



Understanding the Importance of Your Role as a Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor

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AGENDA



-  Introduction
-  Who, What, When, Why
-  District Organization
-  Roles and Responsibilities
-  Partnerships
-  Summary
-  Questions



DISCLAIMER

- The information in this presentation is not legal advice may not reflect the official opinion of the Florida Attorney General.
- Statutes are frequently updated by the legislature, and court decisions sometimes provide guidance that was not previously available.
- You should always verify the information provided by checking the current version of the statutes at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>.





WHO, WHAT, WHEN and WHY

- What is a Soil and Water Conservation District?
 - Local nonpartisan governmental subdivision of the state of Florida.
 - Public body corporate and politic.
 - Created and established by resident landowners within county boundaries.
- Why were the Districts created?
 - To fulfill a need for soil and water conservation and in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare on a local level.
 - Serve as a face and a voice for all local natural resource concerns and needs.
 - Work in partnership with the state (FDACS) and federal government (Soil Conservation Service, now NRCS).





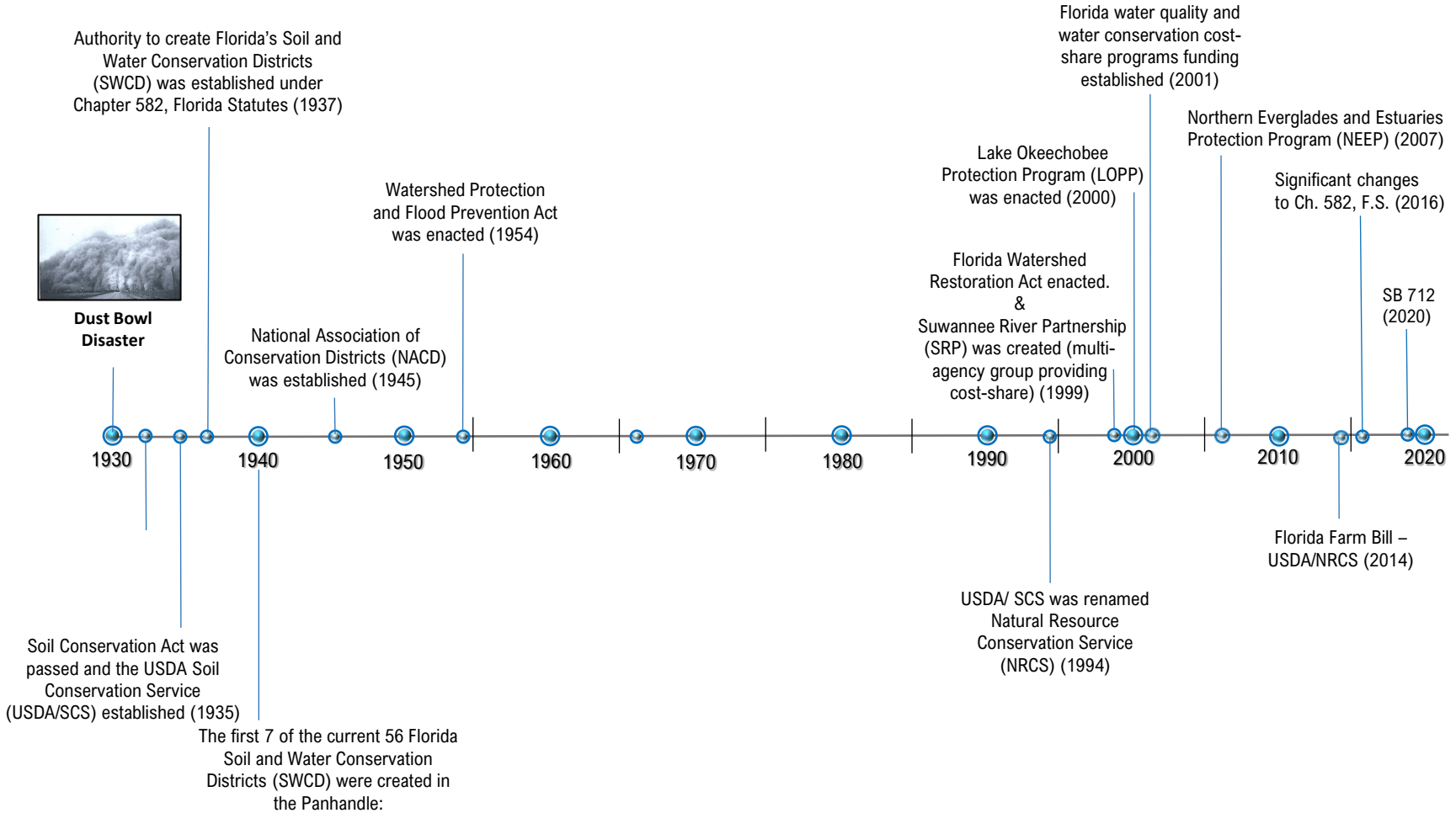
WHO, WHAT, WHEN and WHY cont'd

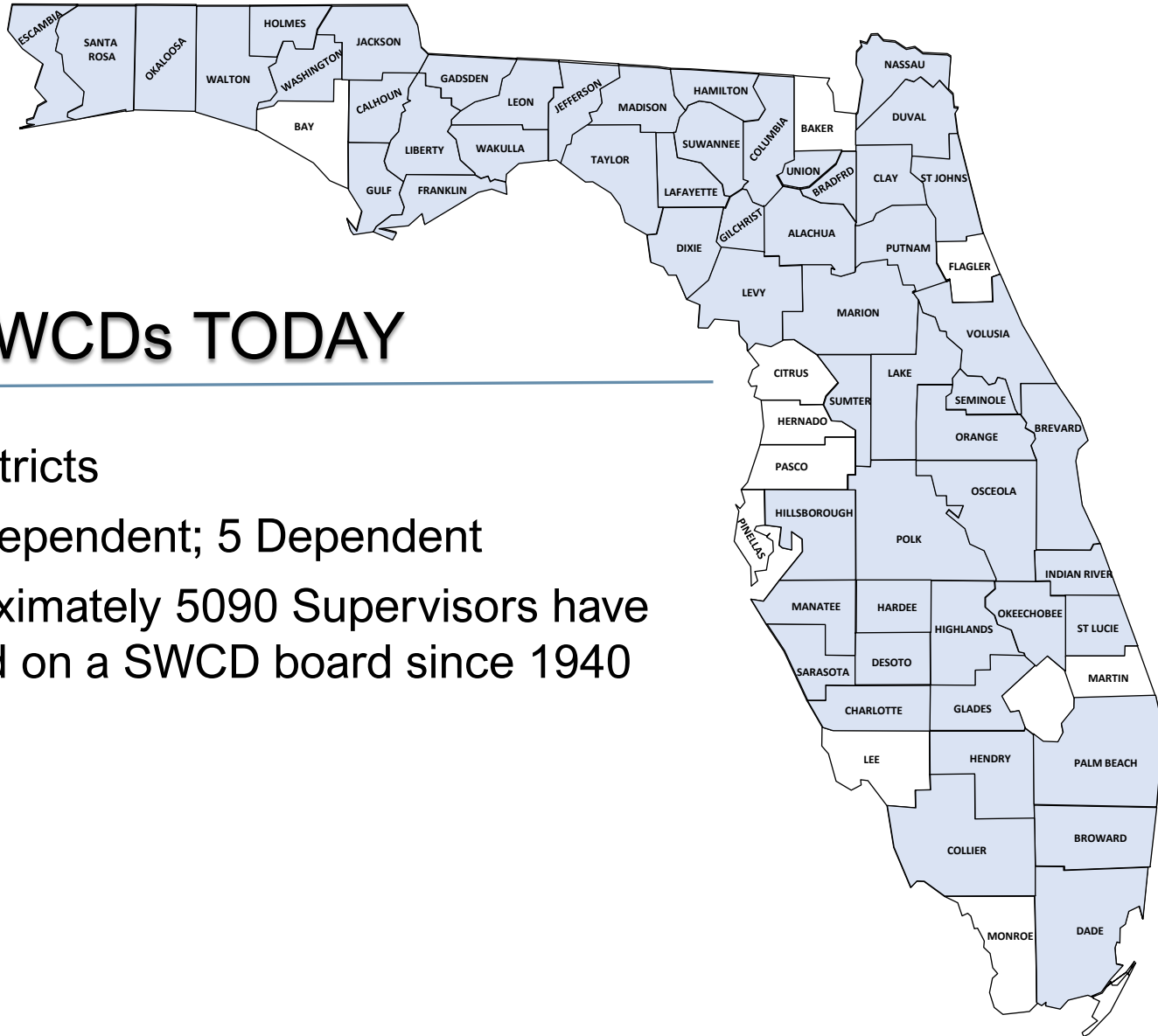
- Who governs these Districts and what does that mean?
 - The Districts are self governed by the 5 local SWCD supervisors that are either elected in the general election or appointed in accordance with the provisions of State Law.
- Where do you go for answers when you have questions or need guidance?
 - It depends on the subject matter.
 - If FDACS cannot provide you with the answer, a representative will direct you to the agency with the knowledge and oversight that can.



