

WORK PLAN

HILLSBOROUGH SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

I. INTRODUCTION

This Work Plan for the Hillsborough Soil Conservation District is written for the purpose of outlining the approach to the problems outlined in the Work Program. The plan will deal with methods in a general way because of the complexity of some of the problems involved and the lack of experimental data and technical knowledge on certain phases. It is also desired to allow sufficient latitude to cover certain minor changes that may become necessary without requiring a complete revision of the entire plan. Methods and procedure can only be worked out on individual projects after a careful study and analysis of the factors and problems affecting the project.

II. CONSERVATION PRACTICES

A. Water Control

The control of water will require a study of topography, soil type and costs of the overall water control system from the standpoint of whether the resulting benefits will justify its installation. The problems will either fall into what might be termed drainage of excess water where the flatter lands are involved or erosion control and moisture conservation where the steeper rolling lands are involved.

1. Drainage

There are several organized drainage districts within the county supported by a special drainage tax while the Board

of County Commissioners and some private individuals have undertaken water control projects. Upon request, the Hillsborough Soil Conservation District will cooperate with and furnish technical assistance to these districts in the installation of control structures where needed and for the preparation of a plan for operation and maintenance of the system.

The district will work primarily with individual land owners or with groups of land owners where water control is a joint problem and in so far as is practical will work on a watershed basis. Studies and recommendations will be made for the improvement of natural drains and waterways when sufficient interest warrants and it appears that the development of such waterways are justifiable.

(a) Removal of Excess Water

The district will work with and furnish technical assistance to landowners in the removal of excess water on the flat lands incident to the establishment of grasses and improving native range. Shallow rectangular or trapezoidal shaped ditches, which can be economically constructed and easily maintained, will usually be recommended. Tile drainage systems will be laid out and plans and specifications furnished to land owners when this type of drainage is justifiable.

(b) Reservoirs

Because of the acute need for surface water for irri-

gation purposes, the district will study watersheds from the standpoint of impounding water with earthen dams with adequate spillways, where practical, to provide a source of irrigation water, raise the ground water table of the adjoining lands, provide stock watering ponds, and waters for recreation and wildlife.

2. Control for Prevention of Erosion

Serious erosion has resulted from runoff water on crop and orchard lands. The district realizes this problem and will study the problem from the standpoint of establishing control practices such as terraces, diversion channels, contour planting and tillage in conjunction with a vegetative program providing close growing ground cover during the season of high rainfall.

3. Pasture Development

Livestock growers throughout the district realize the importance of establishing improved pastures as a means of providing more and better quality beef and dairy products. Much of the out-over land is well suited to growing improved grasses, but land owners need assistance in selection of the proper lands for grass. Pasture development will include water control, proper land preparation, selection of adapted grasses and legumes and maintenance practices such as fertilization, liming, proper grazing of pasture lands and the control of weeds and other undesirable plants.

The district will encourage the development of seed and nursery patches of adapted grasses to provide sources of planting materials for other lands. The district will also encourage the improvement of native range lands by the use of such equipment as heavy choppers for the control and eradication of palmetto, myrtle and other scrub, thereby enabling carpet grass and other native grasses to recede and spread naturally.

C. Soil Improvement

The district recognizes the need of a hardy winter legume crop capable of withstanding droughty periods, as well as hardy crops tolerant to shaded conditions existing in mature citrus groves. The incorporation of soil building legumes and green manure crops is essential to maintain high production and control runoff, especially on citrus lands and the more rolling crop lands. Soil improving crops such as Sesbania, Alyce Clover, Hairy Indigo, Crotolaria, Beggar Weed, Lupines and such other crops as the experiment stations find, will be recommended as a part of the rotation by the district. A study of the possibility for planting Kudzu and other perennial crops will be made on some of the heavier rolling soils from the standpoint of erosion control and as temporary grazing crops.

D. Woodland Management

Since the greater part of the district is in woodland and woodland is the proper land use for many acres, the problem of increasing the per acre return from forest lands is of major importance. The present depleted stands are not producing

or improving and the improvement of these stands can only be brought about by a definite woodland management program. The district will assist landowners and enlist the assistance of other agencies in starting good woodland management practices which will include:

- (1) Selective Cutting
- (2) Fire Protection and Controlled Burning
- (3) Proper Marketing
- (4) Procurement of Planting Stock

Feed and cover will be developed wherever possible to create a more favorable environment for wildlife in connection with the establishment of other soil and water conservation practices. Plantings of annual as well as perennial plants, when trials prove their adaptability, will be recommended for field borders, fence rows, hedge rows and other suitable locations. The district will assist landowners in the stocking and management of lakes to provide desirable environment for fresh water fish and fowl. The district will also secure from other state and federal agencies such information and assistance as is available on the eradication and control of aquatic growth common to lakes and streams.

B. Land Use

The productivity of the land is dependent upon its use and sustained productivity results only from wise or proper use. Information secured from detailed soil surveys will be correlated with technical data from experiment stations and the practical

knowledge of land owners, gained through experience, into a Land Use Capability Chart. Upon correlation and assembly of this information, the district will have a guide for present and future recommendations for the adaptability and use of its lands, enabling the establishment of a permanent long range agricultural program based on scientific principles and practical knowledge, that will sustain the population yet keep the lands productive.

III. PROCEDURE OF OPERATIONS

A. Priority

When an interested group of landowners or a governmental agency representing many landowners indicates a desire to receive assistance in planning and establishing conservation practices, the Supervisors will determine the priority of the group or the project involved.

B. Conservation Surveys

Conservation surveys will be made on all farms cooperating with the district and of all lands affected by community water control projects.

C. Project Planning

When an application for assistance in community water control is received, the amount of interest in water control among the several landowners, and the names of financing the project, will be studied, before necessary investigations and surveys are begun. In general, preference will be given at first to small projects which appear to provide the great-

est benefits at the lowest cost and which will provide economically the experience necessary in planning larger projects.

D. Farm Planning

The planning of individual farms for soil improvement and water control through the establishment of conservation practices will be accomplished whenever possible through group of landowners living in a neighborhood or community. Individual farm planning in some communities will follow and conform to overall water control project planning.

IV. ASSISTANCE BY AGENCIES

The district will request aid from other established governmental agencies, Federal, State or local, in effecting the provisions of this Work Plan in accordance with the State Soil Conservation Districts Act.

The kind of assistance to be rendered the district by each agency will be specified in a Memorandum of Understanding or other appropriate method agreed to by the district and the agency.

V. REVISION

Upon determination of its necessity and subject to the approval of the District Supervisors, this Work Plan will be revised from time to time.

VI. ADOPTION

Recognizing the Hillsborough Soil 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 1938, Chapter 19473, for the purpose, with the powers, and subject to the restrictions set forth therein, the Supervisors hereby adopt the Work Plan which describes the general procedure planned for the operation of the district.

ADOPTED:

/s/ A. B. McMullen
A. B. McMullen, Chairman

/s/ J. L. Cons
J. L. Cons

/s/ J. Arden Mays
J. Arden Mays

/s/ Henry C. Carlton
Henry C. Carlton

/s/ Lyle Dickman
Lyle Dickman

Signed:

Date: December 9, 1946