

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BY-LAWS

NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the FLORIDA CHAPTER, hereinafter referred to as the CHAPTER, of the SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY, hereinafter referred to as the SOCIETY.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CHAPTER shall be the same as those of the SOCIETY and the further objectives of bringing into closer association the members of the Society who reside either permanently or seasonally in the State of Florida so that the exchange of ideas and information may be facilitated.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Chapter shall be limited to membership in good standing in the Society. The Chapter recognizes the same classes of membership as are recognized by the Society. Membership in the Chapter may be acquired by application direct to the Chapter or through written application to the Secretary of the Chapter. Membership in the Chapter will be maintained by payment of the annual Chapter dues. The chapter will accept affiliate members: however, affiliate members will not be able to hold office in the Chapter.

OFFICERS

The principal officers of the Chapter shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. They shall be members in good standing of the Chapter. Terms of office shall be for two years and until successors are duly elected and qualified. The President shall appoint the Secretary-Treasurer from the Chapter membership. The President-Elect will succeed the President and the Vice-President will succeed the President-Elect. Revised 6/2000 Changes according to the 2000 annual meeting."

THE COUNCIL

The Council of the Chapter shall be composed of the President, the immediate past president, the President-Elect, the Vice-President, the advisor(s) to the student chapter(s), and two members from each of the four Areas of Florida. They shall be elected for a term of one year, except as noted under "ELECTIONS". Council members who miss three consecutive meetings will be removed from office. Revised 7/93 Changes according to the 1993 annual meeting."

The four areas of Florida shall be composed of the counties as listed under each area, as follows:

Area I -Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

Area 11- Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, st. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, and Volusia.

Area III -Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Harcee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Manatee, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, and Sumter.

Area IV -Brevard, Broward, Collier, Dade, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, and st. Lucie.

The Council shall be the governing body of the Chapter. The President, or in the absence of the President, the Vice-President, shall serve as Chairperson of the Council. It shall be the Chairperson's duty to call meetings of the Council when necessary; to bring new business before the Council; and to guide and direct the functions of the Council. The Vice-President will assume the duties of the President and President-Elect in their absence. The Secretary's chief duty shall be to record in an appropriate manner the business of the Council. Council members and the Secretary-Treasurer may be reimbursed for mileage at a rate to be determined by the Council when required to travel out-of-town on official Chapter business, if they are not already reimbursed by their agency(ies) or company(ies) for the same travel; and provided they cannot ride with someone else. Mileage funds will not be used for Annual Meetings of the Chapter.

DELEGATES

The President-Elect shall be the Chapter's delegate to the Society's House of Delegates. The first-alternate delegate shall be the Chapter President.

The second-alternate delegate shall be the Vice-President. The Council shall select the delegate in the event that none of the above-mentioned officers is able to serve in this capacity. The designated Chapter delegate shall be reimbursed in an amount equivalent to round-trip air fare (super-saver or comparable rate); hotel room (lowest cost room available within reasonable distance of the meetings) for the duration on the meeting or for the number of nights stayed, whichever is less; and meeting registration fees.

ELECTIONS

Officers and Members of the Council shall be elected through a mailout ballot six weeks prior to the Chapter's annual meeting. The President shall appoint a nominating committee which shall submit two names for the office of Vice-President. The nomination committee shall submit the names of two members from each of the four Areas of the state for Council member. The term of the elected member shall be for two years. One Council member from each Area will be elected each year with this term running for two years. Should a vacancy occur on the Council, thus creating a vacancy during the second year of their term, the Chapter then shall elect two Council members from this Area with

the member receiving the largest number of votes receiving the two-year term and the one the lesser number of votes the one-year term. Should the position of Council member become vacated for any reason, the Council may appoint a successor. Should a tie vote occur in any election the members affected shall draw lots to determine the winner.

In the event of a vacancy occurring in the position of President, the president-elects shall assume the position of President. Should this position again become vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President. Should the Secretary -Treasurer's position become vacated, the President shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. Candidate receiving the majority of votes shall be declared elected. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to submit names of Members who will accept the nomination and be willing to serve in the respective position if elected. In the event of change of residence from one Area to another, the Council member affected will lose their seat. Any office held by this member, other than President, president-elect, Vice-President, or Secretary-Treasurer, shall be considered vacated upon date of change of assignment.

The term of office of elected and appointed officers shall commence on the date of the annual meeting following their election and continue until the next annual meeting, except Council members shall be elected for a two-year term.

COMMITTEES

The President will determine the number of permanent committees needed, and the President will appoint such committees, naming the member who shall serve as Chairperson.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Chapter will be held annually on the date and at the place set by the Council. Special meetings may be called by the President with the advice and consent of the council. A quorum of 5 officers is required to carry out business of the Chapter.

SUB-CHAPTERS

Sub-chapters, within the bounds of the Chapter, may be approved and authorized by the Council. Sub-Chapters shall be under the jurisdiction of the parent chapter.

DUES

Chapter dues shall be for the year, payable in advance on the first of the anniversary month to the Treasurer of the Chapter. Any changes in the dues shall be approved by at least a two-thirds majority of members present at the annual meeting; the change to take effect on the following January 1st.

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Chapter financial records should be audited at least once annually by a committee appointed by the Chapter President, and an audit report presented by that committee to the membership at the Chapter annual meeting.

AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual meeting. The amendments will become effective upon adoption.