

121 ~~[(H)]~~ (12) The attorney general shall provide legal services to the commission upon
122 request.

123 Section 3. Section **4-18-105** is amended to read:

124 **4-18-105. Conservation Commission -- Functions and duties.**

125 (1) The commission shall:

126 (a) facilitate the development and implementation of the strategies and programs
127 necessary to:

128 (i) protect, conserve, utilize, and develop the soil, ~~[air, and]~~ water, and air resources of
129 the state; and

130 (ii) promote the protection, integrity, and restoration of land for agricultural and other
131 beneficial purposes;

132 (b) disseminate information regarding districts' activities and programs;

133 (c) supervise the formation, reorganization, or dissolution of districts according to the
134 requirements of Title 17D, Chapter 3, Conservation District Act;

135 (d) prescribe uniform accounting and recordkeeping procedures for districts and
136 require each district to submit annually ~~[an audit of the district's funds to the commission]~~ the
137 information required in Section 17D-3-103;

138 (e) approve and make loans for agricultural purposes, through the loan advisory ~~[board]~~
139 subcommittee described in Section 4-18-106, from the Agriculture Resource Development
140 Fund~~[-, for:]~~;

141 ~~[(i) rangeland improvement and management projects;]~~

142 ~~[(ii) watershed protection and flood prevention projects;]~~

143 ~~[(iii) agricultural cropland soil and water conservation projects;]~~

144 ~~[(iv) programs designed to promote energy efficient farming practices; and]~~

145 ~~[(v) programs or improvements for agriculture product storage or protections of a crop
146 or animal resource;]~~

147 (f) seek to obtain and administer federal or state funds~~[-, including loan funds under this~~
148 ~~chapter,]~~ in accordance with applicable federal or state guidelines and make loans or grants
149 from those funds to ~~H→~~ [land occupiers] an eligible entity, as defined by the department by rule
149a made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, ←H
149b for[:] the preservation of soil, water, and air resources;

150 ~~[(i) conservation of soil or water resources;]~~

151 ~~[(ii) maintenance of rangeland improvement projects;]~~

214 (c) recommend policies and procedures for the Agriculture Resource Development
215 Fund that are consistent with statute.

216 (5) The commission may make a grant from the Agriculture Resource Development
217 Fund to an ~~H~~→ eligible ~~H~~← entity ~~H~~→ , as defined by the department by rule made in
217a accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, ~~H~~← that has the
217b legal right to occupy land for:

218 (a) the development or implementation of a coordinated resource management plan
219 with a conservation district, as defined in Section 17D-3-102; and

220 (b) control or eradication of noxious weeds and invasive plant species in cooperation
221 and coordination with a local weed board.

222 Section 5. Section **17D-3-103** is amended to read:

223 **17D-3-103. Conservation district status, authority, and duties.**

224 (1) A conservation district created under this chapter:

- 225 (a) is a body corporate and politic;
- 226 (b) is a political subdivision of the state; and
- 227 (c) may sue and be sued.

228 (2) (a) A conservation district may:

229 (i) survey, investigate, and research soil erosion, floodwater, nonpoint source water
230 pollution, flood control, water pollution, sediment damage, and watershed development;

231 (ii) subject to Subsection (2)(b), devise and implement on state or private land a
232 measure to prevent soil erosion, floodwater or sediment damage, nonpoint source water
233 pollution, or other degradation of a watershed or of property affecting a watershed;

234 (iii) subject to Subsection (2)(b), devise and implement a measure to conserve,
235 develop, utilize, or dispose of water on state or private land;

236 (iv) construct, improve, operate, and maintain a structure that the board of supervisors
237 considers necessary or convenient for the conservation district to carry out its purposes under
238 this chapter;

239 (v) acquire property, real or personal, by purchase or otherwise, and maintain, improve,
240 and administer that property consistent with the purposes of this chapter;

241 (vi) enter into a contract in the name of the conservation district;

242 (vii) receive money from:

243 (A) a federal or state agency;

244 (B) a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state; or