

AGENDA ITEM # 12

March 23, 1999

Consider approving a resolution in support of increased funding for the soil and water conservation program in Texas by the Texas Legislature.

Moved: Commissioner Boatright

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: To approve a resolution in support of increased funding for the soil and water conservation program in Texas by the Texas Legislature.

Vote: Motion carried 4 - 0

< Clerk copy here >

STATE OF TEXAS

*

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

KNOW ALL MEN BY THOSE PRESENT THAT ON THIS, the 23RD day of March, 1999, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, met in duly called session at the Courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

John C. Doerfler, County Judge

Greg Boatright, Commissioner, Pct. #2

David Hays, Commissioner, Pct. #3

Frankie Limmer, Commissioner, Pct. #4

Nancy Rister, County Clerk

and at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, for over a half century farmers and ranchers working in cooperation with local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) have built a legacy proving themselves willing and able to assume responsibility for the conservation of the state's soil, water and related natural resources; and

WHEREAS, since the 1940's technical assistance provided to landowners by soil and water conservation districts has been provided through a partnership with the federal government through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS); and

WHEREAS, the reduction of funds appropriated to the USDA-NRCS over the past two decades has drastically reduced the technical assistance available from this source; and

WHEREAS, federal mandated programs such as the Farm Bill, the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and other environmental laws have drastically increased the workload of soil and water conservation districts and NRCS Staff, thereby reducing the time available for direct assistance to landowners for traditional conservation planning; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to continue to strengthen voluntary conservation programs to improve management and efficiency of water use and to improve quality and quantity of water available for the citizens of Texas; strengthen locally led conservation programs to protect the state's soil resources; strengthen brush management programs for erosion control, water management and improvement of wildlife habitat, and strengthen voluntary conservation programs for timber stand improvement; and

WHEREAS, there are many public benefits received from SWCD programs such as the protection of local land values and local tax bases; protection of the agricultural productivity base; sustaining local economies, providing watershed protection and flood control; reducing sedimentation in streams, rivers and lakes; increasing or sustaining stream flows; enhancing groundwater recharge; enhancing local municipal and industrial water supplies; improving fisheries, wetlands and aquatic systems; maintaining stability of the state's overall water budget; maintaining a healthy wildlife population; helping protect threatened and endangered species; improving air quality; providing community services through soil interpretations for agricultural and community development; and improving quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court supports seeking increased funding of the soil and water conservation program in Texas by the Texas Legislature.

RESOLVED this 23rd day of March, 1999.

 3-23-99
John C. Doerfler, County Judge

ATTEST:


Nancy E. Rister, County Clerk

0078