

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Milledgeville, GA
May 20, 2010

Present were Chairman Garland Thompson, Vice-Chairman Steve Singletary, and Commission Members Dennis Brown, and David Hays. Participating from Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Director Dave Eigenberg, Urban Program Manager Lauren Zdunczyk, Interim Administrative Operations Manager Niki Strain, and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur. Present from NRCS was James Tillman. Guests included Coastal district supervisor Pete Waller.

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

On a motion by David Hays and second by Dennis Brown, the Board approved the minutes of the March 18, 2010 board meeting.

On a motion by Steve Singletary and second by David Hays, the Board approved the resignation of Clayton County district supervisor Charlie Wiggins. On a motion by Steve Singletary and second by Dennis Brown, the board approved the appointments of the supervisors in the May 2010 Appointment Report as attached, tabling the re-appointment request of Broad River district supervisor Owen Thomason.

At this time, the Board called on Ms. Niki Strain to give the Quarterly Expenditure Report. Ms. Strain reported that despite a 4.2% decrease in April 2010 state revenue compared to April 2009, the Commission's state budget is currently on track to expect a surplus by fiscal year's end. This is in anticipation of last-minute end-of-year reductions before July 1, 2010. If funds are not needed for year-end cuts, necessary software updates and equipment as well as vehicle maintenance and repair will be purchased. Currently, the budget percentage decrease year-to-date for FY10 is 10.7%, when compared to FY09.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Brent Dykes to give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Dykes began his report by letting the Board know that Mr. Hays was reappointed on May 7, 2010, for a term to end January 1, 2015. Next, Mr. Dykes presented the Personnel Report. The open position for the Region V Regional Representative is being advertised until May 23rd; currently Tony Black is serving as interim. Brigitte Clifton, the new PR staffer is working well, and has done a good job with the internal and external newsletters.

Next, Mr. Dykes discussed the amended FY10 and FY11 state budgets. The every-other-month meeting schedule as adopted by the Board and several of the districts is creating savings. Mr. Dykes commented that other state agencies have also reduced their board meetings, so the practice is being adopted throughout the state. Starting in FY11, the Commission will only pay supervisor per diem for 10 yearly district meetings (as opposed to 12) and will pay no special meeting per diems. Mr. Dykes stressed that this does not stop districts from holding additional meetings; only they will do so with the knowledge that per diem cannot be claimed. Commission employees will be taking their fifth furlough day the end of May in conjunction with the Memorial Day holiday. The sixth and final furlough day will be taken on June 25th. Mr. Dykes explained that there are currently no furlough days scheduled for FY11. Instead, FY11 budget cuts will be managed through reductions in salaries and contract funds, including watersheds.

Next, Mr. Dykes gave the Board an update on 2010 legislation that currently or in the future will affect the Commission. Senate Bill 370, the Georgia Water Stewardship Act of 2010, establishes three categories for meter permits: active, inactive, and unused. Any unused permits that are not converted to active or inactive status within two years will expire. Additionally, this bill will establish guidelines for outdoor irrigation, allowing watering only between the hours of 4:00PM and 10:00 AM, with certain exemptions. Senate Bill 280 expands state money allotted for expanding state reservoirs. Senate Bill 321 which would have encouraged the creation of new reservoirs, did not pass the House, only the Senate. House Bill 1359 allows residents of Lake Sinclair and Lake Oconee to install seawalls without an EPD variance. House Bills 1284 and 1055 increase fees for state services. House Bill 1090 dissolves the Georgia Agrirama Authority and places the Agrirama under the control of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Mr. Dykes ended his report by commenting on the "Summary of Activities" pamphlet that was recently published for an NRCS tour held May 4th—5th. Also, the Agency Strategic Planning process is being overseen by Mr. Eigenberg, and will be updated by the end of the month.

The Board next called on Mr. Dave Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg began his report by updating the Board on the 2010 Pond Program sign-up. He stated that this year's sign-up is being held earlier than last year, and that the retrofit portion of the program is generating the most interest. This year, the program is budgeted \$2.4million, funding for approximately 50-60 ponds. Next, Mr. Eigenberg discussed the Metering program, stating that now that preliminary site visits have been completed, Additional Data Obtained (ADO) sites are now being looked at. The Commission has several options in regards to these meter sites, all dependent on allotted funds—with a budget of \$500,000, no new meters will be installed. With a budget of \$2,000,000, all of the remaining ADO sites below the Fall Line can be metered. In addition and not included in these cost estimates, there are approximately 1100 permits above the Fall Line, with the potential of 300 meter installations in this area.

