

**GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
Athens, GA  
July 16, 2009

Present were Chairman Garland Thompson, Vice Chairman Steve Singletary, and Commission Members Carl Brack and David Hays. Present from Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Director Dave Eigenberg, Urban Program Manager Lauren Zdunczyk, E&SC Data Entry Specialist Jennifer Standridge, Administrative Operations Manager Janice Marable, Regional Representative Russell Tanning, IT Director Bill Bunney, IT Project Specialist Erik McCutcheon, and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur. Present from NRCS was James Tillman. Guests included Bob Plemons from the Georgia Department of Corrections, and William David Bennett.

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order and asked Executive Director Dykes to give an invocation.

On a motion by Steve Singletary and second by Carl Brack, the board approved the minutes of the May 21, 2009 board meeting.

Executive Director Brent Dykes updated the Board on some old business regarding grant submissions, advising that EPD has approved the E&SC BMP grant request, and that EPA is currently reviewing the request.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Steve Singletary, the board unanimously approved the appointment of new Broad River supervisor Herman Wheatley, new Brier Creek supervisor Lamar Black, and the re-appointment of Coastal supervisors Charles F. Warnell, Jr., Edward Zipperer, and Daniel Hawthorne, as well as Ogeechee River supervisors A.W. Robinson III and Lavanda Lynn.

At this time, Chairman Thompson initiated a discussion on the possibility of engaging in cooperative conservation projects with the Georgia Department of Corrections in the interest of better utilization of state funds. The Board called on Mr. Bob Plemons to provide information on the feasibility of using inmates to perform watershed structure maintenance as well as other conservation projects. Mr. Plemons informed the Board that there are 33 mobile DOC work crews that move as a unit, working on projects throughout the state. DOC teams are available and trained to provide various services, including landscaping, motor vehicle maintenance and repair, and construction. One such group is currently completing several upgrades and maintenance projects on the Hooks-Hanner Environmental Resources Building in Dawson where GSWCC has their Region V office. Mr. Plemons also informed the Board that DOC teams have already performed maintenance on a Pickens county dam owned by the City of Jasper. In the instances where districts (which are

state entities) hold the easements to watershed structures, similar maintenance and work could be performed by DOC teams. Mr. Bennett asked whether such work could be contracted out for several years to ensure continued maintenance and upkeep such as annual underbrush and debris removal from watershed structures. Mr. Plemons replied that contracting was an option and that if necessary, a DOC team could possibly be trained in proper herbicide-usage and other landscape maintenance techniques. Chairman Thompson and Executive Director Dykes also expressed interest in the possibility of a partnership between GACDS and DOC, provided GACDS' status as a non-profit organization did not prohibit them from the partnership. Mr. Plemons continued by explaining that a cooperative partnership between GSWCC and DOC could be initiated by a written letter of interest sent by the Commission Board to the DOC Commissioner, Mr. Brian Owens. Further interest could be expressed to the Governor's office and also to NRCS. Chairman Thompson thanked Mr. Plemons for his time, and Executive Director Dykes assured the Board that he would take the necessary steps to follow up on the Commission interest in the partnership. (Please find list of possible Cooperative Conservation Projects attached to these minutes.)

At this time, the Board called on Administrative Operations Manager Janice Marable to give the Financial Report. Ms. Marable informed the Board that the Commission was able to meet the late year-end budget cuts in the FY2009 budget. There was a total of \$280.00 left in the FY2009 budget by year's-end, with a total of \$8 million in expenditures for FY2009. This was down \$4 million from FY2008. Projecting to the FY2010 budget, there has already been a 9% cut. The Commission will receive funding in monthly, as opposed to quarterly, allotments. The Governor's office has also encouraged an additional 3% cut in expenditures. The amended FY2010 budget and the FY2011 budget requests are due by September 1, 2009. Ms. Marable stated that she expected additional cuts to be taken by that time.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began by complimenting the financial staff for their hard work, especially in light of the budget cuts mandated throughout FY2009. Mr. Dykes then explained that June 2009 revenue figures were down 15.7% from June 2008.

Mr. Dykes next gave the Personnel Report. Currently, the Commission does not have plans to fill the now-vacant E&SC Specialist positions formerly held by Mr. Jeff Bishop. Also, Mr. Andy Dyar in the Region IV office is funded through a grant that will end by July 31, 2009. Also, Mr. Rahn Milligan, Region VI Resource Specialist, has been promoted to Regional Representative for Region VI effective July 1, 2009.

Mr. Dykes asked for the Board's approval for upcoming out-of-state-travel. On a motion by Carl Brack and second by Steve Singletary, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Dykes' travel to Washington D.C. July 19-21, 2009, to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts annual legislative conference. On a motion by Steve Singletary and second by David Hays,

the board unanimously approved Mr. Dykes' travel to Charleston, W.V. in September to attend the National Association of State Conservation Agencies annual conference.

