

HARDEE
SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Yours for Life

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Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District

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Mission Statement:

To provide leadership with the objective to help people conserve, improve, and sustain the natural resources and environment of Hardee County, Florida.

Board of Supervisors

**Chairman – Charles Matheny
Vice-chairman – Larry Davis
Treasurer – John Platt
Supervisor – Steve Johnson
Supervisor – Cindy Weinstein**

**316 North 7th Avenue, Suite 101
Wauchula, Fl. 33873**

Introduction

The Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1944 as a Governmental Subdivision of the State of Florida, Governed by Florida Statutes, Chapter 582, enacted in 1937, to allow local Districts to develop and carry out a program of conservation for Florida's soil and water resources.

The Conservation District was established by local initiative. It is governed by five supervisors elected at the General Primary Election, who serve without pay. The District is much more than a governmental entity: civic minded individuals direct it with local grass roots interest in resource conservation.

Agriculture plays a major role in Hardee County's Economy. The District's agricultural program currently includes the conservation planning and application, efficient irrigation water management, animal waste management, wildlife management, and soil erosion control.

Through the years, the District has also taken an active interest in natural resource planning and environmental issues other than agriculture, but very important to an urbanizing Hardee County, such as:

1. Soil Survey use and application in land use planning.
2. Wetland identification and use.
3. Environmental education.
4. Development of soil potentials and their application for specific land uses.
5. Public information through newsletter, presentations, workshops and media.

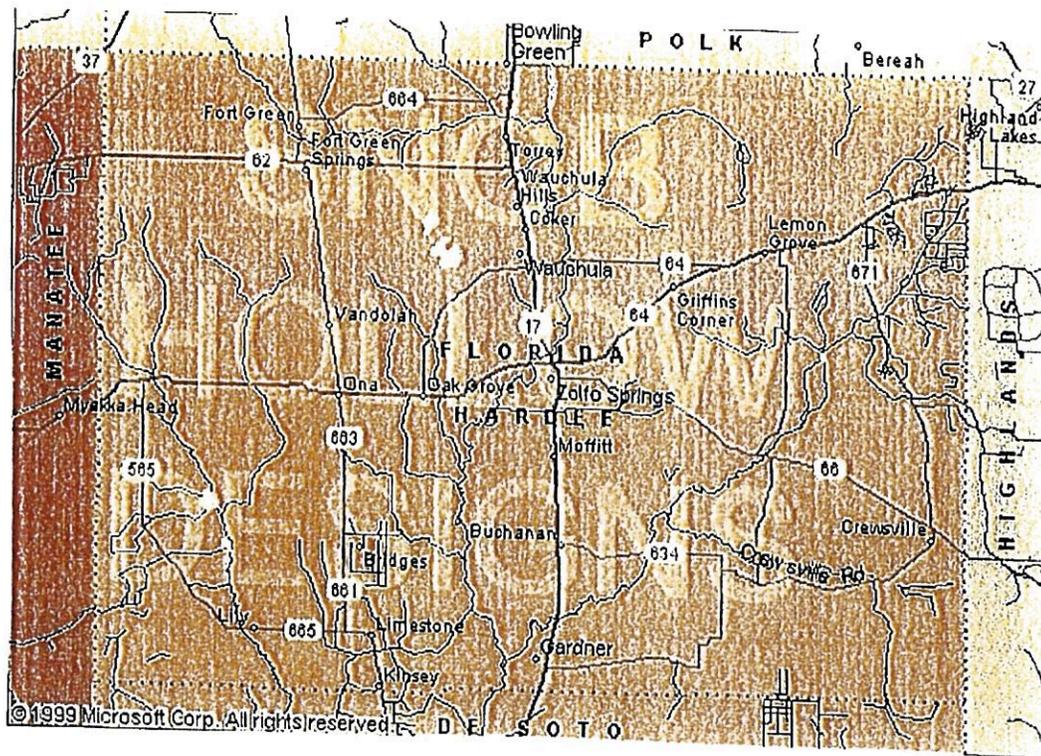
The District works very closely with the Hardee Board of County Commissioners. They are one of the main sources of funding for the District. We also work with local, state, and Federal Governments as well as other agencies to produce and overall inner relationship to further our goals. The district has a staff two full time employees. Our office is located behind the library at 316 North 7th Avenue, Suite 101. We are in the USDA office.

A close working relationship exists between the district and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Through a formal Memorandum of Understanding, the NRCS staffs a District Conservationist who provides local guidance and assistance for NRCS programs and provides additional technical staff.

The District Supervisors have set forth the following long-range objectives based on the total soil and water needs of the county. The objectives are based upon the desire to make Hardee County a better place in which to live, to work and to enjoy life.

