

INDIAN RIVER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1945 by a referendum vote under Chapter 582 Florida Statutes. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and is managed by a 5 member Board of Supervisors, elected from within the District. District boundaries coincide with those of Indian River County.

Chapter 582 spells out State policy on soil and water conservation which in part is to...."provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources of this state, and for control and prevention of soil erosion, and for the prevention of flood water and sedimentation damage, and for furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby to preserve natural resources and control floods.....".

It is the responsibility of the Board to assist landowners or units of local government in modifying and improving local land use practices in order to meet the intent of Chapter 582.

The Board has a written agreement for full time technical assistance from the USDA Soil Conservation Service, and another agreement with the Florida Forest Service for assistance in forestry related conservation practices.

Present Board members are Jan Kromhout (chairman), J. Pat Corrigan, Ray Hogan, Mark Tripson, and Marvin Carter. Board members are elected every 2 years by voters within the District.

Meetings are held on the third thursday of every month and are open to the public. Suggestions for making this arrangement better meet the needs of Indian River County are welcome and encouraged.

Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District
Post Office Box 177
Vero Beach, Florida

562 2855

SUMMARY OF POWERS CONFERRED ON
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND
SUPERVISORS BY THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION LAW, CHAPTER 582

The District and the Supervisors shall have the following powers.

1. To conduct investigations and research relating to the conservation of soil and water resources; provided, however, to prevent duplication that no research shall be initiated except in cooperation with the State or Federal Government or their agencies.
2. To conduct demonstrational projects on lands within the District for the purpose of demonstration by example applicable conservation, flood control and water disposal methods.
3. To carry out conservation measures on all lands within the District upon obtaining the consent of the owners or managers of these lands.
4. To cooperate and furnish aid to any agency or landowner in carrying out conservation measures that the Supervisors consider necessary to advance the soil and water conservation program in their District within the limits of available funds.
5. To rent or otherwise acquire property and equipment for use in carrying out a soil and water conservation program in their District.
Any proceeds from the rent or sale of District property to be applied toward advancing the conservation program in the District.
6. To make machinery and supplies available to landowners for carrying out conservation programs on their lands insofar as resources permit.
7. To construct and maintain any conservation structures that are necessary in carrying out the soil and water conservation program in the District.

8. To develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil and water resources and publish such plans and information and bring them to the attention of landowners and occupiers within the District.
9. To administer any conservation projects that may be turned over to the District by Federal or State Governments or other organizations. To accept donations from all sources and use them in carrying out the soil and water conservation program in the District.
10. To sue and be sued in the name of the District, make and execute contracts; borrow money and mortgage District property; make and repeal regulations concerned with soil and water conservation in the District.
11. The District Supervisors may require payment for work on lands not belonging to the State if the owners of these lands are to receive soil and water conservation benefits. The Supervisors further may require performance of agreements as to permanent use of these lands to control erosion and prevent floodwater and sediment damages.
12. Supervisors in a District may adopt regulations that govern the use of lands in the interest of conserving soil and water resources. These regulations will be subject to referendum in which all landowners are eligible to vote and can be invoked only if a majority of those voting favor the proposed regulations.
13. Supervisors of any two or more Districts may cooperate with one another in carrying out a soil and water conservation program.