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**Office of NAPOLEON B. BROWARD
DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

Bulletin No. 1.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

August 1st, 1917

**A LETTER CONTAINING STATEMENTS OF VITAL
IMPORTANCE TO OWNERS OF FLORIDA EVER-
GLADE LAND.**

Mr. Everglade Landowner:

On May 26th, 1917, an Act of the Florida Legislature was approved, creating the Napoleon B. Broward Drainage District. This Act provides for the draining and reclaiming of some 528,000 acres of Everglade land, situated in Broward County and in the north half of Dade County. The Act authorizes a Board of Supervisors to levy and collect taxes on this land to defray all the expenses of reclamation.

This Act designated the three men whose names are subscribed to this letter, as the first Board of Supervisors to direct the work of the District.

Our Board was organized and held its first meeting June 15th, 1917.

July 14th we appointed Isham Randolph & Company as Consulting Engineers of the District at a salary of \$250.00 a month. Isham Randolph & Company are, without question, the leading Drainage Engineers of America and have been connected with practically every Reclamation project of any prominence that has been undertaken in this country for a number of years past.

We have appointed Wm. A. O'Brien as Chief Engineer who will direct the work. He takes charge this week. He has just completed his work as Chief Engineer of The Little River Drainage District, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. In most features the reclamation work of The Little River District has been similar to what must be done in order to reclaim the land of the Everglades. It should also be stated that next to the Napoleon B. Broward Drainage District, the Little River District is one of the largest in existence. For these reasons we believe that a more competent man, for Engineer in charge, could not be found than Mr. O'Brien.

The first duty of the Engineers will be to make all necessary surveys, maps and profiles, and submit in writing a report which shall contain a full and complete plan for draining and reclaiming these lands and which shall, when

510 ✓

approved and accepted by the Board of Supervisors, be known as "The Plan of Reclamation."

It will require considerable time, and the expenditure of a large sum of money, to make these surveys and determine a successful plan of reclamation before the work of actually ditching and draining the lands can be completed. To meet the expense incurred by the preparation of this Plan of Reclamation, we are empowered to levy a tax of not more than fifty cents on every acre of land in the District. **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PROVISION WE LEVIED, JUNE 15TH, A TAX OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) CENTS ON EACH ACRE OF LAND IN THE DISTRICT. THIS TAX IS NOW DUE AND PAYABLE TO THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE LAND IS SITUATED. THIS TAX IS A LIEN UPON THE LAND AGAINST WHICH IT IS ASSESSED AND BECOMES DELINQUENT NINETY DAYS AFTER JUNE 15, 1917.**

You own land lying within the boundaries defined by the Act creating this District. We therefore take this opportunity to assure you, our constituent, that we propose to be guided by a policy that will protect your welfare, and to successfully reclaim, as rapidly as a safe and practical plan will permit, the land that has hitherto been useless to you.

In order that we may accomplish this great work and do it as quickly as possible, we ask for your sincere and helpful co-operation. The very first and best way that you can co-operate is to send **IMMEDIATELY**, this initial tax of twenty-five (25) cents per acre to the Tax Collector of the County in which your land is situated.

Please bear in mind that we are undertaking a great work the final outcome of which will redound wholly to the benefit of the landowners of the District. We therefore repeat our request for your immediate and continued co-operation. Such information as you may desire regarding the work that we are doing, it shall be not only our duty but our privilege to furnish you.

Please advise if we have not written your address correctly. If at any time you change your address will you be so kind as to notify us promptly. All communications should be addressed to the Napoleon B. Broward Drainage District, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

It might be wise to keep this bulletin for reference. Others may be sent to you in the future.

Sincerely,

W. C. KYLE, President,
A. B. LOWE,
R. O. WATSON,

Board of Supervisors Napoleon B. Broward Drainage District.

A Digest of the Act Creating The Napoleon B. Broward Drainage District

I. INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS:

1. A Board of three Supervisors shall be the governing body of the District.

2. A. B. Lowe, of Davie, Florida, R. O. Watson, of Miami, Florida, and W. C. Kyle, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, shall constitute the first Board of Supervisors. They shall hold said positions for periods of two, three, and four years, respectively, beginning the 15th day of June, 1917. The Salary of each Supervisor shall be \$2,400 per annum for the first four years.

II. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SUPERVISORS:

1. Elect a Secretary.

2. Elect a Treasurer, cause his accounts to be audited and a statement thereof made to the landowners once each year. Treasurer to pay out funds only on warrants issued by the District, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary.

