Texas Board of Criminal Justice
162nd Meeting

Minutes

August 23, 2012
Austin, Texas
TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Meeting Schedule
August 23, 2012

Sheraton Austin Hotel
701 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Phone (512) 478-1111
Facsimile (512) 479-6458

Thursday, August 23, 2012

9:30 –10:15 AM Windham School District Board of Trustees
Executive Session – Bonnell Room

10:15 – 11:00 AM Windham School District Board of Trustees
Regular Session – Capitol Ballroom D

11:00 AM – 12:30PM Texas Board of Criminal Justice
Executive Session – Bonnell Room

12:30 – 1:30 PM Audit and Review Committee
Capitol Ballroom D

1:30 – 2:15 PM Business and Financial Operations Committee
Capitol Ballroom D

2:15 PM Texas Board of Criminal Justice
Regular Session – Capitol Ballroom D
TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sheraton Austin Hotel – Capitol Ballroom D
701 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

August 23, 2012
2:15 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Reconvene Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ)

I. Regular Session

A. Recognitions

B. Consideration of Approval of Consent Items
   1. Hazardous Duty Pay Authorization Requests
   2. Personal Property Donations
   3. Sale or Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods and Agricultural Personal Property
   4. 161st TBCJ Meeting Minutes
   5. Excused Absences

C. Report from the Executive Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

D. Report from the Chairman, TBCJ

E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding the Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Audit Plan

F. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Purchases and Contracts Over $1 Million

G. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Fiscal Year 2013 Proposed Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2014-2015 Legislative Appropriations Request

H. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 13.69, “State Counsel for Offenders”
I. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Amendments to Board Rule, Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Section 151.55, Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods and Agricultural Personal Property

J. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding a Proposed Land Transaction to Amend Water Line Easement at the Ellis Unit in Walker County, Huntsville, Texas

K. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Facilities Division Construction Projects
   1. Request to Replace Water Lines Distribution System at the Chase Field Unit in Bee County, Beeville, Texas
   2. Request to Construct Replacement Agriculture Facility at the Luther Unit in Grimes County, Navasota, Texas
   3. Request to Replace Fire Alarm System at the Lynaugh Unit in Pecos County, Fort Stockton, Texas
   4. Request to Replace Fire Alarm System at the Roach Unit in Childress County, Childress, Texas
   5. Request to Install High Mast Lighting at the Skyview Unit in Cherokee County, Rusk, Texas

L. Public Comments

Adjourn TBCJ

The TBCJ may discuss and/or take action on any of the items posted on this meeting agenda. The TBCJ may also convene into Executive Session on any of these matters when attorney-client privilege is warranted.
MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Meeting No. 162

The Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ or board) convened in regular session on Thursday, August 23, 2012, at 11:15 a.m. at the Sheraton Austin in Austin, Texas. The board met in executive session, reconvened in regular session at 2:41 p.m., and adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

TBCJ MEMBERS PRESENT: Oliver Bell, Chairman
Tom Mechler, Vice Chairman
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III, Secretary
Eric Gambrell
Judge Larry Gist
Janice Harris Lord
Terrell McCombs
J. David Nelson
Carmen Villanueva-Hiles

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE STAFF

PRESENT:

Brad Livingston, Executive Director
Bryan Collier, Deputy Executive Director
Jeff Baldwin Jerry McGinty
Mike Bell Susan McHenry
Melinda Bozarth Ron Steffa
Rudolph Brothers Rick Thaler
Jason Clark Bruce Toney
Matt Denny Carey Welebob
Scott Hornung Dee Wilson
Frank Inmon
Stuart Jenkins
Sherry Koenig
Angie McCown

OTHERS PRESENT: Dallas Reed, Office of the Governor; Candace Nolte, Office of the Lieutenant Governor; John Newton, Legislative Budget Board; the Honorable Dale Spurgin, Jones County Judge; Bryan Grimes, City of Anson; the Honorable Joe Heflin, former state representative; and members of the media.
Convene the Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Chairman Oliver Bell convened the 162nd meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ or board) on Thursday, August 23, 2012, at 11:15 a.m., noted that a quorum was present, and declared the meeting open in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, the Open Meetings Act. The board conducted executive session, which is closed to the public in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 551.074 and 551.076, the Open Meetings Act.

