

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019

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The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 21, 2019, at 8:03 a.m. at 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Barry Mahler, Chairman
Marty H. Graham, Vice Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
José Dodier, Jr., Member
David Basinger, Member
Tina Y. Buford, Member
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., 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
Todd Oneth, 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
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Emily Jarratt, Nonpoint Source Program Manager
Jett Preston, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Liza Parker, Policy Analyst and Legislative Liaison
Mel Davis, Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator
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
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Allen Nash, Engineer

Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

*available via phone if needed - Assistant Attorney General Melissa Juarez, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Monday Rufus, Auditor
Robert Gonzales, Auditor
Darren Richardson, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kirby Brown, Ducks Unlimited
Matt Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Cory Seanes, Brazos River Authority

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 at 8:03 and called roll of the Board Members.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

All Board members present.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Comment

Chairman Mahler acknowledged those present. No information was presented at this time.

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

No information was presented at this time.

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

Mr. Richardson, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Richardson reviewed the handout, commented on the Farm Bill funding, rules for Stewardship Program published for comments, staffing issues, Memorandum of Understanding update, and gave a Conservation Reserve Program update.

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

No information was presented at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Ducks Unlimited Presentation

Ms. Parker introduced Mr. Kirby Brown with his biography.

Mr. Brown addressed the Board and reviewed a power-point presentation on Rice Stewardship Program.

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 10: Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including Johnny R Todd, Stephen Lee Souder, Kimberly Faulk, Tina Clyburn, Vance Mitchell, James Slade Schiurring, James Bradley Ezell, Charles Nash, Rick Foster, and Jimmy Wiley

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

Mr. Graham moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Polk, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Johnny R Todd, Dawson County #124, Subdivision 2, Replace Vacancy
Stephen "Lee" Souder, Salt Fork #133, Subdivision 3, Replace Cary Don Neeley
Kimberly Faulk, Atascosa County #307, Subdivision 1, Replace Tina Clyburn
Tina Clyburn, Atascosa County #307, Subdivision 3, Replace William Herbst
Vance Mitchell, Jackson #336, Subdivision 3, Replace David Bolling
James Slade Schiurring, Wharton County #342, Subdivision 4, Replace Larry Ledwig
Lindsey "Sonny" Koenig, Jim Wells County #355, Subdivision 1, Replace Lindsey Koenig (replacing his father-same name)
Albert Martinez, Jim Wells County #355, Subdivision 3, Replace Jerry Nock (resigned from Subdivision 4)
James "Bradley" Ezell, Freestone County #424, Subdivision 1, Replace Billy Manning
Charles Nash, Bedias Creek #428, Subdivision 1, Replace Ernest Strack
Lee Landess, Dalworth #519, Subdivision 1, Replace Jean Landess
Rick Foster, Collin County #535, Subdivision 4, Replace Michael McGill
Jimmy Wiley, Young #539, Subdivision 2, Replace Richard Ligon

AGENDA ITEM 11: Internal Audit of the Soil and Water Conservation District Grants and Financial Assistance Report

Mr. Rufus reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Fiscal Report for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2020

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: 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 16: Conservation Initiatives Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information and the handout.

AGENDA ITEM 17: State and Regional Flood Planning

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: 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 reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 21: 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 request as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Mahler called for a brief recess. Recess from 9:28-9:43.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: National Association of Conservation Districts – Technical Assistance

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Review 2019 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Christensen gave dates for upcoming annual meetings as follows:

2020 – 10/26-10/28 at Moody Gardens in Galveston

2021 – 10/03-10/06 at Kalahari Resort in Round Rock

AGENDA ITEM 28: Draft State-Level Memorandum of Understanding and Unfunded Cooperative Agreements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Upper Neches Soil and Water Conservation District #438 Subdivision Realignment

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Polk, Jr. moved for the approval of the subdivision changes as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Maverick County Soil and Water Conservation District #253 Subdivision Change

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Polk, Jr. moved for the approval of the subdivision changes as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Middle Clear Fork Soil and Water Conservation District #206 Subdivision Change

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 32: National Association of State Conservation Agencies/National Watershed Coalition Meeting Status Report

Mr. Davis and Mr. Isom reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Conservation Outreach: Rural and Urban Outreach

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Heitman read a thank you note to the Board Members from Karen Preece, and introduced Thomas (Jett) Preston, Emily Jarratt, and Allen Nash.

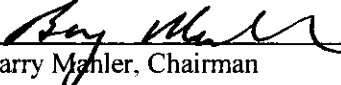
AGENDA ITEM 36: Employee Service Awards Presentation

Mr. Jared Bowen – 10 years
Ms. Anita Brazzle – 10 years
Ms. Dawn Heitman – 20 years
Mr. Ben Wilde – 20 years

AGEND ITEM 37: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

January 16, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.



Barry Mahler, Chairman

January 16, 2020
Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

January 16, 2020
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 21, 2019.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

January 16, 2020
Date