

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

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

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Kenny Zajicek, Operating & Fiscal Officer
John Foster, Policy Advisor & Intergovernmental Affairs
T.J. Helton, Program Administrator
Mitch Conine, Project Manager
Jana Lloyd, Grant Coordinator
Thomas (Jett) Preston, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dakota Massey, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator & Engineer
Allen Nash, Engineer
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
David Hentzen, Flood Control Specialist
Molly Christensen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Ellie Larson, Communications Specialist
Tory Matthys, Human Resources Coordinator
Shirley Brister, Staff Services Officer
Ronnie Ramirez, Planner
Teresa Reese, Natural Resources Specialist
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Kim Gamez, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator & Invasive Species Coordinator
Mark Cochran, 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
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Chris Couch, Program Specialist

Karen Preece, Accountant

Others Present:

Jerry Bergman, Office of the Attorney General
Kent Batman, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Kristy Oates, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Annalee Epps, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Joel Pigg, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 8:30 and called roll of the Board Members. Ms. Buford and Mr. Polk, Jr. were not in attendance.

Chairman Graham welcomed Jerry Bergman, Office of the Attorney General, as the new representative for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval to excuse Ms. Buford and Mr. Polk, Jr. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comment

There were no public comments.

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

There were no governmental entity comments.

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 employment and vacancies within their agency.

Mr. Mahler thanked Ms. Oates for all that the Natural Resource Conservation Service does to work with our agency.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Mr. Batman, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. Batman commented on the Texas Legislative Session, that award entries are due by the end of January, upcoming No Till meeting in Lubbock, South Plains meeting, Soil Health Workshop in Wichita Falls on March 9-10, Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 21-22, and Director Workshop in Temple on April 4-5.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Minutes from December 15, 2022 State Board Meeting

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

Chairman Graham called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 State Board Meeting.

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

AGENDA ITEM 8: Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including:

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

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

Timothy Roberts, Big Bend #227, Subdivision 4, Replace Billy Gene "Ike" Roberts
Kathy Hutto, Caldwell-Travis #304, Subdivision 1, Replace Tina Freeman
Warren Herbst, Atascosa County #307, Subdivision 3, Replace Tina Clyburn
Daniel E. Boone, Dimmit County #320, Subdivision 3, Replace Leslie "Eddie" Vivion
George R Mapus, Jr., Webb #337, Subdivision 5, Replace Carroll Summers
Darrell Lake, Hopkins-Rains #445, Subdivision 1, Replace Cody Koon
David M. "Mike" LaGrone, Rusk #447, Subdivision 4, Replace Odis Chapman
Bill H. Conner, Hamilton-Coryell #506, Subdivision 2, Replace Jack Wall

AGENDA ITEM 9: State Board Member Elections Update

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Consider Selection of Internal Auditor

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of selecting Mr. Monday Rufus to remain as Internal Auditor. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Feral Swine Control Pilot Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: On-the-Ground Conservation Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster stated that there is a Senate Finance Committee Meeting on February 13.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Legislative Appropriations Request

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Sunset Advisory Commission Review

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Bednarz stated that there may be funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Flood Control Program Dam Rehabilitation Projects

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 21: Policy and Procedures Manual for Flood Control Structural Repair Grant Program

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the manual as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Flood Control Program Chambers Creek 129 Dam Upgrade, Amendment 1 to Add Funding

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information and stated that there is no action needed at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: 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. Foster reviewed the agenda information and stated that there are no requests at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Cochran stated that there are only two bird flu cases in Texas at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Review of 2022 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information. Future venues have already been booked for 2023 in Fort Worth, and 2024 in Arlington.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: 2022 Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Annual Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Matthys reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Employee Service Awards Presentation

Shannon Kennedy – 5 years

Kimberly Gamez – 5 years

Teresa Reese – 15 years

Mitchell Conine – 15 years

Lawrence Brown, Jr – 20 years

Ronald Ramirez – 20 years

Karen Preece – 20 years

Mark Cochran – 25 years

Rex Isom – 35 years

AGENDA ITEM 10: Internal Audit Report on the Water Quality Complaint Program

Mr. Rufus, Internal Auditor, was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Basinger moved to table the agenda item until next Board Meeting. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Internal Audit Report on Fleet Management and Fixed Asset Inventory

Mr. Rufus, Internal Auditor, was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Basinger moved to table the agenda item until next Board Meeting. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Internal Audit Report on Follow-up of Prior Internal Audit Recommendations

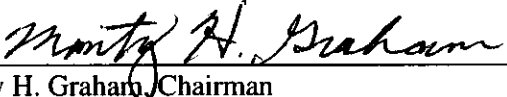
Mr. Rufus, Internal Auditor, was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Basinger moved to table the agenda item until next Board Meeting. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

March 21, 2023, to coincide with Legislative Day at the Capitol in Austin.

Mr. Basinger moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 a.m. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Marty H. Graham, Chairman

March 21, 2023

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

March 21, 2023

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, 2023.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

March 21, 2023

Date