

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2023, at 8:31 a.m.

1497 Country View Lane, Temple TX

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

Board Members present:

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

Heather Bounds, Government Relations Specialist

T.J. Helton, Program Administrator

Mitch Conine, Project Manager

Jana Lloyd, Grant Coordinator

Thomas (Jett) Preston, Project Manager

Dakota Massey, Project Manager

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

Molly Christensen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Tory Matthys, Human Resources Coordinator

Shirley Brister, Staff Services Officer

Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator & Invasive Species Coordinator

Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor

Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor

Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor

Kim Gamez, 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

Joel Clark, Program Specialist

Chris Couch, Program Specialist

Matthew Beseda, Program Specialist

Pamela Blanton, Administrative Assistant

Karen Preece, Accountant

Others Present:

Melissa Juarez, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD)
Kristy Oates, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Doug Smith, USDA – Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 8:31 and called roll of the Board Members. Chairman Basinger absent.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to excuse Chairman Basinger. Mr. Graham 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, reviewed the handout, and commented that there is an upcoming Conservation Forum on September 26th at the Temple Hilton Garden Inn.

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 District South Central Region Meeting held in August in Arlington, the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors resolutions and tailgate dinner on Monday night, and upcoming Soil Health meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Minutes from July 19, 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.

Vice Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2023 State Board Meeting. Mr. Graham stated that the titles for the Chairman and Vice Chairman were incorrect. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the Minutes as amended to include David Basinger, Chairman, and Scott Buckles, Vice Chairman. Mr. Graham 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.

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

Nathan Morris, Lynn County #119, Subdivision 5, Replace Leland White
Tommy Waldrop, Donley County #127, Subdivision 1, Replace Curtis Schaefer
Jason Spangler, Lamb County #130, Subdivision 2, Replace Bruce Bridges
Dicky Hartman, Garza #158, Subdivision 2, Replace Randy Lewis
Gary Horne, Karnes County #343, Subdivision 3, Replace Norma Atkinson

AGENDA ITEM 9: Fiscal Report for the 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adoption to Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 17, Chapter 519, Subchapter A, Technical Assistance Program, Section 519.8, Eligible Pay Rates

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Buford moved for the approval of the adoption and to post in the Texas Register as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Establish New Pay Rate for Technical Assistance Program under Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 17, Chapter 519, Subchapter A, Technical Assistance Program, Section 519.8, Eligible Pay Rates

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Ms. Bounds reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee

Ms. Bounds and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster explained that the committee has not met in a while, will begin meeting again, and explained the purpose of the committee. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Sunset Advisory Commission Review

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: Agency Strategic Planning Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Nash reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Policy and Procedures for Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Control Structural Repair Grant Program

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the Policy and Procedures Flood Control Structural Repair Grant Program Manual developed by flood control staff for fiscal year 2024 as presented. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Policy and Procedures for Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Control Operation and Maintenance Grant Program

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the Flood Control Operation and Maintenance Grant Program Policy as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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 for consideration 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 for consideration at this time.

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

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Cochran stated that there are two pending approvals by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and not one as reported.

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. Discussion ensued. Mr. Oswald commented that there is approximately 1,250 miles of river, and that approximately 350 miles have been treated. Mr. Oswald also commented that the drones have a 95-98% kill rate, while helicopters have a 70-80% kill rate.

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 stated that Kalahari Resort accepted our counteroffer of the \$90,000 food and beverage minimum, and she has booked that venue for September 28-30, 2025 and September 27-29, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Matthys reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Employee Service Awards

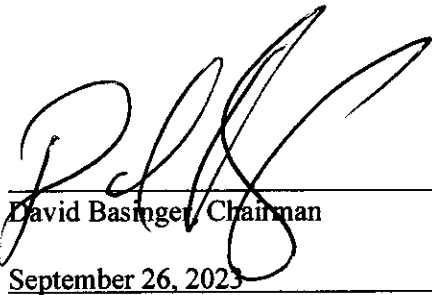
Debbie Skinner – 10 years (given to supervisor Mr. Cochran)
Pamela Blanton – 10 years
Ricardo Chapa – 15 years

AGENDA ITEM 30: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

November 16, 2023 at Temple headquarters.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Adjourn Meeting


Mr. Mahler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



David Basinger, Chairman

September 26, 2023

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

September 26, 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 September 7, 2023.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

September 26, 2023

Date