Description

The Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District includes all of Hardee County in Florida. It is bounded on the North by Polk County, on the East by Highlands County, on the South by DeSoto County and on the West by Manatee County. The District comprises 630 square mile or 403,200 acres.



Soil and Water Conservation Needs

Projected population growth in Hardee County will result in tremendous pressures on the land and water resources. The Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to emphasize the careful use of the soil and water resources through conservation planning and application. Meeting the conservation needs of Hardee County will require solutions which are economically, socially, and environmentally feasible.

We will continue to encourage the public to participate in identifying conservation needs as more participation will be needed to implement this plan and a well balanced soil and water conservation program.

Each year, many acres of agricultural land are converted to other non-agricultural uses. The majority of this has come from unimproved rangeland and woodland. However, there is a need to encourage the protection and preservation of valuable and unique farmlands in the district. It is important that attention is given to agricultural producers to conserve and protect soil and water resources while encouraging high levels of crop production. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of local agriculture to the economy of Hardee County and the State of Florida.

A. Water Quality and Quantity

1. Irrigation/Water management

The efficient use of irrigation water will be promoted within the District. Irrigation system reorganization to achieve higher efficiency, resources recovery and reuse, and irrigation water management will be needed to conserve valuable water.

2. Water Control Systems

Improvements of existing agriculture drainage systems are needed to promote increased crop production. They are also necessary to meet surface water control standards established by regulatory agencies. Provisions must also be made for the protection of wetlands within the design of water control systems.

Agricultural Land and Water Resources

Goal Number 1: Keep soil erosion losses and off-site sediment damage at low levels in Hardee County.

- Strategy:
- A. Support the continued application of soil conserving practices on Hardee County's agricultural land.
 - B. Help implements TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) EPA Clean Water Act) program requirements.
 - C. Participate in plant materials center field testing program with the soil conservation service.

Goal Number 2: Improve delivery of technical and financial assistance programs to Hardee County farmers.

- Strategy:
- A. Continue to support Hardee County Cooperative Extension Service, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and other State and Local Agencies which provide direct services to Hardee County farmers. Encourage adequate staffing and funding for the above.
 - B. Working with local farmers to obtain state permitting, and land conservation technical assistance.

Goal Number 3: Conserve Irrigation Water.

- Strategy:
- A. Encourage water conservation by emphasizing low volume emitter irrigation systems for citrus, closed practical and provided assistance in developing an irrigation water management plan conveyance trickle systems for pasture and row crops where for each irrigation system.
 - B. Working to promote MI labs for improvement of irrigation efficiencies.

Goal Number 4: Improve Water Quality

- Strategy:
- A. Work with landowners to improve water quality through conservation planning, proper natural resources management, and BMP implementation through non-regulatory, incentive-based programs.

- B. Work with the FOACS, WMDS, adjacent SWCD's, and other to implement the TMDL (EPA-Clean Water Act) water quality improvement program on public and privately owned lands in Hardee County.

Goal Number 5: Orderly Development

Strategy

- A. Review impact statements and development plans on projects effecting the resource base or environment of the Hardee District and respond appropriately.
- B. To improve quantity and quality of the forages produced on pasture and rangeland, while practicing soil and water conservation measures. Assisting ranchers with forage and rangeland improvements, with increased caring compasitet improve wildlife habitat.
- C. Promote the installation, operation, and maintenance of animal waste management systems as needed to reduce non-point source pollution on local dairy, beef, swine, and poultry producing operations.
- D. Wildlife values through habitat management need to be retained and improved on agriculture lands. Wetlands will be protected as they provide an important component of wildlife habitat. The endangered and threatened species of Hardee County will be protected as to enhance habitat for their survival.
- E. Soil erosion resulting from wind and water forces shall be Minimized for increased crop production and problems Associated with soil erosion, such as sedimentation and water pollution.
- F. The Hardee SWCD will assist state agencies in the management of state owned property through conservation planning, implementation, and management services.

Goal Number 6: Continue to strongly emphasize the need to use the Hardee County soil survey in land use planning and developing.

- Strategy:
- A. Formally participate in the county subdivision and site plan review process.

Goal Number 7: Control soil erosion and offsite sediment damages from land development activities in Hardee County.

- Strategy:
- A. Explore need for Hardee County soil erosion and sediment control ordinance. Implement if needed.
 - B. Work with plant materials center field trails on eroding construction sites when appropriate.

Goal Number 8: Conservation education and information

- Strategy:
- A. Inform the public of soil and water conservation district activities and concerns with news articles and other available means.
 - B. Promote conservation education in the schools.
 - C. Sponsor contests, tours, and other activities that promote conservation.

