

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2022, 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
Barry Mahler, Member
Tina Y. Buford, Governor Appointee

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Operations & Fiscal Officer
John Foster, Policy Advisor & Intergovernmental Affairs
Liza Parker, Policy Analyst & Legislative Liaison
Lee Munz, Program Administrator & Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator & Engineer
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Molly Christensen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Ellie Larson, Public Affairs Specialist
Tory Matthys, Human Resources Coordinator
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator & Invasive Species Coordinator
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
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
T. J. Helton, Program Administrator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jett Preston, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Daniel Blair, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Shannon Sullivan, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others Present:

Danielle Balduff, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Rick Schilling, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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. Mr. Dodier, Jr. and Mr. Polk, Jr. were not in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to excuse Mr. Dodier, Jr., and Mr. Polk, Jr. Mr. Buckles 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. Balduff, 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

Mr. Schilling, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. Schilling commented on the FFA Convention in Fort Worth and the National Association of Conservation Districts Meeting in Puerto Rico. Mr. Schilling commented that August 25th is the deadline for the Resolutions, and the Monday dinner at the upcoming Annual State Meeting will have a Hawaiian Luau theme. Mr. Schilling also commented on Area Association Meetings coming up in September, Soil Health Workshops, and the South Central National Association of Conservation Districts in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Schilling thanked the Board and staff for support.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Minutes from April 28, 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 April 28, 2022 Board Meeting.

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

AGENDA ITEM 8: Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including Hillis, Williams, Masterson, Jacoby, Patterson, Broughton, Wheeler, Graham, McMillan, Kostiha, Barrow, Lewis, Lockhart, Elston, Mabery

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications with the exception of Mike Broughton's appointment being contingent upon receiving a signed resignation letter from James Fuller.

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

George Don Hillis, Donley County #127, Subdivision 3, Replace Dick Bode
Cody Williams, Yoakum #150, Subdivision 2, Replace Randy Forbus
Robert Masterson, King #168, Subdivision 3, Replace Larry Rush
Wert E. Love, IV, Highland #210, Subdivision 3, Replace David Williams
Mark A. Jacoby, Upper Llanos #225, Subdivision 3, Replace Kelly Kothmann
Dena Patterson, Waters Davis #318, Subdivision 5, Replace Wade Mock
Delbur Swanson, Wharton County #342, Subdivision 5, Replace Arthur A. Priesmeyer
Mike Broughton, Goliad County #352, Subdivision 2, Replace James Fuller (awaiting a signed resignation letter)
Alan B. Wheeler, Kleberg-Kenedy #356, Subdivision 4, Replace Trey Quackenbush
Garrett Graham, Trinity Neches #422, Subdivision 4, Replace Stanley Graham
Eugean Hinze, Harris County #442, Subdivision 2, Replace Clarence Helfrich
Ronny McMillan, Panola #448, Subdivision 5, Replace Dennis Golden
Jim Kostiha, Palo Pinto #518, Subdivision 3, Replace Jon Johnson
Jack E. Barrow, Upper Sabine #530, Subdivision 3, Replace Bill Buchanan
Ted Lewis, Jack #549, Subdivision 2, Replace Levi Kirk
Donnie Lockhart, Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos #551, Subdivision 4, Replace Monte McIntire
Randal Elston, Cross Timbers #556, Subdivision 2, Replace Bart May
Brandon Mabery, Brazos Valley #557, Subdivision 1, Replace Darwin Davis

AGENDA ITEM 9: State Board Member Elections Update

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 11: Conservation Implementation Assistance (Technical Assistance) Allocations for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: Conservation Assistance (Matching Funds) Allocations for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 13: District Director Mileage and Per Diem Allocations for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 14: Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2024-2025 Biennium

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 15: Conservation Activity Program Request Form Update

Ms. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

Discussion ensued and clarification that District Board Members families are not eligible to participate in awards except essay and poster contests.

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

Ms. Buford gave condolences to Ms. Ray for the passing of her Father-in-Law.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Sunset Advisory Commission Review

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Cross Timbers Soil and Water Conservation District #556 Board Member Election Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Agency Strategic Planning

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Feral Swine Control Pilot Program Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Parker was asked to review each of the following agenda items 22 through 27 and ask for approval on all items in one motion.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Readoption, Readoption with Amendments, or Repeal of Rules Contained Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 518, Subchapter B, Historically Underutilized Business Program

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Readoption, Readoption with Amendments, or Repeal of Rules Contained Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 517, Subchapter A, Conservation Assistance

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Readoption, Readoption with Amendments, or Repeal of Rules Contained Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 517, Subchapter B, Cost-Share Assistance for Water Supply Enhancement

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Readoption, Readoption with Amendments, or Repeal of Rules Contained Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 519, Subchapter A, Technical Assistance

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Readoption, Readoption with Amendments, or Repeal of Rules Contained Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 521, Subchapter A, Agricultural Water Conservation

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Readoption, Readoption with Amendments, or Repeal of Rules Contained Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 530, Carrizo Cane Eradication Program

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to readopt agenda items 22 through 27. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the policy as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: 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.

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

AGENDA ITEM 31: Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

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

AGENDA ITEM 32: Water Quality Management Plan Allocations for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 33: Water Quality Management Plan Approved Practice List for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

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

At 10:10, Chairman Graham called for a break. Meeting resumed at 10:24.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information and the handout.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM 37: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM 38: 2023 Conservation Awards Program Packet

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the packet as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 39: Planning of 2022 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 40: Planning of 2024 Location for Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval of Arlington as the site for the 2024 meeting location. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 41: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Matthys reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Matthys also stated that there has been a new hire for the Mount Pleasant office.

AGENDA ITEM 42: Employee Service Awards Presentation

Trey Watson – 15 years

Mr. Mahler commented on staff and leadership, and recognized Mr. Isom for his leadership and having been recognized on earning the Champion Award from the Agriculture Teacher's Association.

AGENDA ITEM 43: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

October 24, 2022, at Moody Gardens, Galveston at the Annual State Meeting of District Directors.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



Marty H. Graham, Chairman

October 24, 2022

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

October 24, 2022

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 28, 2022.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

October 24, 2022

Date