TIMELINE

1930 - Present



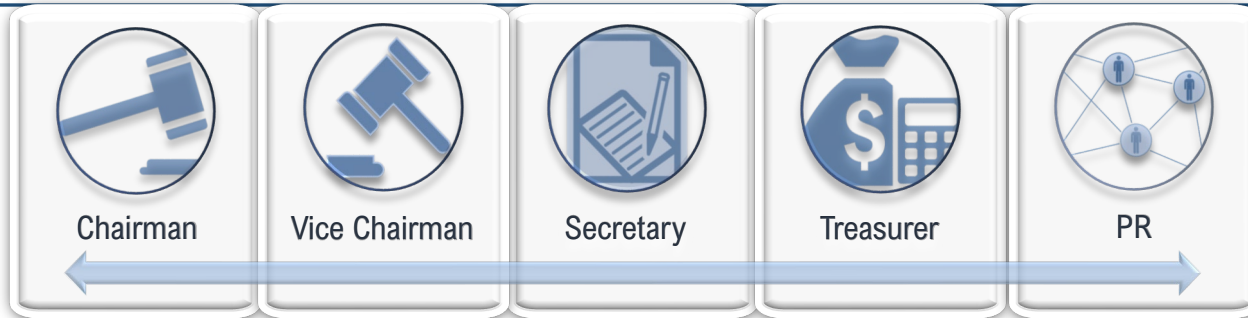


FL SWCDs TODAY

- 56 Districts
- 51 Independent; 5 Dependent
- Approximately 5090 Supervisors have served on a SWCD board since 1940



DISTRICT ORGANIZATION



- Each SWCD has 5 Elected Supervisors
- Staggered 4-year Terms
- Seats 1-3-5 and Seats 2-4
- Vacancies are filled by appointment
- Supervisors receive no monetary compensation, but they can be reimbursed for travel if the SWCD has funds and is board approved prior to travel.



SWCD SUPERVISOR ROLES

Conservation

- Liaison
- Leader
- Advocate
- Facilitator
- Partner



SWCD SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Fiduciary
 - Budgets
 - Financial Reports
 - Approval of Expenses
- Oversight
 - Performance Review of Executive Manager, Project Manager, Conservation Technician and Administrative Staff
 - Approval and Monitoring of Annual Work Plan
 - Public Contracting
- Long Range Planning
 - Develop, Approve, and Monitor Strategic Plan



SWCD SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Compliance
 - Ethics
 - Reporting
 - Public Records
 - Fiscal
- Represent Interests of Constituents



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES

- Broad and relate to the development and implementation of soil and water conservation practices on private lands.
- These duties are performed in conjunction with federal, state, regional, and local partners through funding and technical assistance.



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES

- Conduct surveys, studies, and research relating to soil and water resources and to publish and disseminate the results of such surveys, studies, research, and related information; *s. 582.20(1), F.S.*
- Conduct agricultural best management practices (BMPs) demonstration projects and projects for the conservation, protection, and restoration of soil and water resources; *s. 582.20(2), F.S.*
 - Within the district's boundaries;
 - Within another district's boundaries, **subject to the other district's approval**;



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- In areas not contained within any district's boundaries on lands owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, **with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof**; or
- On any other lands within the district's boundaries, within another district's boundaries subject to the other district's approval, or not contained within any district's boundaries **upon obtaining the consent of the owner or occupier of the lands or the necessary rights or interests in such lands**;



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- **Cooperate or enter into agreements with any special district, municipality, county, water management district, state or federal agency, governmental or otherwise, or owner or occupier of lands** within the district's boundaries, within another district's boundaries subject to the other district's approval, or not contained within any district's boundaries in furtherance of the purposes and provisions of this chapter; s. 582.20(4), F.S.