Reconvene Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Chairman Bell reconvened the regular session of the 162nd meeting of the TBCJ on Thursday, August 23, 2012, at 2:41 p.m., noted that a quorum was present, and declared the meeting open in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, the Open Meetings Act. He stated the board would be conducting business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register.

Chairman Bell recognized the Honorable Dale Spurgin, Jones County Judge; Dallas Reed, Office of the Governor; Candace Nolte, Office of the Lieutenant Governor; John Newton, Legislative Budget Board; Bryan Grimes, City Manager, City of Anson; and the Honorable Joe Heflin, former state representative, thanking them for their interest in the board’s activities. Chairman Bell recognized Kelsey Hiles, Carmen Villanueva-Hiles’ daughter, and presented her with a Chairman’s Coin to commemorate her visit.

Chairman Bell stated that the TBCJ is committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations on topics posted on the meeting agenda in accordance with Board Rule 151.4, “Public Presentations and Comments to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.” He noted that seven speaker registration cards had been received for public comment, and that a review of the rules for comments to the board would take place before the public comment portion of the meeting.

Recognitions

Chairman Bell recognized the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ or agency) employees who have achieved 25, 30, 35, and 40 or more years of service with the state of Texas during the months of June and July 2012. The TBCJ, along with Mr. Livingston, expressed their deepest gratitude for the continued service of these employees who represent the commitment of the TDCJ’s staff. To each of these employees, the TBCJ offered congratulations and thanks for their unwavering loyalty and dedication to the citizens of Texas.

(Attachment A – Employee Names)
Consideration of Approval of Consent Items

1. Hazardous Duty Pay Authorization Requests
2. Personal Property Donations
3. Sale or Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods and Agricultural Personal Property
4. 161st TBCJ Meeting Minutes
5. Excused Absences

Chairman Bell asked if there were any amendments or objections to the consent items as presented. Eric Gambrell stated that as his firm represented Wal-Mart and the San Antonio Food Bank and both entities provided personal property donations for approval, he would abstain from taking action on the consent items. Seeing no other objections or abstentions, Chairman Bell stated the consent items stand approved as posted in the meeting agenda. Chairman Bell requested that Mr. Gambrell’s abstention be noted for the record.

Report from the Executive Director,
Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
Correctional Staffing Update

Brad Livingston, TDCJ Executive Director, provided an update on correctional staffing. He reported that correctional officer (CO) vacancies have increased in recent months. The staffing challenge is related to the booming oil business in the west and south Texas regions. The staffing vacancies were approximately 2,750 at the end of July, which reflects 89.5% of CO positions filled. In the fall of 2007 when the staff challenges were at their peak, the CO vacancies were approximately 4,000. The difference between 2007 and the present is that in 2007, 20 to 24 of the units were substantially short of correctional staff. At the present time, seven to eight units are most affected by the staffing challenges and shortages. Mr. Livingston noted that as Jerry McGinty, Chief Financial Officer, reported in the Legislative Appropriations Request briefing in the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting, the TDCJ is seeking funding for the construction of bachelor officers quarters (BOQs) dormitories. He stated the departure of correctional staff to jobs in the oil field presents multiple challenges, part of which is monetary. The CO recruitment bonus in these areas has been increased to $3,000. Overtime has been authorized and is being utilized. Housing is also difficult to obtain and is expensive. The requested BOQ dormitories will help offset the cost in some measure. The staffing strategies in Region 4 and 5 developed by Human Resources (HR) and the Correctional Institutions Division (CID) have shown some success. Mr. Livingston recognized the outstanding efforts of these two divisions for their resourceful and insightful recruiting techniques and management of the current staffing challenges. He noted that the legislature will face significant fiscal challenges in the upcoming session. Mr. Livingston expressed his hope that the legislators will consider a pay raise for state employees. He pledged his and the senior staff’s commitment to continue to work for the benefit of TDCJ employees though the next session. Mr. Livingston mentioned that at times, trends will work in the TDCJ’s favor, noting that the offender population trends have been flat and offender populations are reduced in some areas. The agency has had the ability to soften some of the staffing challenges by closing several dormitories at the Connally Unit. This has freed many staffing posts and mitigates some of the
staffing challenges in that area. Senior staff continue to observe these trends and apply appropriate options as needed. Mr. Livingston emphasized that his staff is focused and committed to resolving these challenges to correctional staffing as much now as they were in 2007. He expressed his pride in the outstanding manner the HR and CID staff are stepping in and managing these challenges.