3. Provide offices properly furnished.

4. Employ attorneys.

5. Borrow money to meet emergencies at a rate of interest not to exceed eight per cent.

6. Levy a uniform tax of not more than 50 cents per acre on all lands within the District, for preliminary expenses. Such tax to be a lien upon the land against which it is assessed and **TO BECOME DELINQUENT NINETY DAYS AFTER IT IS ASSESSED.**

(a) "Provided, that if it shall be ascertained and determined that any tract or lot of land or parts thereof upon which the uniform tax authorized and levied as provided in Section 7 of this Act has been paid, will not be benefitted by or receive any benefits from the completion of the plan of improvement, then the uniform tax so paid upon such tract, lot or part thereof shall be refunded and paid to the person paying same."

7. Employ a Chief Engineer to be superintendent of all works and improvements and who shall, after making all necessary surveys, submit a report in writing.

8. Approve and adopt Chief Engineer's report, which shall thereafter be known as "The Plan of Reclamation."

9. After "The Plan of Reclamation" has been approved, Supervisors shall cause the Circuit Court to appoint three commissioners to appraise the land within and without the District to be acquired for right of ways, holding basins, and other drainage works of the District, and to assess benefits and damages accruing to all lands in the District by reason of "The Plan of Reclamation."

10. Full power to build, construct, excavate and complete any and all works and improvements that may be needed to carry out, maintain and protect "The Plan of Reclamation."

11. Full power to levy such tax as may be found necessary to pay the cost of the completion of "The Plan of Reclamation."

12. Not later than November First of each year the Board of Supervisors shall order and **LEVY THE AMOUNT OF ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS** of said taxes necessary to pay the cost of completion of "The Plan of Reclamation." These taxes shall become due and be collected at the same time that State and County taxes are due and collected. **SAID TAXES SHALL BECOME DELINQUENT AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY OF APRIL OF EACH**

**RECLAM-
ATION
TAX**

YEAR. SUCH DELINQUENT TAXES SHALL BEAR A PENALTY OF TWO PERCENT PER MONTH FROM DATE OF DELINQUENCY UNTIL PAID, AND EACH FRACTIONAL PART OF A MONTH SHALL BE COUNTED AS A FULL MONTH.

(a) THE SUPERVISORS SHALL CAUSE LAND TO BE SOLD FOR TAXES WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER SAID TAXES BECOME DELINQUENT. LANDOWNERS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM ANY AND ALL LAND SOLD AT SUCH SALE WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER THE DAY WHEN LANDS ARE OFFERED FOR SALE.

(b) "All suits for the enforcement of the lien for such delinquent taxes shall be in Chancery..... and it shall not be material that the ownership of said lands shall be correctly alleged in such proceedings, and the judgment and decree rendered shall be enforced wholly against such lands." (Sec. 20, page 24).

13. Full power to issue bonds not to exceed ninety per cent of total amount of taxes levied for the completion of drainage. Said bonds to bear interest at a rate not to exceed six per cent.

14. After the completion of "The Plan of Reclamation," on or before October First of each year thereafter, levy a maintenance tax to preserve, maintain, repair, and restore ditches and other improvements. Said maintenance tax to be apportioned upon a basis of net benefits.

**MAINTEN-
ANCE TAX**

(a) Once every five years, in case of material change in value of property, Supervisors may file, in the Circuit Court, a petition for a re-adjustment of benefits. Said re-adjustment to be made by three commissioners appointed by the Court.

15. Appoint necessary overseers to preserve ditches, dyke levees and other work of construction.

16. Call annual meetings; the first to be in June, 1918:

(a) To report to the landowners what work has been done either by Engineers or otherwise.

**ELECTION
OF SUPER-
VISORS**

(b) To elect each year, beginning with the meeting of June, 1919, a Supervisor. At such election each owner shall be entitled to one vote in person, or by proxy in writing duly signed, for every acre of land owned by him in the District.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

1. Any landowner assessed for work and improvement under this Act shall have the privilege of paying such tax assessment to the Treasurer of the Board of Supervisors at any time on or before a date to be fixed by the Supervisors and the amount to be paid shall be the full amount of the tax levied less any amount added thereto to meet the interest.

2. "Any landowner within the District may construct ditches to drain his lands into the public ditches under such rules, regulations and conditions as the Board of Supervisors may prescribe, and if any intervening landowner should refuse permission to cross his land with such ditch, the landowner seeking to construct such ditch may, by proceedings in the Circuit Court, to be conducted in the same manner as condemnation proceedings instituted by railroads, condemn a right of way for ditch." (Sec. 46).

3. "Any clause of this Act which may for any reason be declared unconstitutional or invalid may be eliminated from this Act, and the remaining portions of said Act shall remain in force and be valid as if such invalid portions thereof had not been incorporated therein." (Sec. 49).