



Alapaha River Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Plan of Work – FY 2024

7/1/23 -- 6/30/24

District Identity:

The Alapaha River Soil and Water Conservation District was constituted as an agency of the State Government by the authority and under provision of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Law of 1937 on Nov 10th, 1943. The Board is made up of farmers, landowners, and land-users that are dedicated to the conservation, development, and protection of natural resources. The district comprises Berrien, Clinch, Cook, Echols, Lanier, and Lowndes Counties. Two supervisors from each county, one elected and one appointed, serve on the twelve-member Board.

Meetings rotate throughout the district on the fourth Wednesday every month at 10:00am with date/time and agenda posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. Public is encouraged to attend. Demonstrations, tours, and special meetings are held periodically with proper notification given as to time and location.

Current Board of Supervisors

Berrien

Jake Ford (E)
Carlos Vickers (A)

Clinch

Vacant (E)
Michael Railey (A)

Cook

Derrell Bennett (E)
Harold Simpson (A)

Echols

O.C. Prince (E)
Tim Hughes (A)

Lanier

Vacant (E)
William Darsey (E)

Lowndes

David Pike (E)
Tommy Moore (A)

Georgia Association of Conservation Districts:

Katelyn Poppell, Regional Program Manager – Southeast Georgia

Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission:

Ben Roberts, Conservation Regional Manager, Region 5
Amelia Nystrom, Resource Specialist, Region 5

Major Objectives:

This Annual Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District for the Fiscal Year 2024. The following objectives will be planned, developed, and implemented under partnership with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1. **Natural Resources Conservation** – Work with government agencies and conservation organizations to assist in planning, developing, and implementing conservation programs. Provide local direction and priorities for government technical assistance. Support habitat, agricultural and urban conservation throughout the district through the following action items:

- Apply for a 319 grant through the District of no less than \$300,000 to support ongoing watershed rehabilitation within the district.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Meet with 2 Local Issuing Authorities (LIA) within the district per FY to promote the benefits of a Memorandum of Agreement between the LIA and the District.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Recruit 2 new private land-users/owners to apply best management practices (BMPs) that provide conservation benefits to soil, water, and/or wildlife habitat, within the district.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Work with the Georgia Forestry Commission to get 2 new landowners to establish pine trees on marginal cropland to promote wildlife habitat.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Meet with 2 local units of government to promote using various forms of BMPs to better control storm runoff, promoting urban conservation through the use of rain gardens, pollinator gardens, etc.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Support local hog control initiatives through the purchasing of equipment and promotional materials for two hog custodians. Look to potentially increase the number of custodians by 1 if funds allow.
 - **Budget: \$1,000**
- Have all open supervisor positions filled within 1 year of them being opened
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Establish 1 new program to raise funds for conservation projects in the District
 - **Estimated Income: \$3,000**
- Increase awareness of conservation programs that are available through local, state and federal agencies by increasing the number of outside organizations reporting or attending District Meetings.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**

Total Conservation Budget: \$1,000.00

2. **Education & Outreach** – The SWCD should strive to provide conservation education opportunities throughout the district. Through partnerships with other conservation groups plan, develop, and implement seminars, programs, contests, etc. used for the purpose of conservation education to accomplish the following action items:

- Increase the visibility of the District in other counties by acquaint farmers, land-users and government agencies with methods for protecting soil and water resources, through sponsoring and conducting 4 demonstrations, tours, workshops and field days in covering soil health, water conservation, urban agriculture, and habitat management.
 - **Budget: \$1,500.00**

- Support local elementary schools by providing a Book of the Month subscription and supplies.

The District will supply a book and necessary supplies to one school per month, rotating through all counties in the district.

- **Budget: \$1,000.00**
- Host Level 1A, 1B and 2 certification classes for Local Issuing Authorities and contractors working under the *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law* of Georgia
 - **Budget; \$1,000.00 (District gets the income @ \$150-275 per person)**
 - **Estimated Income: \$3,500**
- Promote the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at ABAC by actively recruiting and sponsoring at least 4 students within the district. Further support NRCW by assisting with the funding of a scholarship to be awarded at the camp.
 - **Budget: \$2,000.00**
- Support conservation related activities by sponsoring at least 2 related programs in 4-H, FFA, or other youth organizations.
 - **Budget: \$1,900.00**
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Total Education & Outreach Budget: \$6,900.00

3. Public Relations, Supervisor Travel/Training & Misc. – Create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives. Keep the general public informed on conservation issues and concerns through the following action items:

- Pay GACD & NACD Dues for FY 2023/24.
 - **Budget: \$1,525**
- Sponsor 3 Supervisors to attend the GACD annual meeting in 2024 FY (Note: state allotment cannot pay for hotel fees)
 - **Budget: \$2,000**
- Support a District Conservationist of the year by purchasing and displaying a sign at the discretion of the award winner.
 - **Budget: \$100**
- Review and approve all Erosion & Sediment Control Plans for developments within the jurisdiction of Local Issuing Authorities within the District as required under **The Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law** of Georgia.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Develop and distribute an Annual Report on District accomplishments at the end of the fiscal year
 - **Budget: \$250**
- Check all District boundary signs; Purchase and/or replace as needed.
 - **Budget: \$350** (= 1 new sign per county)
- Have at least 1 elected official, local, state and/or federal, attend all District functions in order to make them aware of conservation concerns, programs, and accomplishments.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Increase knowledge about the rental equipment the District offers to farmers and land-users by creating and distributing a publication.
 - **Budget: \$150**

Total PR & Info Budget: \$4,375

4. Watershed Inspections and Maintenance – Carry out watershed inspections and

maintenance in the District. Work to prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, control floods, and assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers in the District. Work towards the development of an Emergency Watershed Program.

TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET: \$12,275.00

TOTAL INCOME BUDGET: \$6,500.00 (to the District)

TOTAL STATE ALLOCATION: \$8,579.00

Natural Resources Conservation – Work with government agencies and conservation organizations to assist in planning, developing, and implementing conservation programs. Provide local direction and priorities for government technical assistance. Support habitat, agricultural and urban conservation throughout the district through the following action items:

- Apply for a conservation grant to support ongoing wildlife habitat, agricultural, and urban conservation efforts within the district.
 - Secondary goal: the total amount of grants should be no less than \$200,000
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Meet with 2 Local Issuing Authorities (LIA) within the district per FY to promote the benefits of a Memorandum of Understandings between the LIA and the District.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Recruit 2 new private land-users/owners per FY to apply best management practices (BMPs) that provide conservation benefits to soil, water, and/or wildlife habitat, within the district.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Work with the Georgia Forestry Commission to get 4 new landowners to establish pine trees on marginal cropland to promote wildlife habitat.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Meet with 2 local units of government to promote using various forms of BMPs to better control storm runoff, promoting urban conservation through the use of rain gardens, pollinator gardens, etc.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Get Supervisors involved in the planning of public facilities (1 per district) in an effort to provide technical assistance to increase the number of BMPs being used to control soil and water resources.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Increase Hog control efforts within the district by increasing the number of hog custodians operating in the district by 1 and purchasing equipment as necessary.
 - **Budget: \$3,000**
- Have all open supervisor positions filled within 1 year of them being opened
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Establish 1 new program to raise funds for conservation projects in the District
 - **Budget: \$3,000 (income)**

Total Conservation Budget: \$0.00

Education & Outreach – Educate the general public on the importance of conservation. Work with conservation groups in planning, developing, and implementing seminars, programs, contests, etc. that are used for the purpose of conservation education through the following action items:

- Sponsor and conduct demonstrations, tours, and field days to acquaint farmers and land-users with methods for protecting soil and water resources. **(This belongs in Edu/Outreach)**
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Sponsor Erosion & Sediment Control Workshops and Classes (1A, 1B & Lvl 2) to educate Local Issuing Authorities on their responsibilities under the *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law* of Georgia.
 - **Budget; \$1,000.00 (District gets the income @ \$150-275 per person)**
- Sponsor at least two students within the district to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at ABAC. Provide funds, if necessary, for transportation of students to the workshop. Tuition will be paid from district funds or from outside sources.
 - **Budget: \$550.00**

- Assist school curriculum advisors by providing natural resources conservation books, booklets, curriculum guides, and instructional seminars.
 - **Budget: \$500.00**
- Sponsor and conduct a youth forestry field day competition to educate local high school students on the importance of forestry and the management of our natural resources. Seek outside assistance and sponsorship.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Present information on soil and water conservation to schools, civic clubs, churches, etc.
 - **Budget: \$200.00**
- Assist in sponsoring 4-H, FFA, or other youth organizations in conservation related activities.
 - **Budget: \$500.00**
- Purchase and distribute Soil and Water Stewardship Week materials to educate the public to the need of managing and protecting soil and water resources. Commend all local agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals that provide assistance in promotion of Soil and Water Stewardship Week.
 - **Budget: \$250.00**
- Seek location and funding for the development of an outdoor classroom to be utilized by local schools in the education of natural resources conservation and management.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**

Total Education & Outreach Budget: \$2,500

Public Relations and Information – Create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives and provide information to keep the public informed on conservation issues and concerns through the following action items:

- Pay GACD, NACD & Two River’s Membership Dues for FY 2023/24.
 - **Budget: \$2,200**
- Sponsor 3 Supervisors to attend the NACD/GACD annual meeting in Savannah in the 2023/2024 FY (Note: state allotment cannot pay for hotel fees)
 - **Budget: \$2,000**
- Review and approve all Erosion & Sediment Control Plans for developments within the jurisdiction of Local Issuing Authorities within the District as required under **The Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law** of Georgia.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Develop and distribute an Annual Report on District accomplishments at the end of the fiscal year
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Check all District boundary signs; Purchase and/or replace as needed.
 - **Budget: \$350** (= 1 new sign per county)
- Have at least 1 elected official, local, state and/or federal, attend all District functions in order to make them aware of conservation concerns, programs, and accomplishments.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Increase awareness of conservation programs that are available through local, state and federal agencies by increasing the number of outside organizations reporting or attending District Meetings.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**

Total PR & Info Budget: \$4,80

Watershed Inspections and Maintenance – Carry out watershed inspections and maintenance in the District. Work to prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, control floods, and assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers in the District. Work towards the development of an Emergency Watershed Program.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$7,800.00

TOTAL STATE ALLOCATION: \$7,836.00