

2013 Plan of Work

**LIMESTONE VALLEY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

On May 12, 1939 the Limestone Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was organized and is a legal subdivision of the Georgia State Government. The SWCD meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in Ellijay unless publicized otherwise.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS:

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Ronald M. James
1179 Arborhill Dr.
Woodstock, GA 30189

Kenneth J. Patton
P.O. Box 416
Ballground, GA 30107

GILMER COUNTY

Mark A. Holden
1906 Roy Road
Ellijay, GA 30536
(Chairman)

Paul Nealey
175 Jennifer Drive
Ellijay, GA 30540
(Vice-Chairman)

MURRAY COUNTY

James F. Petty
459 Gregory Mill Rd.
Crandall, GA 30711

Linda L. Loughridge
322 Ballground Road
Chatsworth, GA 30705

PICKENS COUNTY

Dorothy Mable Brown
920 Camp Dobbs Road
Jasper, GA 30143
(Secretary/Treasurer)

Jerry L. Edwards
49 Cape Trail
Jasper, GA 30143

WHITFIELD COUNTY

Donald Baldrige
2132 Beaverdale Rd.
Dalton, GA 30721

Mark Thomas
1630 Thomas Road
Dalton, GA 30721

**Limestone Valley
Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Annual Plan of Work
Fiscal Year (FY) 2013**

This Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Limestone Valley Soil and Water Conservation District during FY 2013. It emphasizes conservation of natural resources within the District.

Major Objectives

- 1. Natural Resources Conservation** - Promote the conservation of soil, water, forestry, wildlife, and other natural resources.
- 2. Conservation Education** – Promote conservation education through youth and adult education programs.
- 3. Public Relations & Information** - To create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives.
- 4. Erosion and Sedimentation Program** - Provide technical assistance related to erosion control and sedimentation prevention to citizens and local units of government.
- 5. Watershed Flood Control Program** – Uphold the duties as sponsor of watershed flood control structures in the District and assist other watershed control structure sponsors with technical assistance.

Natural Resource Conservation

Action Item

1. Promote natural resources conservation through the District responsibility for implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and other Farm Bill programs.
2. Provide assistance to landowners to plan and apply conservation practices.
3. Host an annual Local Work Group Meeting with agency partners and local farmers to prioritize resources and practices for Farm Bill Program Funding.
4. Promote minimum and no-till conservation farming through the use of the no-till drill through the Limestone Valley RC&D.
5. Assist land users to apply best management practices that will reduce annual soil loss.
6. Implement program activities with the Natural Resources Conservation Service

that adequately protects agricultural land in the District.

7. Provide soils information to the public to promote proper land use planning.
8. Provide wildlife management recommendations to landowners.
9. Promote forestry management practices that benefit natural resources conservation and inform landowners of the assistance available through the Georgia Forestry Commission related to forestry management.
10. Sponsor and conduct demonstrations, tours and field days to acquaint farmers and land users with methods for protecting soil and water resources and promote greater participation.
11. Inform landowners about the Cogongrass Eradication Program.
12. Promote ag water conservation technical assistance through the GSWCC Ag Water Conservation Program.
13. Make ag water use data available from the GSWCC Ag Water Metering Program.
14. Promote the Middle Coosawattee 319 Agricultural BMP Project.
15. Assist the Limestone Valley RC&D with the 319 Watershed Plan for the Coahulla Creek Watershed in Whitfield County.

Conservation Education

Action Item

1. Sponsor high school students to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop (NRCW) at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton to introduce them at an early age to the concepts of soil and water conservation. Tuition for each student will be paid from District funds or from outside sources.
2. Work with a local school system to provide a bus to send students to the NRCW. Pay tuition for 2 students from that county that provides the bus to go to the NRCW.
3. Purchase and distribute stewardship materials from NACD to inform the public of the need to manage and protect natural resources.
4. Be available for presentations with specific information on soil and water conservation for presentations to schools, civic clubs, churches and others.
5. Work with a county school system in developing an outdoor Natural Resources Conservation Study area on school grounds.
6. Sponsor and provide funding, when available, for students to represent the District in the Envirothon program, Soils Judging teams, and other natural resource and environmental competitions.
7. Coordinate with other natural resource agencies to create an agricultural / natural resources awareness field day for elementary school students in the District. This field day will give students hands-on experience that can't be taught in the classroom.
8. The SWCD will pay a per diem to supervisors who attend conservation meetings and continuing education opportunities.

Public Relations and Information

Action Item

1. Develop and distribute annual report on the District's accomplishments.
2. Provide for oversight of District funds by the annual review of expenditures and income, and provide a detailed financial report to the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the end of each fiscal year.
3. Work closely with other agencies (FSA, RD, Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, GSWCC, NRCS, RC&D, and DNR) to coordinate conservation program activities in the District. Encourage each agency representative to attend board meetings and keep District supervisors informed on the various agency programs in the District.
4. Prepare news articles on the District's program and activities.
5. Invite public government officials to all District functions to make them aware of District goals.
6. Keep locally elected officials fully informed about conservation issues and of on-going conservation programs and District accomplishments.
7. Appoint a SWCD Liaison to serve on the Limestone Valley RC&D Council board.
8. Assist the Limestone Valley RC&D with the GA Landowners Guide to Conservation.

Erosion and Sedimentation Program

Action Item

1. Review erosion and sediment control plans for land disturbance projects within the limits of each Local Issuing Authority (LIA) that falls under the requirements of the erosion and sediment control ordinance of the LIA where there is not a Memorandum of Agreement with the District.
2. Provide technical assistance to evaluate soil and water resources for proposed development projects.
3. Promote soil and water conservation through the GSWCC Erosion and Sedimentation Certification Program.
4. Provide LIA's with technical assistance for their erosion and sedimentation control program and assist with interpretation of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act.
5. Review the City of Dalton and Whitfield County E&S Program for the consideration for granting a Memorandum of Agreement to review ES&PC plans in-house without ratification from the District.

Watershed Flood Control Program

Action Item

1. Conduct regular inspections of the District sponsored Watershed Flood Control Structures.
2. Request funding to clear trees and repair damage on District sponsored Watershed Flood Control Structures.
3. Raise awareness of the Watershed Flood Control Structures with the public and locally elected officials to solicit assistance with maintenance and to show their importance to the watershed.
4. Develop an agreement with the Pickens County Sherriff's Department to have the Watershed Flood Control Structures cleared and maintained.

The District will seek, manage, and expend funds made available through private, local, state and federal sources in such a way as to promote soil and water conservation and conservation education.

General District Budget for 2013

	<u>District Funds</u>	<u>GSWCC Funds</u>
Youth Projects	1000.00	300.00
NACD, GACDS, RC&D Dues	1550.00	0
Soil Stewardship Material	0	500.00
Postage	0	200.00
Stationery	0	50.00
Annual Reports	0	500.00
Supervisor Expenses for Non-Local		
Meetings	500.00	0
Watershed Flood Control		
Structure Maintenance		20,000.00
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	\$3,050.00	\$21,550.00