

SEMINOLE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 1961

SANFORD, FLORIDA

INTRODUCTION

The Seminole Soil Conservation District was organized by a group of local landowners in the latter part of 1948. The district follows the county boundaries and include all land and water in Seminole county. Seminole county was created and organized in 1913 and covers approximately 205,440 acres or roughly 321 square miles.

The district is a governmental subdivision of the State and is managed by a board of five (5) supervisors who are elected by landowners who live within the boundaries of the district. A special election is held every two years to elect supervisors to manage the district program. Each supervisor is elected for a four year term. In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot a nominating petition with the signatures of twenty-five or more qualified electors must be sent to the State Soil Conservation Board at least 30 days before the date set for the election.

As supervisors we plan and guide the district program. Our activities include: Receiving and approving applications for technical service from individual landowners or groups of landowners; ^{Determining} ~~Determining~~ priorities for work areas; Formulation of individual conservation plans and the follow-up work essential to the application of such plans; Keeping records; Attending local, area, and State meetings to keep informed on the latest developments and improvements in the conservation program; Prepare annual reports and keep the public informed of district activities and accomplishments. Our services are free of cost to the landowners as we receive no pay or any form of compensation.

Our concerted efforts are directed towards providing assistance to landowners in developing plans and establishing the conservation practices necessary for the conservation of soil and water and the improvement of agriculture in Seminole county.

Through a memorandum of understanding with the US Department of Agriculture and a supplemental memorandum with the Soil Conservation Service trained technicians are assigned to the district to assist in carrying out the district program. The technical assistance provided by the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service are free of cost and are ~~xxx~~ available to any cooperator or landowners in the district. The technical assistance consist mainly of: Assisting groups and individuals with planning and developing farm plans; Making detailed soil surveys of all lands within the farm boundaries; Designing and staking out proper tile and open drainage systems; Proper irrigation systems; Adequate water control structures; Wildlife improvements; Fish pond renovation, stocking, and fertilization; Woodland improvement by constructing firelanes, planting trees, and controlled burning; Crop rotations; Planting cover crops on crop land and in citrus groves; Pasture planting and improvement; and many other conservation or good management practices that will benefit the present landowners and at the same time insure that the land will remain productive and that the water supply will remain adequate for future owners of the land.

Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the Seminole District are Ben Wiggins-Work Unit Conservationist and John Winter-Conservation engineering technician. Engineers and soil scientists assigned to the area office in Orlando are also available to our district on a part time basis.

On October 17, 1961 a supervisors' election was held in this district. The terms of three supervisors expired on that date. C.A. Wales was re-elected for another term and W.W. Linz and Elbert Cammack were elected to fill the vacancies held by Robert E. Lee and Bonner L. Carter. The present board consists of: Ralph Hammond- chairman, C.A. Wales- Secretary & Treasurer, W.W. Linz- vice chairman, Jack P. Dodd, and Elbert Cammack.

Other personnel and agencies assisting in carrying out the district program were: Bill West-Vo-Ag instructor at Seminole High School; Don Farrens-Vo-Ag instructor at the Sanford Junior High School; Drs. Phil Westgate, R.V. Forbes, and other members of the Central Florida Experiment Station; Cecil Tucker II- County Agent; Curtis Green- local representative of the Farmers Home Administration; Homer Ballard-office manager of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; ~~and~~ Charles Chellman- local Farm Forester; And the members of the local Farm Bureau office.

Although several tracts of agricultural land was lost to industries and housing developments during 1961 interest in our soil & water conservation program remains high. Numerous requests for technical assistance were received from ~~xx~~ schools, clubs, county officials, housing developments, and other non-farm groups and individuals regarding soil and water problems. Many requests were also received from farmers and ~~xxxx~~ ranchers regarding major changes in land-use. The major land-use changes involves converting pasture and row-crop land to citrus production. Most of these land-use changes requires a major overhaul in the water control systems and consequently a greater amount of the technicians time.

Considerable damage was caused to the pastures, citrus, and row crops during the year by droughts or inadequate rainfall. The unusually dry weather caused an increased number of requests for technical assistance in designing adequate ~~water control~~ irrigation systems for individual farms. The water

levels in most of our inland ponds and lakes dropped several feet below normal during the year. Interest in a long range water control program for the district is constantly increasing. A joint application with the Orange Soil Conservation District for assistance under public law 566 was made for the Wekiva Watershed.

