

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2017**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 18, 2017, at 2:04 p.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

**Board Members present:**

Scott Buckles, Chairman  
José Dodier, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Marty H. Graham, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Barry Mahler, Member  
Larry Jacobs, Member  
Joe Ward, Member

**Staff Members present:**

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist  
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor  
Loren Warrick, Information Specialist  
Molly Dutton, Information Specialist  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Marilyn Koelder, Administrative Assistant

Beverly Krause, Administrative Assistant  
Pam Collins, Administrative Assistant  
Carrie Sanford, Administrative Assistant  
Laura Gonzales, Administrative Assistant  
Pam Blanton, Administrative Assistant  
Debbie Skinner, Administrative Assistant  
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Cody York, Pecan Bayou SWCD Program Specialist  
Jose Martinez, Starr County

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed those present.

A work session was conducted which covered agenda items in detail. Questions were taken and answered.

Mr. Isom asked the Regional Managers to introduce their Administrative Assistants.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Fiscal Report**

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek commented on the differences between House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1. Mr. Zajicek also commented on ongoing audits of Performance Audit on Grants, Post-Payment Audit, and State Office of Risk Management Audit.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: “Your” Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board at a Glance**

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information and showed a video presentation of the new TSSWCB video.

Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Ray to look into the cost of thumb-drives for this video with our label printed on it for easy access to all who need this information, and to be able to use as handouts.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: External Funds**

Mr. Foster and Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on open grants, Regional Conservation Partnership Program being \$5 million in federal funds, Elm Creek WCID being \$1 million in private funds, TSSWCB being \$2 million in state funds. Mr. Foster and Mr. Bednarz commented on other ongoing projects of the Lesser Prairie Chicken and the coastal project.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Legislative Update**

Mr. Foster and Mr. Isom reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster and Mr. Isom commented that there was a good tour of the Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program, and commented on the Flood Control Program.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Flood Control Programs Status Report**

Mr. Munz and Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Bednarz stated that there was a final public meeting scheduled for January 18 at 5:00 for plans for Site 11.

**AGENDA ITEM 21: Consider Adoption of the 2017 Revision of the State Water Supply Enhancement Plan**

Mr. Wendt reviewed a replacement handout.

**AGENDA ITEM 31: Review Plans for 2017 Annual State Meeting**

Ms. Warrick and Ms. Dutton reviewed the agenda information. They stated that they would be asking the State Board to appoint the 2017 Annual State Meeting Committee to consist of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Chairman, Area III State Board Member, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD) President, Area III ATSWCD Board Member, Auxiliary President, TSSWCB Executive Director, and TSSWCB staff as needed. Ms. Dutton stated that a survey will be going out.

**AGENDA ITEM 41: Set date for Next State Board Meeting**

It was discussed that meeting may need to be moved to March 22-23, 2017.

Mr. Isom stated that there would be a Senate Finance Hearing on February 9, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

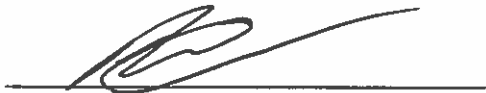
March 23, 2017

Date

March 23, 2017

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 18, 2017.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

March 23, 2017

Date

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 2017**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 19, 2017, at 8:07 a.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

**Board Members present:**

Scott Buckles, Chairman  
José Dodier, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Marty H. Graham, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Barry Mahler, Member  
Larry Jacobs, Member  
Joe Ward, Member

**Staff Members present:**

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
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Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Ashley Wendt, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor  
Loren Warrick, Information Specialist  
Molly Dutton, Information Specialist  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist  
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist

Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Marilyn Koelder, Administrative Assistant  
Beverly Krause, Administrative Assistant  
Pam Collins, Administrative Assistant  
Carrie Sanford, Administrative Assistant  
Laura Gonzales, Administrative Assistant  
Pam Blanton, Administrative Assistant  
Debbie Skinner, Administrative Assistant  
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Bob Stobaugh, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Kerry Neimann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Doug Smith, USDA-Agricultural Research Service  
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board  
Mike Bira, Environmental Protection Agency  
Randy Rush, Environmental Protection Agency  
Jose Martinez, Starr County

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. and welcomed those present. Chairman Buckles called for the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, and then asked for a moment of silence. Chairman Buckles acknowledged guests.

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Opportunity for Public Comment

**AGENDA ITEM 2:** Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Mr. Neimann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Neimann provided updates on the Nonpoint Source Program, the Water Quality Standards, the Clean Rivers Program, and the Restore Program.

Mr. Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner provided updates on the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation Project, our upcoming agenda item #17 joint report, upcoming Water for Texas conference, grants for equipment cost-share and study of irrigation efficiency, and groundwater.

Mr. Bira, Environmental Protection Agency, addressed the Board. Mr. Bira acknowledged the work that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board does.

