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September 30, 1954

To: Mr. William L. Chapman, Commissioner of Agriculture

By Robert A. McKay, Assistant Attorney General

Under date of September 20, 1954, you requested our opinion as to whether the State Soil Conservation Committee is authorized to include in its biennial budget a request for funds to cover the expense monies to which Soil Conservation District supervisors are entitled under Section 34-1408, Wyoming Compiled Statutes, 1945.

We are of the opinion that your question must be answered in the affirmative. In Section 34-1417, Wyoming Compiled Statutes, 1945, it is directed that the State Soil Conservation Committee's estimate of financial need report to the Governor, required by Section 20-701, Wyoming Compiled Statutes, 1945, include information as to the:

"***balance of funds, if any, available to the committee and to the districts; and the estimates of the committee as to sums needed for its administrative and other expenses, and for allocation among the several districts during the ensuing biennial period. "The supervisors of the respective districts shall submit to the committee such statements, estimates, budgets, and other information at such times and in such manner as the committee may require." (Emphasis supplied)

The language quoted makes it clear that the legislature intended that the various districts inform the State Committee as to their needs and that the State Committee in turn request in its budget sums sufficient to meet those needs. No other method is provided by statute for the Districts to secure funds to defray their expenses, except through an allocation by the State Committee upon the basis of the budget requests made of the legislature.