

OACD POLICY BOOK

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts support the development of a Rangeland Improvement Fund set up by the State Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, such fund be made available at low interest to landowners through the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and local conservation districts for rangeland improvements called for in a conservation plan developed by the landowners and the Soil Conservation Service

Passed Feb. 23, 1991

Directory of Resources for Grassland Management

WHEREAS, the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is promoting improved management of Oklahoma's grassland resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a directory of resources that conservation districts can make available to ranchers and other cooperators; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has funding to promote the GLCI; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts urges NRCS and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to work cooperatively to produce a directory of resources for grassland management that can be distributed statewide.

Passed: February 23, 1998

SEC. 7, DISTRICT DIRECTOR MEMBERSHIP / RESPONSIBILITIES

District Director Elections

WHEREAS, Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1501-414 reads as follows:

"Disqualification - Exception

If any director shall, during his term of office as director, be elected or appointed to any county or state elective office, or if he shall file as a candidate for the nomination to be elected to any such other office, his office as director shall become vacant and the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Commission. Provided, that a district director may also serve on a board of education of a school district"; and

WHEREAS, the phrase "or if he shall file as a candidate for the nomination to be elected to any such other office," is not clear as to what it means since the words "such" and "other" contradict each other; and

WHEREAS, directors should be allowed to retain their district director position while running for other governmental offices. In that manner, if they lost the election, they will still retain their

district director position; and, if they won the election, their director position would automatically be vacated; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts work for an amendment to the statutes deleting the phrase, "or if he shall file as a candidate for the nomination to be elected to any such other office" from Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1501.414.

Passed Feb. 23, 1991

Director Emeritus Membership

WHEREAS, conservation district directors contribute time, energy, and other resources toward the effective functioning of the district; and

WHEREAS, district directors gain knowledge, experience, and wisdom as they serve the conservation district in the position of district director; and

WHEREAS, the position of district director is a demanding position with fiduciary responsibilities and legal liabilities; and

WHEREAS, many district directors are willing to continue to serve the conservation district in a less demanding capacity after retiring from the position of district director; and

WHEREAS, the position of director emeritus would provide the opportunity for retiring district directors to continue to serve the conservation district in a less demanding capacity; and

WHEREAS, the position of director emeritus would prevent the loss of valuable knowledge, experience, and wisdom by the conservation district; and

WHEREAS, a director emeritus is a retired district director who has served at least five (5) years as a district director and who has a desire to continue to contribute time, energy, and other resources to the conservation district in a less demanding capacity; and

WHEREAS, a director emeritus is a non-voting volunteer who had no legal nor fiduciary responsibilities nor liabilities; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts embrace and adopt the concept of director emeritus and encourage conservation districts to adopt and implement the concept; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts encourage conservation districts to recognize at the local level the service contributed by a director emeritus.

Passed: February 24, 2003

Associate Director Membership

WHEREAS, associate directors are constituents of conservation districts who share the same values and mutual interest in natural resource conservation as do district directors; and

WHEREAS, associate directors are constituents of the

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conservation district who have embraced the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the district; and

WHEREAS, associate directors are constituents of the conservation district who are willing to contribute time, energy, and other resources toward the effective functioning of the district; and

WHEREAS, associate directors are non-voting volunteers who have no legal nor fiduciary responsibilities nor liabilities; and

WHEREAS, associate directors gain knowledge, experience, and wisdom as they serve the conservation district in the position of associate director; and

WHEREAS, associate directors provide the opportunity to develop conservation and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, associate directors provide the district with the opportunity to nurture, cultivate, and mature prospective district directors; and

WHEREAS, associate directors provide a pool of prospective community leaders from which the conservation district can fill district director vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the associate director concept provides a system and process to evolve, cultivate, mature, engage, and activate conservation leaders; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts embrace and adopt the concept of associate directors and encourage conservation districts to adopt and implement the concept; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts encourage conservation districts to recognize at the local level the service contributed by a associate directors.

Passed: February 24, 2003

Area Meeting Attendance

WHEREAS, due to the lack of attendance and participation of district directors at Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts area meetings; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts supports a policy of requiring district directors to attend a minimum of one OACD area meeting every three years.

Passed: February 27, 2006

Director Training

WHEREAS, the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the State of Oklahoma's natural resources is of the utmost importance to the citizens of Oklahoma and our customers; and

WHEREAS, the taxpaying citizens of Oklahoma and our customers expect and deserve the highest quality of service from their public officials; and

WHEREAS, conservation district officials, both elected and appointed, individually and as a whole, are accountable under law for the responsible execution of the laws of the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, conservation district officials, both elected and appointed, individually and as a whole, are accountable under law as the responsible parties for the legal distribution of public funds; and

WHEREAS, conservation district officials are the managers of that public trust; and

WHEREAS, conservation district officials are the managers of those public funds; and

WHEREAS, conservation district officials are the representatives of the needs of their respective constituents; and

WHEREAS, other boards recognized by the State of Oklahoma, who administer public funds and execute State law, complete education credits in order to properly and legally execute their duties; now

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts supports the implementation of an education program that will assist conservation district officials in providing the highest quality of responsible service to their customers and the citizens of Oklahoma; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District supports making the continuing education program for conservation district officials obligatory.

Passed: February 27, 2007

SEC. 8, WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY

Role of Conservation Districts in Water Policy

WHEREAS, water is a valuable natural resource; and

WHEREAS, we, as conservation district directors, recognize the need for clean water because people cannot sustain life without it; and

WHEREAS, the production of food and fiber for the preservation of humanity is vital to sustaining life; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the directors of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, being at the grass roots level and knowing the needs, insist on continuing to be a part of the decision-making processes involving clean water.

Passed: February 27, 1995

Municipal Responsibilities

WHEREAS, urban development has expanded into areas of farm and ranch lands; and