

MEMORANDUM

Department of Natural Resources

State of Alaska

Office of the Commissioner

TO: Alaska Soil & Water
Conservation Board
Assistant Commissioners
Division Directors

DATE: January 25, 1993

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 762-2483

SUBJECT: Department Order 114
Delegation of Powers
to the Soil & Water
Conservation District

FROM: Glenn A. Olds
Commissioner

Goal

It is the Department's mission to fulfill and implement the Owners' State resource conservation and development goals in response to the economic, social and cultural needs of Alaskans. Furthermore, it is the overall mission of the Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Board to provide for the management and orderly development of natural resources on private lands and for guiding the settlement of public lands through the concept of wise land-use planning.

Background

The Alaska Soil & Water Conservation Board (SWCB) and the nine local soil & water conservation districts (SWCD) are organized under the Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to the State's Soil & Water Conservation Law (AS 41.10), for the purpose of the orderly development of land, for guiding settlement, and for conserving soil and water resources by controlling and preventing soil erosion.

The five member, governor-appointed ASWCB is comprised of land users from the five geographic regions of the state, as identified in AS 41.10. Local SWCD have five member boards of supervisors elected by the land users within the SWCD; SWCD have memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service who provide technical assistance through the local districts. Other federal and state agencies can and do provide assistance through the SWCD.

Presently there are nine SWCD. A map showing their jurisdictional boundaries is attached. The portion of the state that is not within an organized SWCD is known as the Alaska District, and is governed by the ASWCB.

The soil and water conservation law identifies delegated powers (AS 41.10.110) of the commissioner which are normally delegated SWCD in other states. AS 41.10.130 provides for the delegation of powers to the districts as the commissioner considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of the soil & water conservation law. Powers of the commissioner relating to soil and water conservation are:

- (1) conduct land capability surveys and investigations of potential agricultural areas and of soil conservation and erosion control, including necessary preventative and control measures, in the state; to publish the results of these surveys and investigations and to disseminate information concerning the results of the surveys and investigations to prospective settlers and the general public;
- (2) make technical guidance and other assistance available to settlers of new land to assure the development of the land in a manner that will permit it to be used in accordance with its capabilities and treated in accordance with its needs;
- (3) carry out measures for soil conservation and erosion control within the state, including engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, and changes in use of land, with the consent and cooperation of the land user or agency having jurisdiction of the land;
- (4) cooperate with, furnish assistance to, and enter into agreements with, a user of land or agency within the state;
- (5) construct, improve, and maintain soil erosion control and conservation structures as are necessary and practical for carrying out the purposes of this chapter;
- (6) develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil and control of soil erosion within the state, cropping programs, tillage practices and changes in land use, and publish plans and information and bring them to the attention of users of land within the state; and,
- (7) accept contributions in money, services, materials, or equipment from any other source, for use in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

Policy

It is the policy of the department to carry out the purpose of AS 41.10 through soil and water conservation districts described in that chapter; the powers identified in AS 41.10.110 of that chapter are hereby delegated directly to SWCD and the boards of supervisors which oversee SWCD programs. As part of this policy, Districts will:

Page 3

A. accept financial and technical assistance from state and federal agencies involved in natural resource conservation and development through implementation of AS 41.10:

(1) USDA-Soil Conservation Service MOU's will be continued and expanded as appropriate in support of district programs.

(2) MOU's will be encouraged with other federal agencies to support the delivery of program services to local communities, groups and individuals in natural resource conservation and development.

B. stimulate local initiative and personal responsibility by providing program direction for local resource development opportunities to local communities to the extent possible.

Division directors with responsibilities in resource conservation and development shall apprise themselves of the state's soil & water conservation law (AS 41.10), the ASWCB, and the SWCD in order to carry out this policy. Further information may be obtained from the ASWCB Executive Director or Chair.

cc: Soil & Water Conservation District Chairs
Anchorage Commissioner's Office File

attachments

ALASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

James Carter, Chair
P.O. Box 286
Willow, AK 99688

Marcia Ward
P.O. Box 356
Soldotna, AK 99669

Norman Cosgrove
P.O. Box 861
Delta Junction, AK 99737

Tom Gray
P.O. Box 24
White Mountain, AK 99784

Don Clothier
131 Front Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District Chairs

Kodiak SWC District
Jim Burton, Chair
P.O. Box 1805
Kodiak, AK 99615

Upper Susitna SWC District
Bobby Watkins, Chair
P.O. Box 13129
Trapper Creek, AK 99683

Kenai SWC District
Mike Swan, Chair
P.O. Box 987
Soldotna, AK 99669

Palmer SWC District
Ray DePriest, Chair
P.O. Box 2581
Palmer, AK 99645

Wasilla SWC District
Dick Zobel, Chair
P.O. Box 872288
Wasilla, AK 99687

Homer SWC District
Shirley Schollenburg, Chair
SR Box 250
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Kenny Lake SWC District
John Wenger, Chair
EC 60 Box
Kenny Lake, AK 99573

Fairbanks SWC District
Gerry Young, Acting Chair
1275 Summit Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Salcha-Big Delta SWC District
Mike Carlson, Chair
P.O. Box 953
Delta Junction, AK 99737