Goal Number 9: Reclamation of mined land

- Strategy:
- A. Cooperate with the phosphate industry and governmental agencies in developing and implementing a program of reclamation of mine lands in accordance with county regulations.

Goal Number 10: Support programs aimed at conserving and increasing Hardee County's water resources.

- Strategy:
- A. Reinforce Southwest Florida Water Management District and in the water conservation aspects of their programs.

Goal Number 11: Continue district operations planning

- Strategy:
- A. Conduct annual, or as needed, local working group meetings to outline district priorities and plans regarding local conservation needs. Involve public agencies, private organizations, and the general public in these planning efforts.

State of Florida

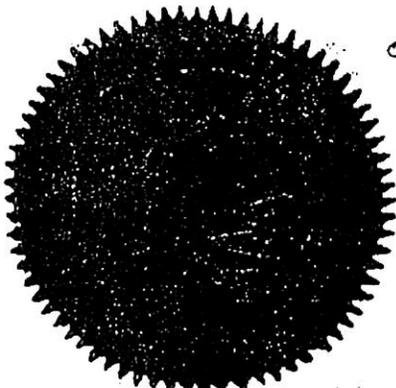


Office of Secretary of State

J. R. A. Gray, Secretary of State of the State of Florida,
do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of

All papers recorded in this office on the sixteenth day of June, A. D., 1944 in Soil Conservation Districts Book No. 1, at pages 138-141, relating to the creation of a Soil Conservation District under the name of "HARDEE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT", a Soil Conservation District organized under the Laws of the State of Florida.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Florida at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the seventeenth day of June, A. D. ~~1943~~ 1944.



J. R. A. Gray
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

HARDEE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

and the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This Memorandum of Understanding is between the Hardee Soil Conservation District, State of Florida, hereinafter called the District, and the United States Department of Agriculture, hereinafter called the Department. It is effective on the date it is signed by or for the Secretary of Agriculture, and replaces any Memorandum of Understanding heretofore entered into between the District and the Department.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The District has been organized pursuant to the Soil Conservation Districts Law of 1937, Florida, Chapter 582, as a governmental subdivision of the State as evidenced by its certificate of due organization, a copy of which is on file in the Department. It is prepared to exercise within its boundaries public powers as authorized by that law, as amended and supplemented.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized under the terms of various statutes administered by the Department to carry out a broad program of assistance to farmers, ranchers, and landowners including soil and water conservation, watershed protection, flood prevention, farm forestry, and rural areas development, and encompassing research, education, technical assistance, cost sharing and credit. This program may include cooperation with and assistance to soil conservation districts in conserving and improving soil, water, vegetative, wildlife, and related resources, and in reducing damage by floods and sedimentation.

The District has adopted a revised program outlining in general its longtime soil and water conservation and resource-use objectives, a copy of which is attached. The District is engaged in carrying out this program. The District has available, or in the future may have, services, facilities, and funds from Federal, State, local and private sources for use in carrying on its work.

The District and the Department have the common objective of helping to bring about the use of each acre of Agricultural and other land within the limit of its capabilities and the treatment of each acre in accordance with its needs for protection and improvement. Cooperation will be mutually helpful to the District and the Department in achieving this common objective. This Memorandum of Understanding established an enduring basis for such cooperation and assistance.

A. WHAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL DO

The Department will cooperate with and assist the District in carrying out its longtime soil and water conservation and resource-use program. Such assistance as is consistent with the Department's statutory authority and available resources will be provided through its various agencies in accordance with Department regulations. Such assistance will be made available through Supplements to this Memorandum of Understanding, or other appropriate arrangements, developed between the District and each agency of the Department cooperating with the District.

B. WHAT THE DISTRICT WILL DO

1. The District, upon request or upon its own initiative, will consult with and make recommendations to departmental agencies carrying on conservation work within the District, with respect to the development and

administration of conservation activities and the over-all conservation problems and work plans of the District, to best effectuate the purpose of these activities.

2. The District will prepare an annual work plan to serve as a guide in carrying out its program during the year ahead.

3. Where the aid to be furnished by the District to owners and operators of land in carrying out conservation and resource-use plans involves assistance provided the District by an agency of the Department, the District will enter into agreements with those owners and operators, fixing the responsibilities of the parties in carrying out those plans. The forms of such agreements are to be acceptable to the Departmental agency involved. Where assistance is limited to consultive type services, suitable informal arrangements rather than formal agreements are appropriate.

4. The District will be responsible for determining the kind, amount and priority of work to be performed by it on farms, ranches, and other land, and for seeing that the provisions of agreements it enters into with owners and operators of land are carried out.