Chairman Bell mentioned that as the board members are traveling to the units they are speaking with the regional directors and wardens, who are being creative in terms of staffing. He noted that these individuals ensure that the critical functions are maintained and necessary adjustments are made for operations to be carried out. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Thaler, CID Director, and his staff for their focus and dedication regarding the staffing challenges.

Report from the Chairman, TBCJ

1. Review of Victim Services’ Notification Processes

Chairman Bell reviewed the Victim Services’ notification process. In providing direct, personal service, the TDCJ Victim Services Division continues to evaluate and advance its notification process to serve victims, surviving family members, witnesses, and other concerned citizens.

Victim Services, through the Victim Notification System (VNS), provides comprehensive written notifications to crime victims regarding offenders in TDCJ custody or on parole supervision. Those individuals who register to participate in the system can elect to receive these notifications by letter, e-mail, or both. There are over 80 points of possible notification regarding several phases of the offender’s incarceration and supervision, including the parole review process. With the close of fiscal year (FY) 2011 more than 159,000 individuals were registered with the division’s VNS.

There is a Victim Services toll-free number to assist crime victims Monday through Friday. Victim Services representatives are available to discuss with crime victims their rights and how to exercise those rights. In addition to the comprehensive written notification and toll-free number, VNS registrants also have the option of utilizing automated telephone services.

The call-in feature provides an automated telephone system that is accessible to registrants of the VNS, 24-hours a day, and seven days a week in both English and Spanish. During fiscal year 2011, more than 10,800 calls were received from the system’s registrants.

The call-out feature, available upon request, provides VNS registrants with an automated telephone notification when an offender is being processed for release from the agency by direct discharge or on parole or mandatory supervision. During FY 2011, 788 call-outs were made to the system’s registrants.

Further information on these notification processes and how to register to receive notice, in writing or by telephone, is available through the TDCJ website or by contacting the agency’s Victim Services Division.
2. **Chairman’s Fitness Challenge**

Chairman Bell reported that the fourth quarter of the 2012 Chairman’s Fitness Challenge – “Summer Olympic Games” concluded August 12th. During this quarter, participating staff earned more than 7.8 million exercise points.

Chairman Bell announced the following fourth quarter winners:

- Division 1 – First Place: the Board and Austin Executive Administration; Second Place: Laundry, Food Services and Supply; and Third Place: the Dayton Parole Office.

- Division 2 – First Place: the Office of General Counsel; Second Place: the Internal Audit Division; Third Place: Business and Finance Division.

- Division 3 – First Place: the Houston 3 Parole Office; Second Place: the Administrative Review and Risk Management Division; and Third Place: the Houston 7 Parole Office.

- Division 4 – First Place: the Walker Sayle Unit; Second Place: the Havins Unit; and Third Place: the Facilities Division.

- Division 5 – First Place: the Travis County State Jail; Second Place: Cole State Jail; and Third Place: the Parole Division Region 1 Office.

- Division 6 – First Place: the Manufacturing and Logistics Division; Second Place: the Huntsville Unit; and Third Place: the Henley and Plane State Jails.

- Division 7 – Windham School District: First Place: North Texas Region.

Chairman Bell thanked all TDCJ participants for their hard work and dedication. Chairman Bell advised that details on the 2013 Chairman’s Fitness Challenge were being finalized and would be released in the near future.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding The Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Audit Plan**

Scott Hornung, Internal Audit Director, reported that the Audit and Review Committee received an in depth briefing on the Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Audit Plan earlier in the afternoon. He stated that he would be pleased to answer any questions.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

*Leopoldo Vasquez moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the Internal Audit Plan for fiscal year 2013 and authorize the internal audit director to perform audit*
work outside of the audit plan if the director deems deviations are warranted, documented as required by the Texas Internal Auditing Act, and presented to the board at its next scheduled meeting.

David Nelson seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding
Purchases and Contracts Over $1 Million

Mr. McGinty provided a briefing on the purchases and contracts over $1 million. These included an increase to a FY 2012 food contract for Kegans State Jail, a contract for correctional laundry and food services equipment, and a FY 2013 food services contract for the Hamilton Unit.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Tom Mechler moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the purchases and contracts over $1 million, as presented.

