

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023, at 2:02 p.m.

2000 Civic Center Lane Waxahachie, TX

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

Board Members present:

David Basinger, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Vice Chairman
Marty H. Graham, Member
Jose Dodier, Jr., Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Tina Buford, 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
Dakota Massey, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Lee Munz, Program Administrator & Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator & Engineer
Allen Nash, Engineer
David Hentzen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Heather Bounds, Government Relations Specialist
Molly Christensen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
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
Mikel Thomas, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Jr., Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, 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
Chris Couch, Program Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others Present:

Jerry Bergman, Office of the Attorney General
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Brian Wenberg, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jeff Thomas, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Trina Lancaster, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Travis Moore, Ellis County, Ellis Prairie Soil and Water Conservation District
Alyssa Moore, Ellis County
Victoria Webber, Schnabel Engineering
Jimmy Crowder, Schnabel Engineering
Tom Sulak, Ellis County, Ellis Prairie Soil and Water Conservation District

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Basinger called the meeting to order at 2:02 and called roll of the Board Members.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

All Board Members in attendance.

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

Mr. Wenberg, 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 the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting in North Dakota, the upcoming August South Central Region Meeting, the FFA Convention, the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors, and that Resolutions have been requested.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Minutes from May 18, 2023 State Board Meeting

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda item and stated that she had previously emailed a copy of the minutes to Board Members for their review.

Chairman Basinger called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 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 Patterson, Silhan, Williams, Gibson, Collins:

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. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Matt Patterson, Cochran #149, Subdivision 2, Replace Austin McCasland (moving from subdivision 3 to 2)
Jacob Silhan, Cochran #149, Subdivision 3, Replace Matt Patterson
Hunter Williams, Middle Clear Fork #206, Subdivision 3, Replace Becky Pyburn
John Tyler Gibson, Walker County #453, Subdivision 1, Replace Ernest Collins (moving from subdivision 5 to 1)
Ernest Collins, Walker County #453, Subdivision 5, Replace John Tyler Gibson (moving from subdivision 1 to 5)

AGENDA ITEM 9: Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 10: Conservation Implementation Assistance (Technical Assistance) Allocations for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 11: Conservation Assistance (Matching Funds) Allocations for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Isom stated that this has been in the works for years, there was no funding, so this is a milestone.

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: District Director Mileage and Per Diem Allocations for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 13: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Amendment to Title 31 Part 17, Subchapter A, Section 519.8, Technical Assistance Program Eligible Pay Rates

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval to post the amendment in the Texas Register for a public comment period as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Adoption of Title 31, Part 17, Chapter 523(e)(5) Cost Share Incentive Funding

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the adoption to be posted in the Texas Register for a public comment period as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Adoption of Title 31, Part 17, Chapter 518, Subchapter C, Section 518.10 Relating to Restrictions on Vehicles

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information.

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

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the adoption to be posted in the Texas Register for a public comment period as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Dalworth Soil and Water Conservation District #519 Board Member Election

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 18: Sunset Advisory Commission Review

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Feral Swine Control Pilot Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: On-the-Ground Conservation Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Agency Strategic Planning Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval to adopt items as presented. Ms. Buford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Flood Control Program Federal Agreement Lower Plum Creek 28

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 24: Flood Control Program State Agreement Lower Plum Creek 28

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the agreement as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: 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.

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

AGENDA ITEM 27: 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 28: Water Quality Management Plan Program Cost Share Incentive Priorities, Allocations, and Application Ranking Procedures for 2024-2025 Biennium

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 29: Water Quality Management Plan Approved Practice List for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 30: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Planning of 2023 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: 2025 and 2026 Annual State Meeting of District Directors Proposal

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval to pursue Kalahari in Round Rock with the minimum food and beverage at \$90,000 instead of the proposed \$100,000, and if met, to proceed with securing the event for 2025 and 2026. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Conservation Awards Program

Ms. Ray and Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 37: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Matthys reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: 2025 and 2026 Annual State Meeting of District Directors Proposal REVISITED

Ms. Christensen asked to revisit this agenda item as the Board failed to mention which dates that they would prefer.

Mr. Graham moved to amend his motion to include the September dates and for the approval to pursue Kalahari in Round Rock with the minimum food and beverage at \$90,000 instead of the proposed \$100,000, and if met, to proceed with securing the event for 2025 and 2026. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 38: Salary, Employment, and Evaluation of Executive Director

Chairman Basinger thanked Mr. Isom for the dedication and performance of his duties. Chairman Basinger read the required General Appropriations Act for the 2024-25 Biennium Legislative increase in Executive Director salary.

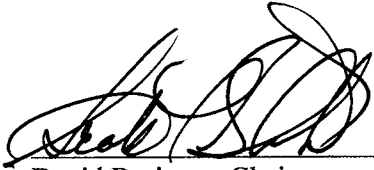
Mr. Mahler moved for the approval as stated in the General Appropriations Act. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 39: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

September 21 at Temple headquarters.

AGENDA ITEM 40: Adjourn Meeting

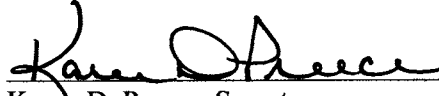
Mr. Graham moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



David Basinger, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Vice-Chairman

September 7, 2023

Date

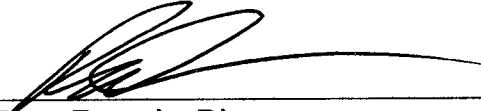


Karen D. Preece, Secretary

September 7, 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 July 19, 2023.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

September 7, 2023

Date