Our district is presently undergoing some major changes in land use mainly the loss of cropland and pasture land to new and better roads, new industries, and more housing developments. We believe these changes will result in more frequent floods and droughts than we have had in the past. The damages from the floods and droughts will also be more severe unless an adequate water control system is applied on each water-shed.

ACTIVITIES

In order to promote soil and water conservation in our public schools ~~we again participated in the~~ we again participated in the State public speaking contest. Allen Sandifer, FFA member at Seminole High School, won the district contest and received the third place award in the area eliminations held in Orlando. Interest in this phase of our program remains high as more schools and contestants have indicated a desire to participate in the 1962 contests. Approximately 325 people in the district heard these speeches on conservation.

Soil Stewardship week was also promoted and considerable interest was noted. Twenty-five sets of materials were presented to local ministers and church leaders and five churches are known to have used the materials in their sermons. Still greater interest in the observance of Soil Stewardship has been indicated for 1962.

Approximately 10 talks on conservation were given to Garden Clubs, Civic clubs, Scout Troops, and Schools by our technician. Sixteen timely news articles were prepared and published by local news papers in regards to the conservation of our soil and water resources. Six films on conservation were shown to

students at local schools and to Vo-Ag classes during the year. Outlines and sets of materials were given to several school teachers who had not previously received them. Our technician also served as counselor for conservation merit badges with local scout troops and also assisted several individual boy scouts with conservation projects during the year. Five tours were conducted to acquaint farmers, ranchers, school teachers, and students with local soils, land capability, and the main conservation practices being applied in this district.

Eleven regular or monthly supervisors' meetings were held during the year. The discussions at these meetings enabled us to get a better understanding of the new and existing problems and the proper methods of solving the soil & water problems within the district. We feel that these regular meetings are necessary in order for us to do a creditable job of managing the district program. The annual State supervisors' meeting was held in Tampa and those attending from this district were supervisor C.A. Wales and our technician Ben Wiggins.

Considerable progress was made in soil survey mapping in our district in 1961. Standard soil surveys were completed on 40,169 acres by Al Furman and Horace "Shorty" White, soil scientists from the Orlando Area. As of December 31, 1961 the total land in this district mapped as standard surveys amounted to 135,241 acres. According to Furman standard soil surveys are scheduled to be completed on all land in the Seminole district by the end of 1962; however, the inking of the various soil types on the aerial photos and the preparation of the completed soil survey for the county will require several months before it is available for distribution or publication. The completion of the survey work will certainly speed up our conservation practices and will also be very valuable our county engineer and other county officials.

Notable progress was also made towards our ultimate goal of working out basic conservation farm plans with all farmers, ranchers, and growers and applying the practices necessary to keep the land productive for future generations. During the year thirty basic conservation plans covering approximately 9,114 acres were worked out with local cooperators. As of December 31 over 430 basic plans covering approximately 58,100 acres had been worked out with individual land owners. Thirty-two agreements were signed with new cooperators and seven basic plans were revised during the year.

D I S T R I C T P R O G R A M F O R 1 9 6 1

<u>Activity</u>	<u>How</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>
Continue to promote planning & application of conservation practices on the land.	By providing technical assistance & guidance.	Jan-Dec	Supervisors & Technicians
Hold regular Board meetings each month.	Notices by mail	The 4th Wednesday of each month	Supervisors SCS Technician Secretary
Participate in the State Soil & Water Speaking contests.	By providing awards and publicity	Feb-Aug	Supervisors & WU Technician
Promote and Assist in Soil Stewardship Week.	By purchasing guides and materials from our NASCD and giving them to local ministers and church leaders.	May	Supervisors & WU Technician
Cooperate with local Bankers in the selection of cooperators for Bankers' awards.	By contact with Bankers and conducted tours of eligible farms.	November	Supervisors & WU Technician
Provide and Erect District Road signs ON Main Highways Entering District.	By purchasing them from our NASCD and erecting them according to instructions from State Rd. Dept.	August	Supervisors & WU Technician

<u>Activity</u>	<u>How</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>
Improve degree of application of engineering practices planned by our SCS Technicians.	By a more thorough screening of applications before approving for technical engineering assistance.	As received,	Supervisors
Continue to promote the closing of abandoned flowing wells.	By Demonstrations and Publicity.	Jan. - Dec.	Supervisors WU Technician
Publicize District Operations	By: writing news articles, showing films, conducting tours of district, and by giving talks on conservation to schools, garden clubs, and civic clubs.	Jan * Dec	Supervisors WU Technician

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

At the close of 1961 our district owned one Martin-type ditcher valued at approximately \$50.00 and one rotary-type mower valued at approximately \$150.00. A small rental fee is charged to the users of this equipment to help pay depreciation and cost of repairs.