Terrell McCombs seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding
the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Fiscal Year 2013 Proposed Operating Budget and
Fiscal Years 2014-2015 Legislative Appropriations Request

Mr. McGinty noted that at the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting, the board received a briefing that highlighted the operating budget and the proposed Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). The FY 2013 budget is $3,093 billion. The proposed requested amount for FY 2014-2015 is approximately $3.2 billion a year, which includes the 12 exceptional items.

Mr. Livingston thanked Mr. McGinty’s staff and the senior staff for their dedication in preparing the budget and the LAR, and said the budget request reflects the path that key policy makers put in place in the agency for a number of years. He said the budget request continues to highlight and prioritize funding for community corrections, parole supervision, rehabilitation, and reentry programs. Mr. Livingston noted that many states are looking to Texas for its success with respect to the treatment programs and stable offender populations. Chairman Bell added that even though Texas has had growth, the TDCJ offender population has remained stable and the crime rate in Texas has decreased.
Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. McCombs moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2014-2015 Legislative Appropriations Request as presented, and authorize the executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to make transfers as necessary and as authorized through the General Appropriations Act and other applicable laws.

Mr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Nelson expressed his concern regarding the exceptional item regarding health care. He requested Mr. Livingston provide the board with additional information to support the $141 million health care exceptional item by the next board meeting. Mr. Livingston responded that Mr. McGinty and his staff would gather the information and meet with Mr. Nelson at his convenience.

Chairman Bell called for a vote.

The motion prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 13.69, “State Counsel for Offenders”

Melinda Bozarth, TDCJ General Counsel, reviewed the proposed revisions to Board Policy 13.69, “State Counsel for Offenders.” Section II.A contains a new paragraph, which was relocated from section I. The policy contains no procedural revisions.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Eric Gambrell moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the revisions to Board Policy 13.69, “State Counsel for Offenders,” as presented.

Judge Larry Gist seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.
Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Amendments to Board Rule, Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Section 151.55, Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods and Agricultural Personal Property

Ms. Bozarth noted that the only substantive revision to the rule was in section (c)(2) which revises the method by which a report is sent to the Chief Financial Officer; the report is sent by e-mail instead of fax.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

*Carmen Villanueva-Hiles moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve for publication in the Texas Register, the proposed amendments to Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Section 151.55, regarding Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods & Agricultural Personal Property, to receive public comment, as presented.*

*Mr. Mechler seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.*

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding a Proposed Land Transaction to Amend Water Line Easement at the Ellis Unit in Walker County, Huntsville, Texas

At the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting, Matt Demny, Agribusiness, Land and Minerals Department Director, stated, the board received a report on a request to amend the water line easement at the Ellis Unit in Walker County. Riverside Water Supply Corporation has agreed to pay $5,250 for the amended easement, which adds approximately one acre of land to the current easement. All other terms and provisions of this easement will remain in effect.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

*Mr. Nelson moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve to amend the water line easement at the Ellis Unit in Walker County, Huntsville, Texas, as presented.*

*Ms. Villanueva-Hiles seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.*
Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Facilities Division Construction Projects

1. Request to Replace Water Lines Distribution System at Chase Field in Bee County, Beeville, Texas

Frank Inmon, Facilities Division Director, advised a briefing on this project was provided during the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting earlier in the afternoon. He requested that the board approve a program budget of $4,586,200 to replace the water lines distribution system at the Chase Field in Bee County.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Janice Harris Lord moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve a not-to-exceed budget of $4,586,200 to replace the water lines distribution system at Chase Field in Bee County, Beeville, Texas, as presented.

Mr. Nelson seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

2. Request to Construct Replacement Agriculture Facility at the Luther Unit in Grimes County, Navasota, Texas

Mr. Inmon stated that members received a briefing on this project during the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting earlier in the afternoon. He requested that the program budget of $1,794,900 to construct the replacement agriculture facility at the Luther Unit in Grimes County be approved.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Gist moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve a not-to-exceed budget of $1,794,900 to construct a replacement agriculture facility at the Luther Unit in Grimes County, Navasota, Texas, as presented.

Mr. McCombs seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

3. Request to Replace Fire Alarm System at the Lynaugh Unit in Pecos County, Fort Stockton, Texas

Mr. Inmon stated a briefing was provided during the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting on this request to replace the fire alarm system at the Lynaugh Unit. He requested that the program budget of $1,656,000 for this project be approved.
Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. Vasquez moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve a not-to-exceed budget of $1,656,000 to replace the fire alarm system at the Lynaugh Unit in Pecos County, Fort Stockton, Texas, as presented.

