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SEMINOLE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT - 1968

SANFORD, FLORIDA

The Seminole Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1948 under the laws of the State of Florida to provide landowners and operators with an organization through which they could more ably solve their soil and water conservation problems. Along this line, the District has available the services of two technicians of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. They are: Russell Rudd, District Conservationist, and John Winter, Conservation Engineering Technician. The District also has available the assistance of personnel from the SCS Area Office in Orlando.

Other personnel and agencies assisting with carrying out the District program in 1968 were, personnel from the Florida Forest Service, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Central Florida Experiment Station, the Farmer's Home Administration of the USDA, and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the USDA. The Seminole County Board of Commissioners contributed \$500.00 toward operation of the District in 1968, which was used for paying telephone bills, District dues, out-of-county travel for supervisors, and for office supplies. The County Road Department also contributed information relative to drainage from private properties where county roads and easements were involved.

The Board of Supervisors of the District is comprised of W. W. Linz, Chairman; James E. Hughes, Vice-Chairman; C. A. Wales, Secretary-Treasurer; and members Hubert Bagwell and Richard Schultz. The District office is located at 110 E. Commercial St. in downtown Sanford.

The Seminole Soil and Water Conservation District was instrumental in getting a Recreational Potential Appraisal started in the District in 1968 for the purpose of publicizing areas which may have potential for development as public attraction or recreation areas. A total of two meetings were held, and it is hoped that the information gathered can be put into published form in early 1969.

In 1968, the District Board of Supervisors wrote letters to its respective congressmen relative to the cutback in appropriations for Soil Conservation Service operations. Several letters were also written by growers and businessmen requesting that the proposed cuts in SCS funds be restored. By and large, the response to these letters was good.

New signs advertising the District have been erected along most of the major highways leading into and out of the District. These signs are attractive and should do much to let people know that the District is active in helping to solve soil and water conservation problems.

As in previous years, the District sponsored and promoted Soil Stewardship Week. Printed material was obtained from the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and distributed to local churches.

Ponds for water storage and for stocking with fish has become one of the most important practices done by landowners within the District. There are many low, swampy, unattractive areas within the District which are of little value except for building ponds. These areas can and are being made into attractive and useful spots which contribute to family recreation as well as being useful water impoundment areas. A total of eleven ponds were constructed in the District in 1968.

Another practice in which interest is growing is diking of overflow land along the St. Johns River, thereby providing year-round use of these lands for grazing purposes. These lands are normally flooded for several months of the year. Approximately six miles of dike was completed in the District in 1968 with District help provided by technical personnel of the Soil Conservation Service assigned to the District.

The major and ultimate goal of this District is getting the necessary conservation practices applied to the land to protect our natural resources. The Supervisors guide and direct the District Program. Activities include

receiving and approving applications for technical assistance from landowners or groups of landowners; overseeing the formulation of conservation plans and follow-up work essential to the application of such plans; keeping necessary records; attending local, area, and state meetings to keep informed on the latest developments and improvements in the conservation program; and preparing annual reports.

DISTRICT PROGRAM FOR 1969

Activity

Hold regular Board meetings	Notices by mail; telephone	3rd Wednesday of each month	Chairman
Publicize District operations	Talks; news articles; films; radio	All year	All supervisors and technicians
Promote and assist in Soil Stewardship Week	Purchase printed material from NASWCD and distribute to churches; news articles; radio	April-May	All supervisors; District Conservationist
Promote and get published the Recreation Potential Appraisal	Publicize; obtain necessary materials for publication.	February	All supervisors; District Conservationist
Continue to promote planning and application of conservation practices on the land	Provide technical assistance and guidance; news articles; radio	All year	All supervisors and technicians

1968 Annual Report respectfully submitted:

W. W. Linz, Chairman

C. A. Wales, Secretary