

Soil Conservation District Is Set Up

County Commissioners today enacted legislation establishing a soil conservation district in Lycoming County.

The action declaring the county to be a conservation unit came after the county officials had received a number of petitions, conducted a public meeting, and held conferences with farm leaders and individuals.

The resolution creating a soil conservation district is to be submitted to the county solicitor, Lycoming is the 39th county in Pennsylvania to adopt the provisions of the law.

Coordination Is Goal

Purpose of the soil district is to coordinate all soil conservation efforts, to make possible local watershed protection, and to give farmers and land owners federal support in planning and executing soil improvements. Flood protection is an important aspect of the program.

One of the benefits to a farmer under the soil plan is the

mapping of his land and appraisal of his soil's capacity. He then becomes eligible for federal assistance in contouring, terracing, reforestation, draining and building farm ponds.

The next procedure in establishing the district is to name the members of the governing body. The board of directors will consist of four practical farmers selected from a list containing at least eight names and one county commissioner.

The list of eight nominees is to be submitted by officials of coun-

ty-wide organizations of farmers designated by the State Soil Conservation Commission.

Upon receipt of notice of the organizations entitled to make nominations the commissioners call a meeting of the official delegates and conduct the election of the proper number of nominees. The commissioners appoint one of their number annually and the first four farmers will serve terms of one, two, three and four years.

The county commissioner can receive traveling expenses and the farmer members may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred provided funds are made available by the commissioners or the State Soil Conservation Commission.



THIRTY ATTEND SOIL CONSERVATION MEETING

Thirty farmers from all parts of the county attended a meeting yesterday at 9:45 a. m. at the Y. M. C. A. to discuss a soil conservation district for Lycoming County. Robert Struble, field secretary of the State Soil Conservation Commission of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, showed slides and explained different phases of the pro-

gram. A committee was named to meet with the county commissioners to set up the conservation district if there is a need for one. Seated, left to right, are Gordon Hiller, Robert Struble, and Z. H. Confair; standing, Charles Carey, Francis Kennedy, John Bower, Herbert Nun, James McClain, and George Bailey.

Commissioners OK District For Soil Conservation Project

After conducting a survey which revealed that Lycoming County farmers and farm groups were overwhelmingly in favor of setting up a soil conservation district in the county, the county commissioners passed a resolution Thursday doing just that.

Commissioners said that those favoring the soil conservation district included 312 individuals—with Gordon L. Hiller spearheading the drive for it—and these 9 county organizations:

Opposed to Project

The West Branch Motor Boat Association, a group of students at the Williamsport Technical Institute, Muncy Young Farmers, Future Farmers of America, Williamsport Nature Club, Lycoming County Young Farmers, Capt. John Brady Grange, Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association, and the Muncy Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Opposed to the soil plan were nine individuals and these four groups: Pine Run Grange, Lycova

Grange, Cogan Grange, and Eldred Grange.

The commissioners also had received a number of petitions, held a public meeting, and conferred with farm leaders and individuals before enacting the legislation.

The resolution creating a soil conservation district will be submitted to the county solicitor. Lycoming is the 39th county in the state to adopt the provisions of the law passed in 1945.

Purpose of the soil district is to co-ordinate all soil conservation efforts, make possible local watershed protection, and to give farmers and land owners federal support in planning and executing soil improvements. Flood protection is an important part of the program.

The board of directors will consist of four practical farmers to be selected from a list containing at least eight names, plus one county commissioner.

"It will take an estimated six months to set up the soil conservation district organization," the commissioners said.

"GRIT"

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