Mr. Rush, Environmental Protection Agency, addressed the Board. Mr. Rush stated that his new role is the Senior Policy Advisor of Agriculture, and that he will be available to us as needed.

Mr. Smith, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Smith stated that he will be replacing Mr. Daren Harmel, and that he looks forward to working with TSSWCB.

Mr. Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout. Mr. Salinas provided updates on oyster production, staff currently at 611 full-time employees, the 57,000 quarantined acres due to Live Oak & Fever Tick enveloping 5 counties near the Mexico border, and the Texas Soil Health Workshop scheduled for February 22-23, 2017.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Ms. Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel provided updates on the 2017 National Association Meeting, the February 8, 2017 Committee 100 Meeting in Austin, the February 22-23, 2017 Texas Soil Health Workshop, and the March to Washington D.C. Fly-In.

A discussion ensued about the Fever Tick.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** “Your” Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board at a Glance

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information, and had shown the video presentation at the previous day’s Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Consider Approval of Minutes from Previous State Board Meetings

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

Chairman Buckles called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16-17, 2016 Board Meetings. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Consider Approval of 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. Mahler moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Elmore, Wheeler County #141, Subdivision 5, Replace Eric Zybach  
K. D. McNabb, Lower Pease River #162, Subdivision 3, Replace Aaron Phillips  
Dan Creighton, Lower Pease River #162, Subdivision 4, Replace K. D. McNabb  
Bodie Browning, Bandera #229, Subdivision 2, Replace Randy Schott  
Leah Gray, Maverick County #253, Subdivision 3, Replace John Sullivan  
Rosemary W. Kalina, Caldwell-Travis #304, Subdivision 2, Replace James Wade  
Jose Luis Garza, Starr County #332, Subdivision 2, Replace Jorge L. Garza  
Billy E. Jones, Davy Crockett-Trinity #404, Subdivision 2, Replace Anthony Lowery  
Manning Stephens, Jr., Freestone County #424, Subdivision 5, Replace Don Schill  
Carla Martin, Upper Sabine #530, Subdivision 4, Replace Kathleen Hooten  
Josh Ritchey, Cross Timbers #556, Subdivision 4, Replace Marty McKenzie

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information at the previous day’s Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information at the previous day’s Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information at the previous day’s Work Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz and Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Consider Approval of Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation Projects for Fiscal Year 2017

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the projects as listed. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Munz acknowledged regional office administrative staff.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Consider Approval of Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with 31TAC §523.6(f)(2) Relating to Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz stated that there is no information to present at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Cochran stated that there was a release of funds on January 18<sup>th</sup> which gives roughly \$10,000 to allocate to producers instead of the \$773 on the report.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** An Assessment of Water Conservation in Texas, Prepared by the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature as a Supplement to the 2017 State Water Plan

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster stated that the Texas Water Development Board is currently reviewing the report.

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Consider Approval of Brush Control Feasibility Studies for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald reviewed the handout information.

Mr. Ward moved for the approval of the studies as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Consider Allocation of Fiscal Year 2017 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the allocation as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Consider Adoption of the 2017 Revision of the State Water Supply Enhancement Plan

Mr. Oswald reviewed the handout information.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval of the plan as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

A discussion ensued about the Bureau of Land Management.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Gibson stated that there are 25 completed plans for a total of 134,503.7 acres.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 518, Subchapter A, §§518.1-518.2, Employee Training Rules

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to publish in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day public review. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 520, Subchapter B, §§520.11-520.13, Requirements to Receive State Funds or Administer State Programs

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to publish in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day public review. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 523, §§523.1-523.7, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to publish in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day public review. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repeal of 31 TAC, Chapter 525, Subchapter A, §§525.1-525.9, Audits of Districts

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to publish in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day public review. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Evaluate 2016 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Review Plans for 2017 Annual State Meeting

Ms. Warrick reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval to move forward with invitations to speakers for the Annual State Meeting, and for the approval of the Committee to consist of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Chairman, Area III State Board Member, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD) President, Area III ATSWCD Board Member, Auxiliary President, TSSWCB Executive Director, and TSSWCB staff as needed. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** State board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 33:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Dues

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to pay dues in the amount of \$2,000. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 34:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 35:** Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 36:** Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 37:** Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Annual Report

Ms. Warrick reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 38:** Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 39:** Public Relations and Information Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 40: Human Resources Status Report**

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Heitman stated that Beverly Krause has accepted the position of Program Supervisor in Mount Pleasant.

Ms. Wendt thanked the Board Members and staff for her time working at the TSSWCB. Ms. Wendt stated that she has taken a job in Virginia, and that her family would soon be following her to Virginia.

Ms. Heitman thanked the Regional Office Administrative Assistants for coming to Temple to attend and participate in the meetings.

**AGENDA ITEM 41: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting**

March 22-23, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

March 23, 2017

Date

March 23, 2017

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 19, 2017.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

March 23, 2017

Date