

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Work Session Minutes
November 15, 2017

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 15, 2017, at 3:07 p.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman
Barry Mahler, Vice Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Tina Y. Buford, Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Beverly Krause, 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
Tony Franklin, 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
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Carrie Sanford, Administrative Assistant
Teresa Reese, Natural Resources Specialist
Ronnie Ramirez, Planner
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Syreeta Alexander, Office of the Attorney General (via phone)

Others Present:

Russell Gregorczyk, Jansen & Gregorczyk, CPA's

Called Assistant Attorney General Syreeta Alexander; placed on speaker phone throughout meeting.

Chairman Dodier handed the meeting over to Mr. Isom to conduct the Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

There were no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Comments from the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

There were no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2017 State Board Meeting

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 7: 2018 Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Dodier called the meeting to order, and called roll to verify by phone that a quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster stated that the Speaker of the House will not seek re-election, and that there was a large turnover in the Governor's Office so new contacts are being made.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Approval of Revisions to the Joint TSSWCB and Texas Water Development Board Report Titled "An Assessment of Water Conservation in Texas"

Mr. Foster reviewed the handout. Mr. Foster stated that there are two different proposals to be presented, and that a printout of both would be printed and submitted at the State Board Meeting for consideration.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2017 Follow-Up Review on the Status of Implementing Prior Years' Internal Audit Recommendations

Mr. Gregorczyk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Consider Approval of Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2018

Mr. Gregorczyk reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the plan as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Moved the business back to agenda item 8 for vote.

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Procedures for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Foster reviewed the handout.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: 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 reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Consider Approval of Request by Devil's River SWCD #224 for Subdivision Changes

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Chapter 529, Subchapter A, Flood Control – Operation and Maintenance Grant Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Chapter 518, Subchapter B, General Procedures, Historically Underutilized Business Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Review 2017 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. The Board Members asked Mr. Davis if there could possibly be something for the directors on Monday morning. Mr. Davis to look into it.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Consider Annual State Meeting Sites for 2019 and 2020

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Invasive Species Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Prescribed Burn Board Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Public Relations and Information Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Public Information and Education Status Report

There were no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 35: Human Resources Status Report

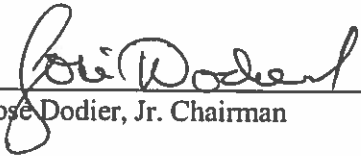
Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

There were no comments at this time.

Mr. Isom handed the meeting over to Chairman Dodier.

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Jose Dodier, Jr. Chairman

January 18, 2018

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

January 18, 2018

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 15, 2017.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

January 18, 2018

Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2017

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 16, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman
Barry Mahler, Vice Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Tina Y. Buford, Member
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Beverly Krause, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
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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
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, GIS Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Carrie Sanford, Administrative Assistant
Teresa Reese, Natural Resources Specialist

Ronnie Ramirez, Planner
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Syreeta Alexander, Office of the Attorney General (via phone)

Others present:

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Matt Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Hal Collins, USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Lynita Foster, Madisonville FFA Teacher
Aly Ghormley, Madisonville FFA
Whitney Anderson, Madisonville FFA
Brinna Sims, Madisonville FFA
Madi Caperton, Madisonville FFA
Helena Dean, Madisonville FFA

There was a delay getting the Assistant Attorney General on the phone, so Chairman Dodiér called for a moment of silence in observance of killed Department of Public Safety Officer.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Presentation – Legalizing a Toxicant for Use on Feral Pigs

Chairman Dodiér called on the Madisonville FFA for their presentation. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

At 8:23, called Assistant Attorney General Syreeta Alexander, placed on speaker phone throughout meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Dodiér called the meeting to order, and stated that Mr. Graham was absent, and there was a quorum present.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Mr. Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on restoring funding projects, the Total Maximum Daily Load Program, Nonpoint Source Program, the joint 2017 Annual Report being under review, Integrated Report update, and Water Quality Standards.

Mr. Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on a retirement, agricultural grants update, and the TWDB's 60th anniversary, with a reception to be held on December 7, 2017 after their Board Meeting.

Chairman Dodiér acknowledged Mr. Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

Mr. Collins, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Collins commented on initiating conservation plans for farm, restoration of one mile of terraces on property, and the monitoring system of Boggy Creek.

