

are found not to be in due form and in accordance with the law they shall be referred back to the petitioners to be corrected and returned to the County Commissioners at a subsequent meeting. If the petition and report are found to be in due form and in accordance with the law, the County Commissioners shall appoint a day for a public hearing upon the report and petition and shall give not less than ten days' notice of the time and place of the hearing. Such notice shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers having a general circulation in the county or counties in which the lands in the Watershed Association are located. During this time a copy of the report shall be on file in the office of the Clerk of County Commissioners, and shall be open to the inspection of any landowner or other person interested, and the notices shall so state. A notice of this and all subsequent hearings shall be sent to the State Drainage Engineer at least ten days prior to the date of such hearing.

172. Whenever the lands described in the petition are located in two or more counties, the Board of County Commissioners of ~~either~~ **ANY OF THE AFFECTED COUNTIES** ~~county~~ shall have and may exercise the jurisdiction herein conferred, but the venue shall lie in the county in which the petition is filed.

173. The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the petition is filed shall maintain a Watershed File, in which shall be kept such petitions, motions, orders, reports, and other exhibits necessary for a complete and continuous record of the establishment of every Public Watershed Association within the county.

174. At the hearing, the petitioners, and the affected Soil Conservation District or Districts being represented, any person interested in the matter may appear in person or by counsel and make known his objection to any part of the report. The County Commissioners may, in their discretion, disapprove the petition and report and refer them back to the petitioners for amendment in view of the objections presented, or they may approve the petition and report as submitted or as it may have been amended. Upon approval of the petition and report the Commissioners shall declare established an organization, to be known as the.....Public Watershed Association, composed of the owners of all the lands within the boundaries of the Association.

175. A Public Watershed Association created under this subtitle shall be and is hereby constituted a political subdivision of the State and a public body corporate and politic under the name and style of the ".....Public Watershed Association," with the right to acquire and hold property and convey the same, to sue and be sued, to adopt a seal and to alter it at pleasure, and to exercise corporate powers.

176. The County Commissioners shall, within thirty days after the approval of the petition and report, call together the owners of all land within the Public Watershed Association for the purpose of electing a board of directors and determining their rate of compensation. The County Commissioners shall give at least ten days' notice of the meeting by notices posted at four public places within the Watershed Association or in the vicinity thereof, stating the