**Opinion No. 38** 

Soil Conservation District—Supervisors, Authority to Employ Legal Counsel.

Held: The Board of Supervisors of a soil conservation district has authority to employ legal counsel to represent the district in litigation.

May 29, 1947

McCone Soil Conservation District

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Circle, Montana

Attention: Mr. Henry R. Reinemer, President

Dear Mr. Reinemer:

I have your request for opinion as to whether the Board of Supervisors of the McCone Soil Conservation District may legally employ an attorney to represent the District in an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Section 7 of Chapter 72, Laws of 1939, specifically provides:

" \* \* \* \* The supervisors may call upon the attorney general of the state for such legal services as they may require, or may employ their own counsel and legal staff \* \* \* \*." (Emphasis mine).

This provision of the statute is plain and it is, therefore my opinion that your board may employ legal counsel to represent you in any litigation.

Sincerely yours, R. V. BOTTOMLY, Attorney General