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- Obtain options upon and to acquire, by **purchase, exchange, lease, gift, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise, any property, real (dirt) or personal, or rights or interests**; and
- **Maintain, administer, and improve any properties acquired, to receive income from such properties and to expend such income**; and
- **Sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any of its property or interests** therein in furtherance of the purposes and provisions of this chapter; *s. 582.20(5), F.S.*



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- To **make available**, on such terms as it shall prescribe, to **any owner or occupier of lands** within the district's boundaries, within another district's boundaries subject to the other district's approval, or not contained within any district's boundaries **agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, and such other material or equipment**, that will **assist** such **landowners and occupiers** to carry on operations upon their lands for the conservation and protection of soil and water resources; *s. 582.20(6), F.S.*



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- To **construct, improve, operate, and maintain such structures** as may be necessary or convenient **for the performance of any of the operations** authorized in this chapter; *s. 582.20(7), F.S.*
- To **provide, or assist in providing, training and education programs** that further the purposes and provisions of this chapter; *s. 582.20(8), F.S.*



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- **Take over, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, and to administer** any soil-conservation, erosion-control, erosion-prevention project, or any project for flood-prevention or for the conservation, development and utilization of soil and water resources, and the disposal of water, located within its boundaries undertaken by the US or any of its agencies, or by this state or any of its agencies; to manage as agent of the US or any of its agencies, or of the state or any of its agencies, any soil-conservation, erosion-control, erosion-prevention, or any project for flood-prevention or for the conservation, development, and utilization of soil and water resources, and the disposal of water within its boundaries;



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- **Act as agent for the US, or any of its agencies, or for the state or any of its agencies, in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of any soil-conservation, erosion-control, erosion-prevention, or any project for flood-prevention or for the conservation, development and utilization of soil and water resources, and the disposal of water within its boundaries; to accept donations, gifts, and contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise, from the US or any of its agencies, or from this state or any of its agencies, or from others, and to use or expend such moneys, services, materials or other contributions in carrying on its operations; s. 582.20(8), F.S.**



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- **To sue and be sued in the name of the district; to have a seal, which seal shall be judicially noticed; to have perpetual succession unless terminated** as provided in this chapter; to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers; upon a majority vote of the supervisors of the district, to borrow money and to execute promissory notes and other evidences of indebtedness in connection therewith, and to pledge, mortgage, and assign the income of the district and its personal property as security therefor, the notes and other evidences of indebtedness to be general obligations only of the district and in no event to constitute an indebtedness for which the faith and credit of the state or any of its revenues are pledged; *s. 582.20(10), F.S.*



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- The supervisors may utilize the services of the county agricultural agents and the facilities of the county agricultural agents' offices insofar as practicable and feasible.
- The supervisors may also **employ additional permanent and temporary staff, as needed, and determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation.**
- The supervisors may delegate to the chair, to one or more supervisors, or to employees such powers and duties as they may deem proper, consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
- The supervisors shall furnish to the department, upon request, copies of rules, orders, contracts, forms, and other documents that the district has adopted or used, and any other information concerning the district's activities, that the department may require in the performance of its duties under this chapter; *s. 582.19(3), F.S.*



SWCD SUPERVISOR POWERS & DUTIES *cont'd*

- To adopt rules to implement the provisions of this chapter; and
- To request that the Governor remove a supervisor for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office by adoption of a resolution at a public meeting. If the district believes there is a need for a review of the request, the district may request that the council, by resolution, review its request to the Governor and provide the Governor with a recommendation. *s. 582.19(3), F.S.*



FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- There are a variety of ways SWCD Supervisors can obtain funding for their district, these include:
 - State Appropriations through FDACS contracts
 - Donations and contributions through membership programs
 - Equipment rental income
 - Grants

Note: All district funds are State Funds regardless of the source.



FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- State funds must be expended according to statute.
 - District money can be spent on:
 - Employee staff
 - Regular operating expenses
 - Surveys, investigations, and research
 - Demonstrational projects
 - Preventative control measures
 - Financial aid for prevention and control measures
 - Construct, obtain, maintain, operate, and improve property
 - Develop plans for conservation, control, and prevention
 - SWCD Supervisor travel when approved by the board and documented in the minutes of the meeting



REFERENCES

- Chapter 582, Florida Statutes
- Chapter 189, Florida Statutes
- Chapter 373, Florida Statutes
- Chapter 119, Florida Statutes
- Chapter 259, Florida Statutes
- Chapter 403.067, Florida Statutes
- Chapter 100, Florida Statutes
- Florida Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Handbook



PARTNERS

You are not in this alone. In addition to your state partnership with FDACS, there are partners that are equally committed to this very important public duty.

