

TITLE 2: NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION 3: THE ENVIRONMENT

§ 3225. Composition and Responsibilities of Districts; Appointment, Tenure, and Compensation of Administrators.

(a) The soil and water conservation districts shall each:

(1) Be composed of administrators, each of whom is engaged in farming and is a land occupier of the district. Administrators shall be elected.

(2) Have an adviser assigned to it by the Department of Natural Resources and by the Northern Marianas College (Land Grant Program) and may request, as required, technical advisors from other Commonwealth agencies, insofar as available appropriations and resources permit.

(3) Have a chairperson, who shall be designated by the administrators. Administrators shall promulgate rules by which this designation may be changed.

(4) Have a quorum in order to conduct business. Three administrators shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of a majority upon any official matter shall be necessary.

(5) Have monthly meetings, and semiannually, all districts shall have a joint meeting.

(6) Have elections every three years for the purpose of electing administrators.

(b) The selection of administrators for each district and their tenure shall be as follows:

(1) Farm landowners or occupiers of each district shall nominate and elect nonpartisan administrators from among their members. Each administrator shall be elected for a term of three years. The first elections shall be held within two months after enactment of this chapter; and commencing in 1988 shall thereafter be held every three years on the second Tuesday in February. No elected administrator shall serve more than three consecutive terms.

(2) Vacancies shall be filled for an unexpired term. The selection of successors to fill an unexpired term of elected and appointed administrators shall be made by the Governor. The Department of Natural Resources shall recommend qualified candidates to the Governor to fill the unexpired term of an administrator.

(c) Administrators shall not receive compensation for their services.

(d) Each soil and water conservation district shall prepare a long-range plan and an annual workplan with assistance from advisory members and agencies. Each district shall keep a record of proceedings, resolutions, regulations, and orders issued or adopted and accounts of receipts and disbursements; and shall furnish to the Department of Natural Resources copies of such documents, instruments or information concerning their activities as the department may request. Activities shall be limited to the following types of lands within the districts:

(1) All public lands leased for agricultural activities, including leased federal lands. Any and all projects which are proposed for leased federal lands shall require the review and approval of the federal agency which has jurisdiction over public lands.

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(2) Public and private lands which are designated as agricultural or conservation areas.

(3) Lands which are used for the purpose of commercially producing an agricultural commodity which are located in areas designated as urban or rural.

Source: PL 4-44, § 8.

Commission Comment: With respect to the references to the “Department of Natural Resources,” see Executive Order 94-3 (effective August 23, 1994), reorganizing the executive branch, changing agency names and official titles, and effecting other changes, set forth in the Commission comment to 1 CMC § 2001.