At this time, Mr. Dykes updated the Board on federal funding for FY2010. Both the Pond Program and the National Peanut Research Lab received federal funding in the FY2010 House Agriculture Budget, with the Peanut Lab receiving double the amount of federal funding that it received in FY2009. Mr. Dykes presented several handouts detailing congressional support, including the support of interior funding by Georgia Congressmen Hank Johnson, Jim Marshall, and David Scott. Additionally, Senator Chambliss supports all four of the federal requests outlined in the Washington booklet published by the Commission in February and Senator Isakson supports both watersheds and the National Peanut Lab funding.

Lastly, Mr. Dykes updated the Board on the Regional Water Councils. All councils have held their second round of meetings and are in the process of scheduling their third round for September. Chairs and vice-chairs from the Regional Water Councils met with EPD on July 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss recent EPD population and employment forecast studies and the possibility of using this data in future RWC planning. Seven of the ten basins have signed MOU's with EPD. There is a possibility that the DNR EPD will be able to receive stimulus funding to complete some of their work. The Councils have also expressed interest in using data from the Ag Water Metering program conducted by the Commission. Deputy Executive Director Dave Eigenberg attended the Lower Flint/Ochlockonee council meeting to discuss this data. Chairman Thompson and Vice-Chairman Singletary expressed interest in sharing this data with all of the councils, due to the fact that agricultural water use is the first topic to be explored by all of the councils.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's report. Mr. Eigenberg began by updating the Board on the FY2010 funding for the Metering program. There is currently \$500,000 in rollover funds and an additional \$1.3 million in the metering budget for FY2010. The Lower Ocmulgee basin still has approximately 600 meters that need to be installed, and there are approximately 1000 permits above the Fall Line that will need to be addressed in FY2011. At this time, Mr. Eigenberg and Mr. Bunney gave a brief demonstration of the Metering Database, used by the Commission to compile and disperse all data gathered through the metering program. This data is shared and reconciled with data provided by EPD and USGS.

Mr. Eigenberg continued by reporting that the Pond/MIL Program sign-up will be held August 3-31<sup>st</sup>. GSWCC will be partnering with NRCS, and a press release announcing the sign-up was released in early July. Chairman Thompson asked for additional information concerning a letter received from Dodge County supervisors stating their preference regarding Dodge County's participation in the sign-up. Mr. Dykes replied that he and Regional Representative Keegan Malone met with the supervisors, and that Dodge County will participate.

At this time, the Board called on Mrs. Lauren Zdunczyk to give the Urban Program Update. On a motion by David Hays and second by Steve Singletary, the board approved the list of trainers

(attached). Ms. Zdunczyk stated that the Commission is still offering certification classes; however, the number of people attending has slowed due to the economic downturn. Next, Ms. Zdunczyk presented the updated Sandy Springs Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). On a motion by Steve Singletary and a second by David Hays, the board approved the Sandy Springs Restricted MOA. Ms. Zdunczyk also discussed the review process for the Gwinnett County district overview criteria, which is being handled by Technical Specialist Ben Ruzowicz. Ms. Zdunczyk said that she expected to have that overview process ready for the Board's review and action at the August meeting. A draft of the process was provided to the Board.

At this time, Mr. Dykes introduced Ms. Jennifer Standridge and Mr. Erik McCutcheon to the Board. Ms. Zdunczyk and Ms. Strandridge, along with Mr. McCutcheon, demonstrated the Local Issuing Authority (LIA) database. This database includes all MOA and semi-annual report information. This is a two-phase project. Currently, all information is available internally to E&SC staff. In the second phase, the database will be opened to all of the Regional Offices for their use. GSWCC is the only agency in the state that has this type of database.

At this time, Mr. James Tillman was called upon to give the NRCS update. Mr. Tillman reiterated that both the Pond/MIL program sign-up and the CSP sign-up will be held in August. From a budget standpoint, NRCS will have no new-staffing; all of those funds will be utilized within the agency. The State Technical Committee will be meeting in Perry on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Tillman said that he will also be attending the upcoming NACD conference in Washington.

At this time, Mr. Dykes directed the Board's attention to a handout provided by GACDS Executive Director Crista Carrell, which included updates on upcoming Group meetings and Supervisor Training (attached).

Mr. Dykes presented the Board with a tentative time for their next meeting of Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. to coincide with the GACDS Supervisor Training, which the board approved.

There being no further business, on a motion by Steve Singletary and second by Carl Brack, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

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GSWCC Chairman

Date

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GSWCC Executive Director

Date

## **COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

### **General Questions:**

- Does agency incur expenses for the guard?
- Can inmate labor be used to work on sites where the State of Georgia holds a legal easement on a piece of property?