5. The District will provide such funds, personal services, and facilities as it is able to obtain for carrying on its work.

6. The District will not charge for assistance made available by the Department and will conduct its work in such manner that cooperating land owners and operators, and the public generally will understand that any charges it may make are not for that assistance.

7. Within 60 days after the end of each calendar year, the District will submit to the Department of Agriculture, through the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service, an annual report on the District's activities

and accomplishments. The District will send a copy of its annual report to each cooperating Departmental agency. The District will keep its records in such a way that the agencies of the Department cooperating with the District may obtain adequate information as to the District activities by examining these records.

0. The District will inform all cooperating agencies of the Department of any substantial changes in its longtime program in order to avoid possible misunderstandings in carrying out the District's work.

C. IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD

1. Assistance supplied to the District by a Departmental agency will be furnished in accordance with the agency's applicable authorities and policies.

2. Any assistance in carrying on educational or farm forestry work made available to the District by Departmental agencies will be furnished in accordance with existing or future agreements between the Department or its agencies and State agencies.

3. This Memorandum shall not be construed to affect the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, or any agencies thereof, over Federally-owned land which may lie within the boundaries of the District.

4. Departmental agency personnel and facilities shall be under the administrative jurisdiction of the Departmental agency involved.

5. Any equipment and materials made available to the District by Departmental agencies shall be utilized by the District in accordance with an agreement entered into governing their use.

6. Personnel, facilities and funds available to the Districts from State, local and private sources shall be under the administrative jurisdiction of the District or of the cooperating State or local agency.

7. Neither the Department nor the District shall be bound by any obligation in this Memorandum or any Supplement thereto or other appropriate arrangements which will involve the expenditure of funds in excess of the amounts made available to it, or for a period in excess of that authorized by law.

8. All matters that may require administrative action or approval by any agency of the Department will be handled through the established administrative procedures of that agency and of the Department.

9. This Memorandum may be modified or terminated at any time by mutual consent of the parties hereto or may be terminated by either party alone by giving sixty (60) days' notice in writing to the other.

10. Any Supplemental Memoranda of Understanding or other appropriate arrangements now in effect between the District and an agency of the Department shall remain in full force and effect, and shall be subject to all of the provisions hereof.

HARDEN SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

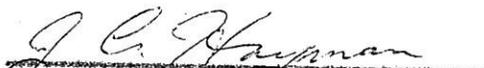
By



Chairman, District Governing Body

The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding was authorized by a resolution of the District Governing Body adopted at a meeting held on

September 21, 1964.



Secretary, District Governing Body

Date: September 21, 1964.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By

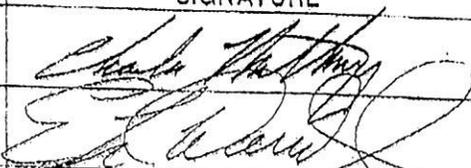
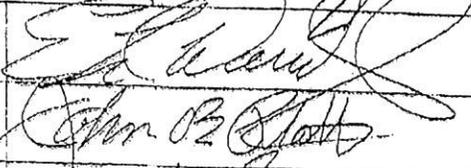
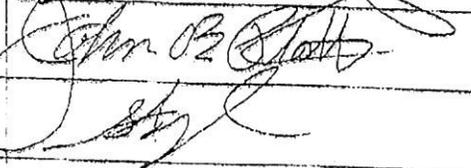
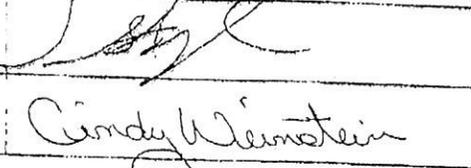
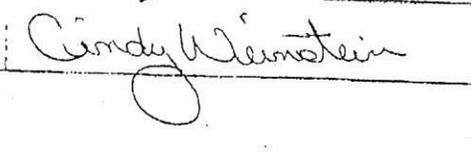
Secretary of Agriculture

Date: _____, 19__.

Adoption

Recognizing the Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District as a governmental subdivision of the State of Florida, a body corporate and politic, organized in accordance with the provisions of the Florida Soil Conservation Districts Act of 1937, Chapter 18144, as amended by the Act of 1939, Chapter 19473, and as amended by the Act of 1953, Chapter 28094, for the purpose, with the power, and subject to the restriction set forth therein, the supervisors hereby adopt this program.

Hardee Soil and Water Conservation
District Adopted Board of Supervisors

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	POSITION
Charles Matheny		Chairman
Larry Davis		Vice-Chairman
John Platt		Treasurer
Steve Johnson		Member
Cindy Weinstein		Member