

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 25, 2019**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on September 25, 2019, at 8:08 a.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

**Board Members present:**

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

**Staff Members present:**

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator and Invasive Species Coordinator  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Jack Foote, 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, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Operations and Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Policy Advisor and Intergovernmental Affairs  
T. J. Helton, Program Administrator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Jana Lloyd, 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  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Lee Munz, Program Administrator and Regional Office Coordinator  
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator and Engineer  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator  
Ronnie Skala, Engineer  
Mark Shackelford, Engineering Technician  
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Monday Rufus, Auditor  
Robert Gonzales, Auditor  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Kristy Oates, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board  
Jenny Pluhar, Texas Grazing Land Coalition  
Charles Maley, South Texas Property Rights Association

Chairman Mahler welcomed all those present.

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** The Board may deliberate or take action on any item in this agenda

**AGENDA ITEM 2:** Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order and called roll of the Board Members.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Buckles moved to approve the absences of Mr. Marty h. Graham, and Mr. Carl Ray Polk, Jr. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Public Comment

No information was presented at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Mr. Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on the appointment of their new commissioner, the Total Maximum Daily Loads Program, the Nonpoint Source Program, the 2016 and the 2018 Integrated Reports, Water Quality Standards, and the Clean Rivers Program.

Mr. turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on the Flood Planning Group, that the Flood Science Group is currently hiring, and that the flood activities are on their website.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the United State Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service

Ms. Oates, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Ms. Oates reviewed the handout and provided updates on their programs. Ms. Oates commented on hurricane updates, watershed updates, watershed planning and construction updates, staffing issues, and Memorandum of Understanding update.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Ms. Daniel addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented that the Association had received confirmation from the Natural Resource Conservation Service that they will be able to continue with the 555 Program, the National Association of Conservation Districts will hold their meeting in Las Vegas February 8-12, 2020, and that the resolutions have been sent out.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Texas Grazing Land Coalition Presentation

Mr. Ray introduced Ms. Jenny Pluhar with her background and biography.

Ms. Pluhar addressed the Board, presented the history of the Texas Grazing Land Coalition, and reviewed a power-point presentation.

8:39 – 8:52 Chairman Mahler called for a break sponsored by the Texas Grazing Land Coalition.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Minutes from July 25, 2019 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 July 25, 2019 Board Meeting.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including: Jim Heath, Ted Smith, Scott Jagers, S. Craig Rudolph

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

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

Jim Heath, Mason County #223, Subdivision 1, Replace Chris Hotard  
Ted Smith, Mason County #223, Subdivision 2, Replace Jim Heath  
Scott Jagers, Bowie County #408, Subdivision 2, Replace Frank Caudle  
Jennifer Dwyer, Delta #443, Subdivision 5, Replace Ed Pickard  
S. Craig Rudolph, Ellis Prairie #504, Subdivision 4, Replace Buddy Banks

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2020

Mr. Rufus reviewed the agenda information.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Adjustments to Approved Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the budget as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Amendments to 31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Flood Control, Subchapter B, Structural Repair Grant Program, Sections 529.51(14); 529.52(b); 529.52(e); 529.54; 529.55(c); 529.56(b)(6); and 527.57(b)

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: Conservation Initiatives Status Report**

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 16: State and Regional Flood Planning Update and Appointment of Senate Bill 8 Advisory Committee Representative**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval to appoint Mr. Barry Mahler as the representative to serve on the advisory committee defined in S.B. 8 with the authority to assign a designee if not able to attend. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 17: Flood Control Programs Status Report**

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Bednarz stated that there would be a Flood Control Workshop at 1:00 this afternoon.

Chairman Mahler welcomed Mr. Charles Maley.

**AGENDA ITEM 18: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report**

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19: Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Section 523.6(f)(4), Concerning Criteria for Waivers**

Mr. Munz stated that there are no requests at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 20: Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use**

Mr. Munz stated that there are no requests at this time.

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

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

Discussion ensued concerning sale of poultry farms, poultry pasture farms, and free range.

**AGENDA ITEM 22: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report**

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 23: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Discussion ensued concerning security.

**AGENDA ITEM 24: Communication Strategy Status Report**

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Planning of 2019 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Draft State-Level Memorandum of Understanding and Unfunded Cooperative Agreements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Mr. David reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Manual of Fiscal Operations Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Conservation Outreach: Rural and Urban Outreach

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 33:** Employee Service Awards Presentation

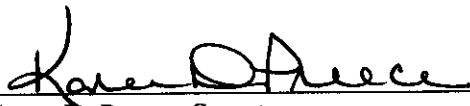
Mr. Jimmy McCurry – 5 years  
Mr. Mark Shackelford – 5 years  
Mr. Glenn Baker – 20 years  
Ms. Liza Parker – 5 years

**AGEND ITEM 34:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

November 21, 2019.

Mr. Dodier moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

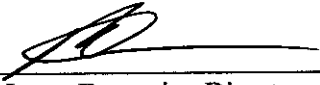
  
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Barry Mahler, Chairman

  
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Karen D. Preece, Secretary

November 21, 2019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

November 21, 2019  
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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 25, 2019.



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Rex Isom, Executive Director

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November 21, 2019

Date