



## The Creation of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts

As a result of devastation caused by the 1930's Dust Bowl, U.S. Congress declared soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Over 3000 local districts across the U.S. were established to address conservation concerns, serving as liaisons between the federal government and local landowners. Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District (OSWCD) was organized in 1951 under the provisions of the Florida Conservation Act of 1937 and amended by the Soil Conservation Act Florida Chapter 582. OSWCD is one of 58 districts established in Florida. Each of these districts are governed by a board of five, elected nonpartisan supervisors, who prioritize and aid in the implementation of services provided by our government to our local landowners.

### The Mission of the Conservation Districts

As a sub agency of the State, OSWCD is responsible for developing and carrying out locally-led agricultural programs for the conservation, protection, and development of soil, water and related plant and animal resources within the district boundaries.

### Board of Supervisors

Mariano Corona, Chairperson  
Glynn Rutledge, Sec/Treasurer  
Douglas Burnham, Supervisor  
Don Sellers, Jr., Supervisor  
Nicki Smith, Supervisor

### District Program Manager

Audrey Kuipers

### District Conservation Technicians

Okeechobee-Vacant  
Osceola-Vacant

### District Program Assistant

Courtney Murphy



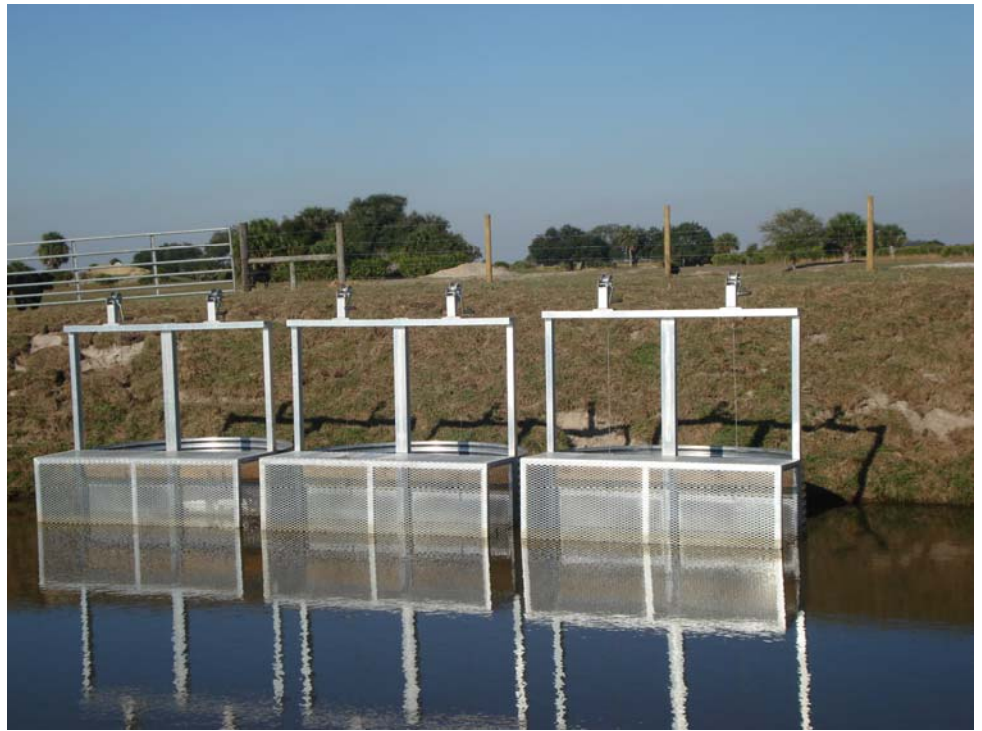
Promoting rotational grazing addresses soil erosion, an important resource concern.

## Services

- Provide technical assistance with conservation planning and best management practice implementation
- Partner with state and federal governments to provide environmental incentive programs to landowners
- Environmental education
- Serve as a fiscal agent for the FL Dept. of Agriculture Office of Agricultural Water Policy

## FY 17 Accomplishments

- Entered into cost share agreements with 73 agricultural producers in the NEEPA covering 74,472 acres
- Administered over \$4.6 million in state BMP (Best Management Practice) cost share funds
- Assisted the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with 17 new federal obligations of \$334,500 encompassing 12,940 acres
- Assisted with managing 13 existing Farm Bill Program contracts with \$1.4 million in obligations covering 49,500 acres
- Provided land evaluation opportunities that aid with students' understanding of soil interactions
- Recycled 95 pounds of monofilament fishing line collected from local boat ramps and tackle shops
- Conducted soil erosion demonstrations to over 535 4th grade students during Okeechobee County Ag-Venture
- Served as the Okeechobee County liaison for the Indian River Lagoon Regional Envirothon
- Maintained social media and website with updates on conservation and funding opportunities
- Provided Okeechobee County School Board with irrigation evaluations on the football and baseball fields



Structures for water control help landowners maintain water on their property to slow sediments and erosion.

	FY 16-17 Actuals	FY 17-18 Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>		
COST SHARE CONTRACTS	\$4,600,625	\$3,632,135
ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$162,370	\$130,092
CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN CONTRACT	\$37,295	\$37,295
OKEECHOBEE BOCC AGREEMENT	\$43,000	\$43,000
RENTS	\$28,431	\$15,952
USDA-NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT	\$15,000	\$15,000
OTHER REVENUE	\$1,370	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$4,888,091</b>	<b>\$3,878,474</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
COST SHARE INCENTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,600,625	\$3,632,135
PERSONAL SERVICES (3 EMPLOYEES)	\$116,782	\$116,782
CAPTIAL OUTLAY	\$13,689	\$28,500
OPERATING (Insurances, Auditing, Fuel, etc.)	\$53,800	\$60,000
OTHER GRANTS/EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$7,650	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$4,792,546</b>	<b>\$3,847,417</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$95,545</b>	<b>\$31,057</b>