverman, Hemphill County #138, Subdivision 1, Replace Doug Bengé  
Janice Baysinger, Canadian River #160, Subdivision 2, Replace Curt Cornett  
Stephen Lundy, Cottle County #163, Subdivision 1, Replace Dennis Cross  
Steve Stinson, Cottle County #163, Subdivision 2, Replace Gary Evans  
Curtis Schwartz, Tom Green #248, Subdivision 1, Replace John E. Schwartz, Sr.  
Jose Luis de la Garza, Maverick County #253, Subdivision 4, Replace James Smith  
Glenn Neumann, Frio #325, Subdivision 1, Replace David Petty (moving from Sub 2 to 1)  
Gerry Gulley, Frio #325, Subdivision 2, Replace Glenn Neumann  
Michael Kuck, Gonzales County #338, Subdivision 5, Replace J. D. Selman  
Debra Parks, Piney Woods #429, Subdivision 3, Replace Kenneth Christian  
Jon Jeffcoat, Coastal #432, Subdivision 3, Replace Robert Beaver

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Bounds commented on the September Salt Lake City Joint National Association of State Conservation Agencies and National Watershed Coalition Conference, the November Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors Land Rights Issues and Possible Solutions meeting, and the November Ag Council meeting. Ms. Bounds also presented a Strategic Plan update and stated that all nine workgroups have met at least twice since the last Board Meeting, and they are developing action plans for initiatives.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information, and stated that Mr. John Foster had been elected Chairperson, and Dr. Bhatkar elected as Vice Chairperson. The committee will meet via Zoom on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Agency Strategic Planning Status Report

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Dues

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Buford moved for the approval to pay the amount presented of \$3,000. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Director Election for Dalworth Sol and Water Conservation District #519

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to direct the Executive Director and staff to conduct an election to fill district board vacancies. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Sunset Advisory Commission Review

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Feral Swine Control Pilot Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** On-the-Ground Conservation Program Status Report

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

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Flood Control Program State Agreement Big Sandy Creek 43

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Mgmt Plans in Accordance with Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 523, Agriculture and Silviculture Quality Mgmt, Section 523.6(f)(4), Concerning Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information and stated that there are no requests for consideration at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information and stated that there are no requests for consideration at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler and Mr. Isom presented Mr. Oswald with a picture of staff, legislative staff, and others with the drone at the border.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** 2023 Annual State Meeting of District Directors Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Matthys reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Employee Service Awards

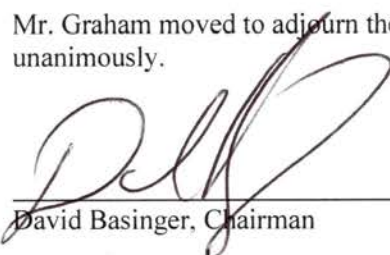
Mikel Thomas – 10 years  
Steven Bednarz – 10 years

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

January 18, 2024 at Temple headquarters.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Graham moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

  
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David Basinger, Chairman

February 7, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

February 7, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 November 30, 2023.

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

February 7, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date