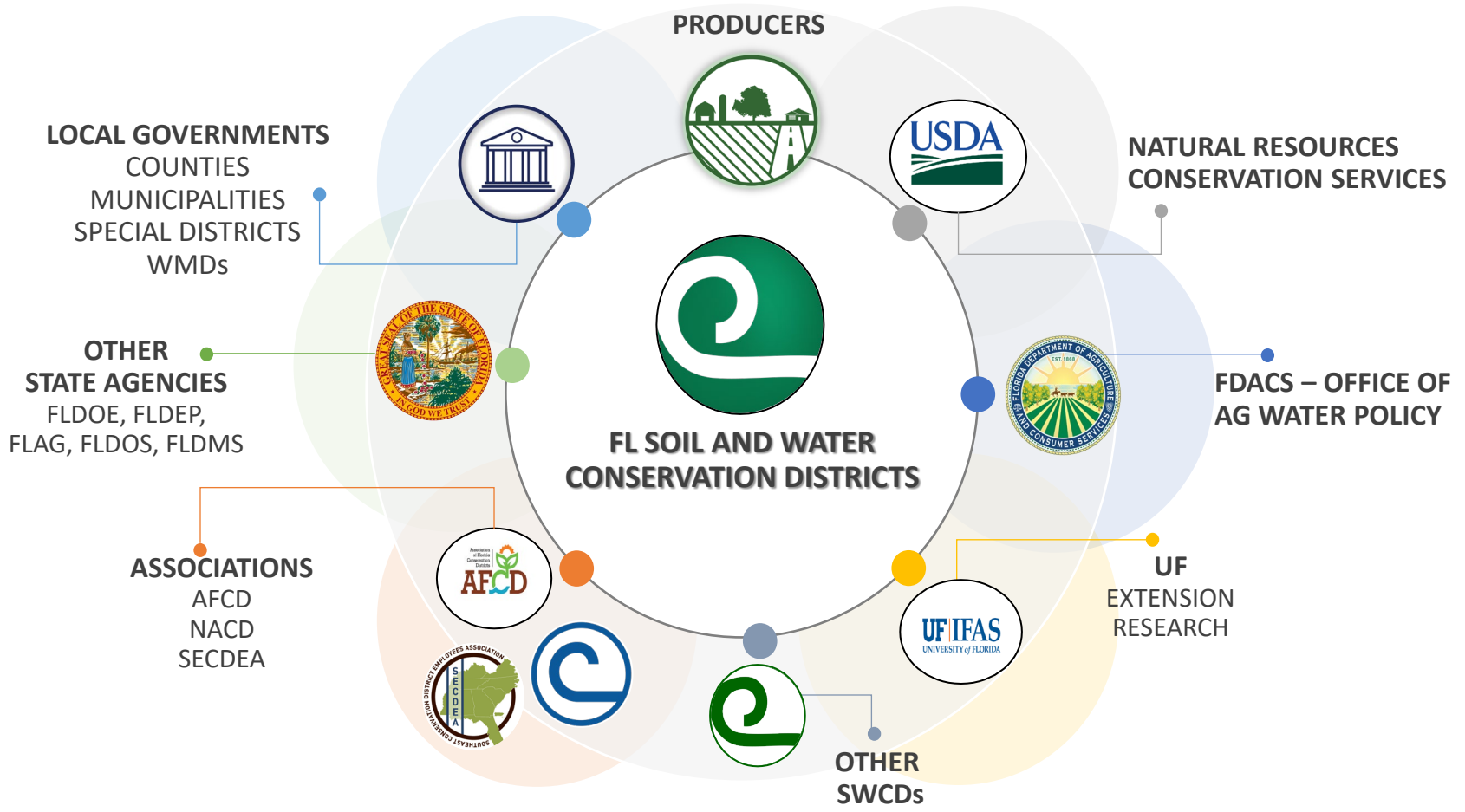
The Association of Florida Conservation Districts (“AFCD”) is

- An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization comprised of Florida’s Conservation Districts and dependent on its members and fundraising to survive and advocate for its members on a local, state and federal level.
- The mission of AFCD is to advocate for the conservation of Florida’s natural resources by providing organization, leadership, and unified strategic direction to the Conservation Districts of the State.