The Seminole county commissioners approved a budget request, submitted by our board, for \$495.00 towards paying part of the expenses of running the district. The appropriation from the commissioners is to be used for paying district expenses such as; Telephone bills, Awards and educational materials, Soil Stewardship materials, expenses for supervisors to attend out of county meetings, district office supplies, annual audit of district books, and publication of supervisors annual report.

1961 Annual Report Respectively Submitted By:

Ralph Hammond, Chairman-----	<i>Ralph Hammond</i>
W.W. Linz, Vice Chairman-----	<i>W.W. Linz</i>
C.A. Wales, Sec. & Treasurer-----	<i>C.A. Wales</i>
Jack P. Dodd-----	<i>Jack P. Dodd</i>
Elbert Cammack-----	<i>Elbert Cammack</i>

1961 STATISTICAL INFORMATION

I. GENERAL

Yes

1. Is the District Treasurer bonded? Yes
2. Was an audit of district receipts and disbursements made for 1961? Yes
3. Clerical assistance received-- full-time _____, part-time _____.

II. SPEAKING CONTEST

Two

Six

1. Number schools participating _____
2. Number student contestants _____ 325
3. Estimated number people hearing speeches _____
4. Amount prizes awarded \$ _____

III. SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

5

1. Number of churches participating _____ 25
2. Number of sermons delivered on soil stewardship _____ 650
3. Estimated number of people attending services _____
4. Other _____

IV. BANKER'S AWARD PROGRAM

0

1. Number selected for award _____ 0
2. Award made at _____ meeting attendance _____
(Kind of Meeting)

V. TOURS OR SPECIAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED

5

140

1. Number of acquaintances, Farmers, Teachers, and Students with the conservation practices and with the Soil & Water problems within this district.
2. Purpose _____

VI. EXHIBITS

1

1. Number of conservation pictures displayed _____ 1 (banks, stores, etc.)
2. Number for fair or special programs _____

VII. DISTRICT PROGRAM

10

1. Explained to (NO.) _____ (club, school or group)
2. Attendance _____ 225 _____ 0 _____ 0
3. Number radio programs presented _____ 16 _____ T.V. _____
4. Number of newspaper releases _____ 0 _____
5. Printed district annual report copies distributed _____

VIII. SCOUTS

4

1. Number of Scout Troops assisted as counselor for cons. merit badges.
2. Kind of Assistance _____

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES (land judging contest, essay, poster and etc.)

- our technician also assisted two groups from local FFA chapters with
1. What preparation for land judging contests. Both groups was very much interested.
 2. Results _____

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

District _____ Florida
 (Name) (District Office) (State)

WHOLE

Period: January 1, 1961 to December 31, 1961

RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)	
Balance Brought Forward (Dec. 31, 1960) and to include amounts in savings accounts	
Co. Bd. Commissioners (supplies, equipment, aids, clerical help & etc.)	12.40
	421.43
Receipts from rental of District Equipment	233.00
TOTAL	XXXXXXXX
EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED)	
Co. Bd. Commissioners (Total Expenditures for District)	
	421.43
Supplies & Repair of District Equipment from District account.	123.53
TOTAL	XXXXXXXX
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (Dec. 31, 1961)	
	550.06

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

District

Seminole

(Name)

(District Office)

Florida

(State)

Period: January 1, 1961 to December 31, 1961

RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)

Balance Brought Forward (Dec. 31, 1960) and to include amounts in savings accounts	12.40
Co. Bd. Commissioners (supplies, equipment, aids, clerical help & etc.)	421.43
<i>Receipts from Rental of District Equipment</i>	233.00
TOTAL	XXXXXXX 666.83

EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED)

Co. Bd. Commissioners (Total Expenditures for District)	421.43
<i>Supplies</i>	
<i>Repair of Equipment out of District account</i>	129.53
TOTAL	XXXXXXX 550.96
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (Dec. 31, 1961)	115.87 / 115.87