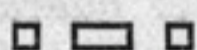
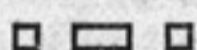


Organization Committee of the Florida Development Board



HISTORY



A conference of representatives from the State officials, the Agricultural College, land owners and business men, was held in Jacksonville on April 10, 1916, with C. S. Ucker of Baltimore, vice-president and general manager of the Southern Settlement and Development Organization, for the purpose of discussing ways and means for utilizing the idle lands in the State.

There are approximately 35,000,000 acres of land in Florida, of which less than five per cent was at that time under cultivation, and less than eight per cent under cultivation now. Large areas of unused lands do not produce much business for merchants, bankers, or professional men. And there were three conditions confronting the land owners: either let the lands go back to the State for taxes, find buyers, or the owners make some beneficial use of their holdings.

A State does not show much progress in development when the lands are being turned back for taxes. The presence of the cattle fever ticks throughout the State was a great handicap to either securing purchasers, or to the profitable development of the live stock industry, always the first step in developing large areas of new land, by the land owners.

Following a full discussion of the conditions, the Florida Cattle Tick Eradication Committee was organized for a three years campaign of education to show the people how eradication of the cattle fever ticks would be beneficial to all their interests.

The subscription contracts expired on April 30, 1919, but the work was continued by voluntary subscriptions until December 31, 1919, when the affairs of the Florida Cattle Tick Eradication Committee were closed. During the three and one half years of the campaign, favorable sentiment has been created to the extent that county commission-

ers in every quarantined county except one have made appropriations for building dipping vats; 26 counties have voted in favor of compulsory dipping of cattle in their respective counties; and systematic work has been established in a number of counties. About one sixth of the State has been released from tick fever quarantine, and rapid progress in cleaning up the balance of the State is assured by the cattle owners who want to protect their stock and get out of quarantine, and by State and Federal government officials.

Several months before the close of the Florida Cattle Tick Eradication Committee's campaign, the leading business men throughout the State began to consider plans for an organization that would have an enlarged scope of activities in furthering the development of the resources. A large number of meetings were arranged by Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Rotary Clubs and other civic organizations in all sections of Florida. Mr. Ucker was invited to attend the meetings and he outlined a campaign to "Wake Up, Clean Up, and Advertise," a slogan suggested for Florida by Mr. Richard Edmonds, editor of the Manufacturers Record.

Delegates were appointed by the local organizations to represent them at a convention which was held in Jacksonville on November 25, 1919, at which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, there have met in the City of Jacksonville, on November 25, 1919, upon call issued by Dr. W. F. Blackman, President of the State Live Stock Association and others associated with him, delegates from, and representatives of, the various trade, civic, commercial, professional and social organizations within the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, there has been presented recently to the various organized bodies within the State, and today, to the aforesaid delegates assembled, a resume of conditions as they now exist within the State of Florida, particularly with respect to its unused and idle lands and with respect to problems connected with its development along live stock, agricultural and horticultural lines, rural settlement, schools and roads, the creation of markets for products, and the like, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has more unoccupied and idle lands that are available for profitable use than any other State of the Union, and

it being apparent that there is need for co-ordinated and concerted action with respect to the development of the State's resources, now, therefore, we, the Committee on Resolutions, having carefully considered the entire subject matter, present our conclusions in the form of resolutions:

1. RESOLVED, that there is need for, the time is ripe for, and the material progress of the State demands, a co-ordinated and united effort to develop the resources of the State to the end that those who are now citizens and resident within the State may be made more prosperous and more secure in their prosperity, and that others may be induced to come among us, casting their lot with us, become citizens of the State and aid in the development of her now idle and unused resources. As a means of effecting this end, we unanimously recommend that a State-wide development organization be formed and incorporated.

2. RESOLVED, that Mr. C. S. Ucker be made Chairman of an Organization Committee of nine other members appointed by the Chairman of this meeting, representing as nearly as possible every section of the State and the various interests and activities within the State, and that said Committee be empowered and directed to secure the incorporation of a State-wide Organization, to select an appropriate name therefor, to define the scope of its activities, to fix its place of business, to select and employ the necessary force to operate it, and to provide for the financing of said organization.

The Organization Committee, together with such others as they may select, shall act as the Board of Directors of the Association until its first annual meeting.

3. RESOLVED, that the Committee, prior to effecting the organization as aforesaid, and as a condition of such organization, shall satisfy itself that the work of the Association can be adequately financed. It is suggested that the Committee shall urge upon the landowners, the transportation companies, the banks and other organized interests of the State to provide as quickly as possible a "financial advance" or "underwriting pool" out of which the initial expenses of the proposed organization may be defrayed until a system of annual financing can be devised and installed, and that such advances made by the participants in such pool

shall be refunded from the treasury of the Association.

4. RESOLVED, that steps be taken to get in touch with other bodies interested in the development of the entire South, in particular with the Southern Settlement and Development Organization of Baltimore, and with the Land Owners Associations of the several states, to the end that Florida may perform her part in all efforts toward South-wide development of unused and idle lands and resources, of which there is a greater amount in the Southern States than any other portion of our common country, and at the same time receive her share in all benefits thus accruing.

5. RESOLVED, finally, that we would impress upon all those who may have to do with this Organization, and all those who may participate therein, that the way is long and the task arduous, and that the goal is only to be won by persistent perseverance, long-sustained effort, unconquerable zeal, a clear ideal and an unselfish purpose to succeed. The resources of our State will never be developed by any agency from without. Its accomplishment and the time thereof is in our hands. The time is here—its accomplishment rests with us.

At the first meeting of the Organization Committee Mr. Ucker resigned the chairmanship and Jules M. Burguières of West Palm Beach was elected to that position. The other members of the Organization Committee are:

A. G. Cummer, Jacksonville, Treasurer; Dr. L. A. Bize, Tampa; Dr. W. F. Blackman, Lake Monroe; A. Hunter Brown, Pensacola; George W. Chase, Ocala; F. C. Groover, Jacksonville; Mrs. Edgar Lewis, Fort Pierce; C. E. Stewart, Jr., Tampa; William L. Wilson, Panama City; C. S. Ucker, Baltimore, Maryland.

At the meeting of the Organization Committee held on January 12 and 13, 1920, FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD was selected as the name for the Organization, and a Constitution with schedule of dues for membership was adopted.

Provision also was made for incorporation of the FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD so soon as \$25,000 shall have been subscribed, as is fully set out in the subscription membership contract.

Temporary offices have been opened at 404 and 405 Consolidated Building, Jacksonville, Florida.