Judge Gist seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

4. Request to Replace Fire Alarm System at the Roach Unit in Childress County, Childress, Texas

Mr. Inmon stated a briefing was provided during the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting on the request to replace the fire alarm system at the Roach Unit. He requested that the program budget of $1,729,700 for this project be approved.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. Gambrell moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve a not-to-exceed budget of $1,729,700 to replace the fire alarm system at the Roach Unit in Childress County, Childress, Texas, as presented.

Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

5. Request to Install High Mast Lighting at the Skyview Unit in Cherokee County, Rusk, Texas

Mr. Inmon stated the board received a briefing during the Business and Financial Operations Committee meeting on this request to install a new high mast lighting system along the perimeter fence at the Skyview Unit. He requested that the program budget of $1,282,600 for this project be approved.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. McCombs moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve a not-to-exceed budget of $1,282,600 to install high mast lighting at the Skyview Unit in Cherokee County, Rusk, Texas, as presented.

Mr. Vasquez seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.
Public Comments

Chairman Bell stated that the TBCJ is committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations in accordance with Board Rule 151.4, “Public Presentations and Comments to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.” He reviewed the requirements for speaker registration in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Seven registration cards were received.

Angie Agapetus spoke in reference to the negative effects of solitary confinement. She mentioned that 4% of all incarcerated individuals are in solitary confinement. Ms. Agapetus requested that the board interview offenders in solitary confinement.

David Wright stated he was an ex-offender who had been assigned to administrative segregation. He asserted that while in administrative segregation he was not fed and he was assaulted and that living in administrative segregation constituted cruel and unusual punishment. He requested that the board review his TDCJ file and look at his complaints. Mr. Wright stated that he wanted the board to know that offenders just want better treatment while in administrative segregation. Chairman Bell asked Mr. Wright to give staff his TDCJ number to help facilitate his request.

Gloria Rubac expressed her concerns about the effects of isolation on offenders on death row in Texas. She noted that these negative issues of solitary confinement among offenders have become an issue of national interest. Ms. Rubac gave examples of offenders who self mutilated due to their confinement in isolation. She urged the board to visit and talk with offenders on death row and administrative segregation.

Alison Dieter spoke about conditions on death row. She requested that the board review the files of Christopher Wilkins, Charles Flores, Louis Perez, Billy Mason, Jeff Woods, and Hank Skinner regarding various concerns such as confiscated or damages property. Ms. Dieter asked if the 90 day lock down procedure was necessary. Additionally, she questioned the frequency of cell moves and bed checks. Ms. Dieter requested that the board consider supplying offenders access to craft materials and telephones.

Joanne Gavin addressed the abuses of solitary confinement, which she said has evolved from a short term punishment phase imposed infrequently for violating prison rules to a routine form of prison management. She noted that tens of thousands of offenders in American prisons are held in prolonged isolation in small windowless cells for up to 23 hours per day. Ms. Gavin stated that many studies point to findings that long term isolation can lead to suffering and may lead to mental illness and suicide. Ms. Gavin noted that the state of Mississippi has instituted some reforms regarding isolation in its prisons, which have resulted in lower incidents of staff and offender assaults. Ms. Gavin stated the first step in Texas would be to petition the legislature for clear standards to minimize this form of punishment.

Lynn Slater addressed the board to protest the improper punishment offenders receive on death row at the Polunsky Unit. Mr. Slater noted a law suit filed by the offenders on death row concerning their living conditions and suggested the law suit could be used as a management tool. He said he had prepared a paper for distribution among the board members. Mr. Slater
requested that the board protect the offenders who have filed the law suit from retaliation by correctional staff.

Chairman Bell called for Sandra Cook, who had pre-registered, to address the board. Ms. Cook was not present to speak.

Chairman Bell thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and announced that the next meeting of the TBCJ will be November 29-30, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Austin.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the regular session, Chairman Bell adjourned the 162nd meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice at 3:44 p.m.

*      *
Chairman                                      Secretary

*Signature on File

Note: Attachments to the minutes can be obtained by contacting the Office of Record, Executive Services.