

38.36 COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

ing in July or January, as the case may be, to consider the recommended county share of money necessary for the maintenance, support, and expenses of county extension work in agriculture and home economics during the following year. For these purposes the board of county commissioners may appropriate money annually from the general revenue fund and may include the same in the annual levy of county taxes or may make a special levy for county extension purposes or both. The amount of money so set aside and appropriated by the board of county commissioners for any county for these purposes shall constitute a fund to be known as the county extension fund, which shall be paid out by orders of the dean of the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, or his delegated representative, for salaries of the agents employed, their employees, and other expenses incident to the work of such agents in improving agriculture and home economics and improving and bettering the marketing of farm products within the appropriation available. No order for the application of these funds for the purposes named shall be issued until the expenditure shall have been audited and signed by the county auditor. In the event there is an unexpended balance of the county extension fund at the end of any year, this balance shall be carried over or reappropriated.

[1973 c 528 s 1; 1973 c 583 s 5]

CHAPTER 40. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

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40.02 Public policy; purpose

As a guide to the interpretation and application of this chapter, the public policy of the state is declared to be as follows. Improper land-use practices have caused and contributed to serious erosion of farm and grazing lands of this state by wind and water and that thereby topsoil is being washed out of fields and pastures and has speeded up the removal of the absorptive top soil causing exposure of less absorptive and less protective, but more erosive, subsoil; and that land occupiers have failed to cause the discontinuance of such practice as creates this condition, and the consequences thereof have caused the deterioration of soil and its fertility and the deterioration of crops grown thereon, and declining yields therefrom, and diminishing of the underground water reserve, all of which have caused water shortages, intensified periods of drought, and crop failure, and thus brought about suffering, disease, and impoverishment of families and the damage of property from floods and dust storms; and that all of these effects may be prevented by land-use practices contributing to the conservation of top soil by carrying on of engineering operations such as the construction of terraces, check dams, dikes, ponds, ditches, and the utilization of strip cropping, lister furrowing, contour cultivating, land irrigation, seeding and planting of waste, sloping, abandoned, or eroded lands to water-conserving and erosion-preventing plants, trees, and grasses.

It is hereby declared that it is for the public welfare, health, and safety of the people of Minnesota to provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources of this state, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, for land resource planning and development, for the implementation of land resource use practices that effectively reduce siltation and loss of the land base through activities associated with farming, mining, construction, forestry, and other activities of man, and for flood prevention or the conservation development, utilization, and disposal of water, including but not limited to, measures for fish and wildlife and recreational development, and thereby preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs,

assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, and protect public lands by land-use practices, as herein provided for.

[1973 c 412 s 9]

#### 40.03 Soil and water conservation commission

[For text of subd. 1, see M.S.1971]

**Subd. 2. Employees.** The state soil and water conservation commission may employ, with the approval of the commissioner of natural resources, an administrative officer in the unclassified service and such technical experts and such other agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as it may require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation. The commission may call upon the attorney general for such legal services as it may require. It shall have authority to prescribe the powers and duties of its officers and employees, and to delegate to its chairman or to one or more of its other officers or members or administrative officer such of its own powers and duties as it may deem proper. The administrative officer shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and may be dismissed only upon the advice and recommendation of the commission. All other personnel of the commission shall be transferred to the department of natural resources and shall be in the classified service of the state. All rights, duties and responsibilities of the existing staff of the commission on November 12, 1971 shall remain unchanged except as may be agreed upon by the commission and the commissioner. Upon request of the commission, for the purpose of carrying out any of its functions, the supervising officer of any state agency, or of any state institution of learning, shall, insofar as may be possible under available appropriations, and having due regard to the needs of the agency to which the request is directed, assign or detail to the commission members of the staff or personnel of the agency or institution of learning, and make such special reports, surveys, or studies as the commission may request.

[1973 c 35 s 16]

[For text of subds. 3 and 4, see M.S.1971]

#### 40.07 Powers of districts and supervisors

[For text of subds. 1 to 14, see M.S.1971]

**Subd. 15.** The district board of supervisors annually shall present a budget consisting of an itemized statement of district expenses for the ensuing calendar year to the board of county commissioners or boards of county commissioners of the county or counties in which the district is located. The county board or boards may levy an annual tax on all taxable real property in the district for such amount as the board or boards determine to be necessary to meet the requirements and obligations of the district. The amount levied shall be collected and distributed to the district in like manner as prescribed by chapter 276. This amount may be spent by the district board for any district purpose authorized by law.

[1973 c 583 s 6]