Mr. Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout. Mr. Salinas provided updates on reorganization, MOU with West Texas ranchers, do not have a chief as of yet, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation partnership with NRCS, that fiscal year 2017 had been a better year for contracting with producers, that fiscal year 2018 is low on staff and that they cannot increase employees across the state, and their Annual Plan of Work.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Ms. Daniels, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniels stated that they are working with NRCS, and commented on funding to districts, and soil health.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2017 State Board Meeting

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

Chairman Dodier called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2017 Board Meeting. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: 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. Buckles moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Wayne Tinkler, Trans Pecos #231, Subdivision 3, Replace Jim Tinkler
Randy Edwards, Maverick County #253, Subdivision 1, Replace John Earl Smith
Brian Ring, San Patricio #324, Subdivision 2, Replace Dan Allen Beyer
Jane Rutledge, Winter Garden #326, Subdivision 4, Replace Lamar Hicks
Norma F. Atkinson, Karnes County #343, Subdivision 3, Replace Robert Lee Hammack
Albert DeLeon, Bee #344, Subdivision 4, Replace Hilario Chapa III
Justin Underwood, Cherokee County #427, Subdivision 4, Replace Bill Poteet
Gary Glover, Palo Pinto #518, Subdivision 5, Replace Ernest Herron, Jr.

AGENDA ITEM 8: 2018 Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek commented that the TSSWCB will soon be converting to a new Centralized Accounting and Payroll/Personnel System (CAPPS), and that we are now in the prototyping phase. This new system is to be integrated September 1, 2018. Mr. Zajicek also commented on End-of-Year work, Annual Financial Report due November 20th, and an End-of-Year Report in January.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster stated that the Speaker of the House will not seek re-election which will cause a change of staff, and that there was a large turnover in the Governor's Office which also caused a staff change there. Mr. Foster stated that he and Steve Bednarz had attended a meeting in New Caney concerning Hurricane Harvey.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider Approval of Revisions to the Joint TSSWCB and Texas Water Development Board Report Titled “An Assessment of Water Conservation in Texas”

Mr. Foster reviewed the handout.

Mr. Polk, Jr. moved for the approval of the revisions as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Flood Control Programs Status Report

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Procedures for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Foster reviewed the handout.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the procedures as presented to be effective immediately. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: 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 are no requests at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Polk, Jr. moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Dodiér suggested that we work with the Texas Rangers, and Ms. Buford suggested that we continue dialogue with the Governor’s Office. Mr. Isom assured Ms. Buford that we will continue to do so.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Consider Approval of Request by Devil's River SWCD #224 for Subdivision Changes

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the changes as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Chapter 529, Subchapter A, Flood Control – Operation and Maintenance Grant Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to publish in the *Texas Register*. Mr. Polk, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Consider Readopting, Amending, or Repealing Chapter 518, Subchapter B, General Procedures, Historically Underutilized Business Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to publish in the *Texas Register*. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Review 2017 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved to table this agenda item until the January State Board Meeting. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Consider Annual State Meeting Sites for 2019 and 2020

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of San Antonio, Galveston, or Corpus Christi for 2019 or 2020 whichever city can get us fitted into their schedule. Mr. Polk, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Invasive Species Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Ms. Warrick and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis stated that this agenda information had been reviewed at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Prescribed Burn Board Status Report

Mr. Davis stated that this agenda information had been reviewed at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Public Relations and Information Status Report

Mr. Davis stated that this agenda information had been reviewed at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

Mr. Mahler moved for the dates to be set as January 17-18, 2018. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Service awards were presented to the following staff:

Wesley Gibson – 5 years

Ronnie Ramirez – 15 years

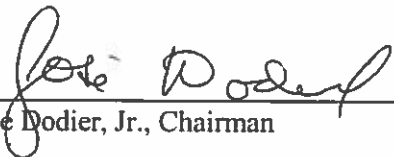
Teresa Reese – 10 years

Lawrence Brown – 15 years

Mitch Conine – 10 years

Karen Preece – 15 years

Carrie Sanford – 15 years



Jose Dodier, Jr., Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

January 18, 2018

Date

January 18, 2018

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 16, 2017.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

January 18, 2018

Date