Note: The AFCD is not a State entity.



PARTNERSHIPS



ATTENDING AGENTS



Christopher Pettit
Director



Lisa Mustain
Deputy Director



Clegg Hooks
Deputy Director



Angela Weeks-Samanie
Sr. Management Analyst
Supervisor



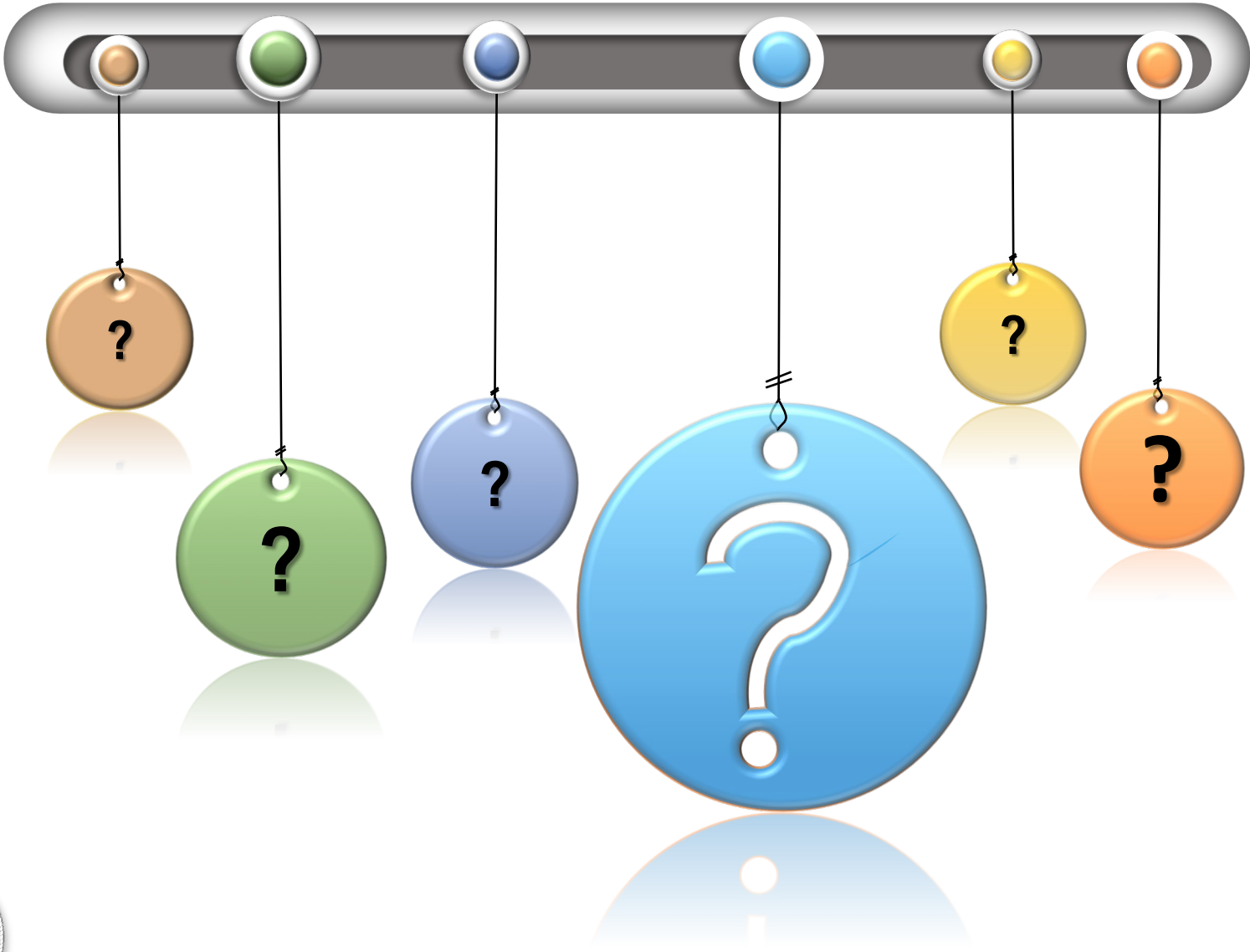


*“It is important to remember history
as we move towards advocating for the future.”*

- Hugh Hammond Bennet, the “Father of Soil Conservation”



Questions



THANK YOU!

<http://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy>

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