DRAFT

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

Albany, Georgia
June 19, 2014

Participating were Chairman Garland Thompson, Vice-Chairman Dennis Brown, Commission Members Carl Brack, Hal Haddock, and David Hays. Participating from Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Executive Director Dave Eigenberg, Executive Manager for Water Policy Bob Hanner, Communications Specialist Mike Wald, Urban Water Resources Program Manager Lauren Zdunczyk, Administrative Assistants Cynthia Wilbur and Kim McCollum. Mr. Tansel Hudson represented NRCS. Guests included Casey Cox, Larry Booth, Don and Kelly Davis, Greg Jarrell, Devon Dartnell and Britt Faucett. Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order. Board member David Hays made a motion to table item 5e, Public Relations/Outreach Strategy, on the agenda and Dennis Brown made a second with all in favor. Chairman Thompson asked Executive Director Dykes to give an invocation.

On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Hal Haddock, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 17, 2014, Board Meeting.

On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Carl Brack, the Board approved the nominees presented in the June Appointment Report (please see attached.)

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began with the Commission Personnel Report. He began by reporting that Niki Strain would be retiring from the Commission at the end of June. Cynthia Wilbur will be moving into Administrative Operations Manager and Kim McCollum would be moving into Cynthia's position as Administrative Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director. At the present time Mrs. McCollum has been supporting GACDS and with her new position and duties the current support GACDS is receiving will have to be revised. The Region IV Administrative Assistant position just recently went through its second job posting. The second round of interviews were held recently.

Next, Mr. Dykes discussed his recent trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the NASCA/National Watershed Coalition Legislative Effort. He was able to visit multiple offices. He was glad to report that the Gordon County dam was discussed as part of the possible rehab efforts in the future.

Next, Mr. Dykes reported on the draft documents regarding Conservation District Financial Guidance and Chart of Accounts (please see attached) that the districts can use for the upcoming FY2015. This was drafted with assistance from the agency's CPA, Mike Plant, and will give the districts more guidance and assist them chart their spending within different categories. A motion was made by Dennis Brown and a second by David Hays to send out the draft documents to the chairpersons and the treasurers for comments and have comments presented at the next board meeting.

Next, Mr. Dykes discussed the Supervisor Training and presented his proposal to offset the cost for Supervisors. The proposal entailed using funds available at the Georgia Center along with funds formerly used for per diem and competitive allotments to districts. The combination of these funds would

be used to contract with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to cover expenses for Supervisors attending in lieu of them receiving per diem for attendance. The plan is for at least two supervisors per district attend the training. A motion was made by Carl Brack and a second by Dennis Brown with unanimous approval to use the funds to pay for Supervisor Training. Mr. Dykes also reported that a focus group meeting was held on Tuesday, April 29th at the CVIOG office in Athens to discuss the curriculum for the first training. Mr. Dykes reported that the focus group consisted of personnel from the Commission and CVIOG, as well as Blue Ridge Mountain District Supervisor Dr. John Kay, Flint River Supervisor Steve Singletary, and Walton County District Supervisor Sonny Turner. The pilot program will be held in Athens at the Continuing Ed Center on August 8th & 9th. Supervisors will arrive on Thursday evening and the training will be all day on Friday and it will wrap up at lunchtime on Saturday after a tour of a farm and watershed dam.

Next, Mr. Dykes discussed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposal (please see attached) It is a new NRCS program where districts/agencies/nonprofits can target specific areas and concerns for NRCS funding. The applications are due July 14th. The Commission has been in discussion with Reggie Thackston, Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division, regarding partnering about Bob White Quail and with Southwest Georgia District regarding a water conservation proposal. The board agreed to proceed with these proposals.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg gave a brief update of the Metering Program. He reported that the Irrigation season has begun again and the calls for repairing meters are coming in. Three trucks are out in the field daily; one for certifying new installs by farmers, one to repair broken meters and the other truck is for troubleshooting. The metering program was successful in obtaining funding for FY15. The Forestry Commission continues to be a great partner with the help that they are providing in continuing to read the meters.

At this time, the Board called on Mrs. Lauren Zdunczyk to give the Urban Program Update. She reported that the TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) nominations have been sent in with 44 applications received. The previous committee was a seven member committee and it presently has four remaining members from the appointment four year ago; out of the three, one member has moved, one stepped down and one member cannot be located. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Carl Brack the board agreed to table any decision regarding selecting members to serve on the committee. On a motion by David Hays and a second by Hal Haddock the board approved; Ben Ruzowicz, Lauren Zdunczyk, Dennis Brown, Dave Eigenberg and Brent Dykes to serve on a committee that would provide a list of people for the board to consider being on the TAC committee at the next board meeting.

Next Mrs. Zdunczyk presented Gwinnett County districts' update to their MOA for the Cities of Buford, Duluth and Lilburn. Gwinnett County District seeks to keep their erosion control plan review MOA's up to date. The local governments and engineers are all on board. On a motion by David Hays and a second by Hal Haddock the board voted to accept the updated MOA's.

At this time Brent Dykes presented a request for a project from Flint River District to use drones to fly over active irrigation fields to complete water conservation research. The Flint River District seeks

assistance (please see attached) from Attorney General Sam Olens to obtain a certificate of authorization from the FAA to fly the drones to conduct research, refine irrigation management zones, and to enhance water conservation. A discussion was held about liability issues and insurance coverage. On a motion by Hal Haddock and a second by Dennis Brown the board agreed to forward the letter to the Department of Law.

At this time, Mr. Hudson gave the NRCS Report. He reported on the watershed rehabilitation program. The pre-proposal date for the RCPP is coming up soon and that you can go to grants.gov to submit a proposal. CRP and EQIP programs are active during this time.

Mr. Dykes reminded the board that the GACDS Group 4 meeting was being held today in the Hooks Hanner building in Dawson at 10:00AM and that the 2015 Annual Meeting is in the planning process and will be held in Columbus.

The next board meeting will be held on Friday, August 8th at 7:30AM prior to the Supervisor Training at the Continuing Education Center in Athens.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Dennis Brown, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kimberly McCollum

Approved by:

8-8-2014	**8-8-2014**
GSWCC Chairman Date	GSWCC Executive Director Date