



MINUTES
MEETING – January 15, 2021
Teleconference 9:30 AM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Martin at 9:35AM. Mitch Attaway, Executive Director GSWCC, gave the invocation.

The following board members were present on the conference call: Chairman Bob Martin, Board Members: Jason Winters, Vikki Consiglio and Edwin Nix. Attending members of the Commission were Executive Director Mitch Attaway, Conservation Manager Robert Amos, Urban Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz, Rural Project Managers Ben Hyer and Greg Walker, Office Manager Karen Bruce and Administrative Assistant Jerri Helbing.

Mr. Attaway asked for approval of the minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting. There was a motion by Jason Winters to approve, a second by Vikki Consiglio and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mitch Attaway started with the mode of operation at GSWCC with Covid-19 more prevalent than ever, he stated that all staff are still teleworking and rotating days in the office. We are still closed to the public except by appointment and deliveries. Also site visits are made by appointment only. GSWCC is following the CDC guidelines and there is no reopening date at this time. Mr. Attaway stated the budget is on track for this year and should remain the same for FY22 per Governor Kemp. Mr. Attaway will be going to budget hearing on January 22.

Personnel Report – A new Soil and Erosion Specialist Stuart Suttle started on December 1, 2020. Also Intern Mary Lee McQuigg left on Dec 9, 2020 and a New intern Thomas Jackson start January 2, 2021. The plans coming into GSWCC have not slowed down but the turnaround time has improved from 35 to approximately 15 days.

New Business – Mr. Attaway reported that the Governor's office is late on special appointments for vacant elected supervisor positions. They have had some change in personnel and the information has been given to the new Head of the Department, so hopefully action will be taken soon. Mr. Attaway continued by stating there has been an update to GSWCC Appendix A-2. This added clarification to the language used and a third party service may help promote products. These changes needed an approval by the commission, so a motion of approval was made by Mr. Nix and seconded by Ms. Consiglio and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Attaway added that even though people are teleworking and not in the office please contact any of the staff at any time with questions or concerns.

Conservation Report – Conservation Manger Robert Amos announced that five re-appointed Supervisors need to be approved and three Supervisors need approval for resignation. A motion was made to approve these by Mr. Nix and seconded by Mr. Winters and the approval was carried.

Urban Report – Urban Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz reported that he had nothing that the board need to act on. He stated they had a lot of complaints because of all the rain causing erosion and they are still trying to get MOAs established. He is planning a Virtual Erosion Control Day March 16-17. Twelve Vendors have signed up and he anticipates a total of at least forty-five vendors. Three hundred people may attend and it will be free. The first day there will be speakers and the second day will be virtual walk around tours to the vendors.

Rural Report – Rural Project Manager Ben Hyer and Greg had no action items to discuss. They have obtained Grant Funding to update the manual for the Agriculture sector. In the past six months five dams have been cleared and grassed using maintenance funds and plans for two more are underway. Several dams are waiting on design approval from NRCS.

GACD Update – President Woody Snell apologized for having to cancel the Meet & Greet today due to Covid-19, but stated the virtual meeting would be at 1:00AM as planned.

NCRS Update – Mr. Rudolph gave the NCRS update and mentioned they are also still teleworking and not open to the public. They are still trying to fill some positions but there may be a hiring freeze soon due to the new administration. He thanked everyone for the partnership, leadership and commitment to conservation.

Public Comment- Chairman Bob Martin took this time to thank everyone for all they have done. He wants everyone to pull together and start fresh in 2021, getting money to fix all the dams, and environmental concerns. Especially taking advantage of carbon credits from forest landowners.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2021 with no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:26AM.

Respectively Submitted by:
Jerri Helbing

Approved by:



GSWCC Chairman	3/17/2021	GSWCC Executive Director	1/15/2021
	Date		Date