

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 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:

David Basinger, Vice Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
Jose Dodier, Jr., Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Tina Buford, Member
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., 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
Daniel Blair, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dakota Massey, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, Geographic information Specialist
Lee Munz, Program Administrator & Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator & Engineer
Allen Nash, Engineer
David Hentzen, Flood Control Specialist
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Shirley Brister, Staff Services Officer
Heather Bounds, Government Relations Specialist
Molly Christensen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Ellie Larson, Public Affairs Specialist
Tory Matthys, Human Resources Coordinator
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator & Invasive Species Coordinator
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Kim Gamez, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Jr., Program Supervisor
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, 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
Jeff Cerny, Natural Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others Present:

Jerry Bergman, Office of the Attorney General
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Kristy Oates, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Monday Rufus, Monday Rufus & Co., PC, CPA's
Robert Gonzales, Monday Rufus & Co., PC, CPA's
Wesley Gibson, National Association of Conservation Districts
Shawn

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Basinger called the meeting to order at 8:33 and called roll of the Board Members. Chairman Graham was not in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval to excuse Chairman Graham. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comment

There were no comments.

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

There were no 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, and reviewed the handout.

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

Ms. Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented on Awards Banquets, the August South Central Region Meeting, Area III Soil Health Workshop, and a survey to districts about the working relationship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Minutes from March 21, 2023 State Board Meeting

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

Vice-Chairman Basinger called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2023 State Board Meeting.

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

AGENDA ITEM 8: Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including Cooper, Zirkel, Striegler, Steffek, Hancock, and Montgomery:

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

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented with contingencies. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

William Cooper, Devil's River #224, Subdivision 1, Replace Jake Gurley
Jeannie Zirkel, Bandera #229, Subdivision 5, Replace James Tony Watson
Bardin Striegler, McCulloch #249, Subdivision 3, Replace Lori Striegler
James Steffek, Lavaca #334, Subdivision 2, Replace Jerry F. Kurtz
Sherilyn Arnecke, Victoria #346, Subdivision 2, Replace Richard Brett Huegele
(contingent upon receiving Mrs. Arnecke's resignation signature and approval of Agenda Item 14 subdivision boundary changes)
Richard Brett Huegele, Victoria #346, Subdivision 3, Replace Sherilyn Arnecke
(contingent upon receiving Mrs. Arnecke's resignation signature and approval of Agenda Item 14 subdivision boundary changes)
Huey Hancock, Nacogdoches #401, Subdivision 4, Replace Glenn Adams
Lance Seamans, Long Leaf #439, Subdivision 1, Replace Stevan Sturrock
Thomas W. Harvey, Jr., Long leaf #439, Subdivision 5, Replace Millard Scott
Randy Montgomery, Callahan Divide #552, Subdivision 5, Replace Jay Ringhoffer

AGENDA ITEM 9: State Board Member Elections Update

Mr. Isom reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Fiscal Report for the 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Rufus reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Ms. Bounds and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Discussions ensued concerning Exception Items, the Right to Farm Bill, and our relationship with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Amendment to 31 Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 523, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management Program §523.6(e)(5)

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

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

AGENDA ITEM 14: Victoria Soil and Water Conservation District #346 Subdivision Boundary Changes

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 15: Sunset Advisory Commission Review

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Feral Swine Control Pilot Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: On-the-Ground Conservation Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Agency Strategic Planning Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Buford commented on staff doing a great job getting this completed.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: 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. Munz reviewed the agenda information and stated that there are no requests to consider at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information and stated that there are no requests to consider at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Planning of 2023 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Polk, Jr. moved to raise registration rates for all to \$205 per person. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Conservation Awards Program Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Isom and Ms. Daniel have been working together on this program: a survey has been sent out and a committee has been formed with plans to present information at the next State Board Meeting. Mr. Isom thanked Ms. Oates and the Natural Resource Conservation Service for helping to boost entries. Discussion about promoting award entries ensued.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Matthys reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Matthys presented Mr. Cerny with the first ever Employee of the Quarter, and Mr. Nash as the Get Fit Texas State Agency Challenge winner for our agency.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Employee Service Awards

David Morris – 10 years
Christopher Couch – 15 years
Clay Wright – 25 years

Mr. Isom recognized Mr. Oneth for his service to the agency and wished him well in his retirement.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Election of State Board Officers

Mr. Mahler nominated Mr. Basinger to serve as Chairman. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion.

Mr. Mahler called for nominations to cease. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion.

With no other nominations, Vice-Chairman Basinger called for a vote for himself to serve as Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahler nominated Mr. Buckles to serve as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion.

Mr. Mahler called for nominations to cease. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion.

With no other nominations, Vice-Chairman Basinger called for a vote for Mr. Buckles to serve as Vice-Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

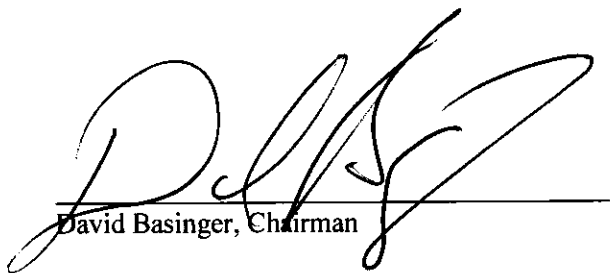
Mr. Polk, Jr. expressed his appreciation of serving on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board as a Governor Appointee for the last six years, but due to other commitments, he must resign from our board. Mr. Polk, Jr. stated that he had contacted the Governor's Office about his decision to resign.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

July 19, 2023 in Waxahachie. Flood Control Dam Tours to be conducted on July 20, 2023 in Waxahachie.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 a.m. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



David Basinger, Chairman

July 19, 2023

Date

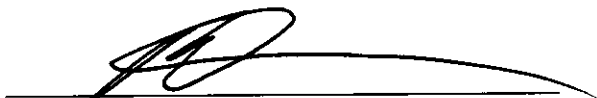


Karen D. Preece, Secretary

July 19, 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 May 18, 2023.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

July 19, 2023

Date