Mr. Eigenberg next updated the Board on the Commission's current grant opportunities. This year's CIG would help with solar-paneled livestock watering wells and improvements to multi-pivot pumps in the Region VI area. The Commission has already submitted a pre-proposal to NRCS for the CIG grant, and will be submitting a full proposal soon. Mr. Eigenberg finished his update by mentioning the recent Farm Bill Hearing in McDonough. The hearings are taking place across the country, giving congressmen a chance to meet local farmers in many different states. Mr. Tillman explained that there will be no new money in the next Farm Bill, so these meetings are being used to determine the most efficient way to disperse the funds allocated.

Next, the Board called on Ms. Lauren Zdunczyk to give the Urban Program Report. Ms. Zdunczyk presented the Board with a list of potential Level I and Level II trainers. On a motion by Dennis Brown, and second by David Hays, the Board approved the list of trainers as attached. Next, Ms. Zdunczyk presented the Board with a list of potential members for the Technical Advisory Committee. On a motion by Dennis Brown, and second by Steve Singletary, the members were approved as attached.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Tillman to give the NRCS Update. Mr. Tillman reported on the recent 75th Anniversary Tour with Leonard Jordan, which included a celebration in Soperton in honor of Mr. Jim Gillis' distinguished work with both the Commission and the Pine Country RC&D. Mr. Tillman also added that the upcoming Pond Program and the Farm Bill projects will be the top priority for NRCS over the coming months. To

finish, Mr. Tillman informed the Board that Mr. Jimmy Bramblett will be leaving at the end of May to spend a month at the NRCS headquarters office in Washington DC to work on several projects there.

At this time, Mr. Dykes gave the GACDS Update. GACDS is in the process of applying for a statewide CIG for pigweed control. Also, Group Meetings are being scheduled for the upcoming summer months, and this year's Supervisor Training will be held August 20-21st, in Dublin.

Mr. Dykes reminded the Board that if necessary, there will be a short meeting by conference call in June, with meetings to follow in July and August, with the August meeting to be held concurrent with Supervisor Training.

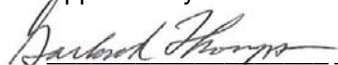
At this time, on a motion by Steve Singletary and second by Dennis Brown, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Steve Singletary, the Board voted to go out of Executive Session and resume the regular meeting. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Steve Singletary, the Board approved the release of one employee from employment. On a motion by Steve Singletary and second by Dennis Brown, the Board approved the plan to reduce one part-time employees' hours and reduce two employees from full-time to part-time status prior to their release from employment September 30, 2010, based on recent state-mandated budget cuts.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:



6-24-10

GSWCC Chairman

Date



6-24-10

GSWCC Executive Director

Date

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

Requirements:

Education/Experience – 4 yr college degree and 5 yrs experience in E&SC

-OR-

Experience Only – 10 yrs experience in E&SC

1. John Ambrosia

Experience – 2009 – Present – HB Training & Consulting
2006 – 2009 - Balfour Beatty Construction
2004 – 2006 – Turner Construction Company
2003 – 2004 – Winter Construction Company
1999 – 2003 - Holder Construction Company
1997 – 1999 – Turner Construction Company

Duties Performed:

- Participated in pre construction meetings for all projects
- Conducted inspections on site for NPDES requirements
- Direct supervision of sites
- Responsible for NPDES and E&S requirements on site

Mr. Ambrosia exceeds requirements with experience

2. Richard Ferreira

Experience – 2007 – Present - Griffin Contracting, INC
2003 – 2007 – Carroll & Carroll
2001 – 2003 – City of Savannah
1999 - 2000 – S&ME Environmental
1995 – 1998 – Keaton Land Surveying

Duties Performed:

- Responsible for complete site erosion control
- Supervised the installation and maintenance and removal of E&SC measures
- Inspection of E&S on sites permitted within the City of Savannah
- Sampled soil and water during all phases of construction

Mr. Ferreira exceeds requirements with experience

Trainer Level II

Education/Experience – 4 yr college degree in engineering or natural science and 5 yrs experience in E&SC

-OR-

Experience Only – 5 years of professional licensure in the field of engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, forestry, geology or land surveying or as a CPESC for a total of 10yrs field experience.

1. Torris Babbs, PE

Education – BS Civil Engineering, Auburn University

Experience – 2008 – Present – Babbs Engineering Consultants, LLC
2007 – 2008 - Black & Veatch, Inc
2005 – 2006 - Carr and Associates, Inc
2002 – 2005 – Khafra Engineering and Consultants
1993 – 2001 – Alabama Department of Transportation

Duties Preformed:

- Reviewed all proposed BMPs for all phases of construction
- Traffic control, E&S control measures on all construction projects
- Supervised inspectors on all traffic control, E&SC measures used throughout projects

Mr. Babbs exceeds requirements with education and experience