### **Possible Conservation projects:**

- Watershed Dam maintenance (357 across the State in North GA)-ownership of dam must be by county for inmate usage (watershed easement may not suffice, currently reviewing)
- District boundary sign upkeep and maintenance
- Meter maintenance at HHERC
- Lawn care at HHERC
- Motor Vehicle repairs
- SWCD Study Areas at schools, conservation centers, nature trails – construction and maintenance
- Stream bank restoration
- Upkeep and maintenance of existing public parks
- GACDS cooperative projects

**Trainers to be approved by  
The Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission Board  
and the Stakeholder Advisory Board**

**Trainer Level I**

**Bryan Keller** – BS in Environmental Sciences from the University of Georgia. Mr. Keller is currently a Developmental Engineer with Fayette County. He is responsible for the review of ES&PC Plan and for the NPDES for Construction Site Stormwater Run-off Program. Prior to his current position he worked as a Project Manager and Engineering Technician for the Paragon Consulting Group.

**Marc Mastronardi CPESC, CPSWQ, CISEC** – Mr. Mastronardi has been employed by the GA Department of Transportation since August 1993. At the GA DOT he has held the following positions, Construction Inspector, Project Engineer, Assistant Area Engineer, as well as Area Engineer. Currently Mr. Mastronardi is a Construction Liaison Engineer. He participates in design reviews, evaluation constructability, staging, erosion and sediment control. He also performs regulatory compliance inspection of traffic, erosion and sediment control on assigned projects.

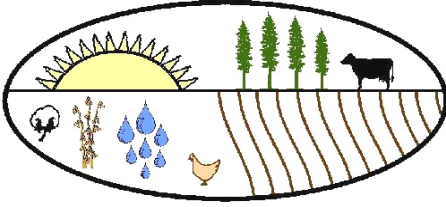
**Christopher Moss CPESC** - Mr. Moss is currently a Senior Land Development Inspector for the CH2MHILL/ City of John's Creek. He is responsible for the review of land development permits to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations as well as conduct field inspections. He assists the Land Development Manager with ES&PC plan reviews (MOA) and LIA overviews and programs.

**Charles Rabolli** – MS in Forest Science from Clemson University and BS in Forest Science/Wildlife Biology from Pennsylvania State University. Currently Mr. Rabolli is the President of CCR Environmental Inc. His firm specializes in wetland delineation and permitting, natural lands management and Phase I Environmental Site Assessments. His professional experience includes environmental permitting and compliance, regulatory agency consultation and environmental review/impact assessment.

**Ben Ruzowicz** – BS in Agricultural Science from Pennsylvania State University. Mr. Ruzowicz is the Technical Specialist for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He is responsible providing statewide technical assistance for all urban program issues. Prior to his role as Technical Specialist, he was a Resource Specialist and an Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist responsible for reviewing plans.

**David Smith CPESC** – Mr. Smith has been employed with Richmond County/City of Augusta for over 25 years. Currently he oversees the plan reviews of all site plans in Augusta-Richmond County. His experience includes, engineering, NPDES and E&S enforcement.

**Martin Smith** - BS in Political Science from State University of West Georgia. Mr. Smith is currently employed by the Georgia Utility Contractors Association (GUCA) as the Director of Public Relations and Marketing. He provides erosion control assistance to GUCA members and works as liaison with regulatory agencies. Prior to his employment at GUCA, he worked as the Business Development/Project Manager for Creek Contracting LLC. Mr. Smith was responsible for managing projects on a per client basis, including the supervision of erosion control services. He also worked for Gibbs Landscaping, where he managed erosion control measures for the grading crew.



# Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors

GSWCC Board Meeting  
Athens  
July 16, 2009

### *Dues:*

26 districts have paid dues totaling \$18,125.

### *Grants:*

The Georgia Forestry Commission has awarded GACDS \$12,060 for a community forestry program. The grant cycle starts September 1<sup>st</sup>. More news about the program will be shared once the planning committee meets in September.

An application was submitted to Captain Planet Foundation for \$2,500 to help establish the tree trail at the Oconee County property.

\$25,000 was requested through Foster's Community Grants for the development of the outdoor classroom at the future education center.

A specialty crops grant application will be submitted tomorrow to the GA Department of Ag to promote farmers markets and Farm to School programs. UGA CAES has agreed to partner on both programs.

### *Supervisor Training:*

Reservations are arriving daily for ST. All of the speakers have been confirmed.

### *Raffle:*

Please encourage your fellow supervisors to sell raffle tickets, if they haven't already turned theirs in. Approximately 500 tickets have been sold so far. We need to sell about 7 times that many! We expect to collect a lot of the sales at the Group meetings coming up in August. Tickets can be sold right up until the drawing at the end of ST.

### *Meeting dates, locations, and agenda topics:*

Aug 4	Group III	Morgan County Farm Bureau	dairy BMPs
Aug 5	Group I	White Oak Park, Dallas	water
Aug 18	Group IV	Terrell Co Board of Commissioners, Dawson	NPRL
Aug 21-22	S. Training	Blue Ridge Comfort Inn	various
Aug 23-26	SE NACD mtg	Charleston, SC	