



MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2023
10:00 AM - GSWCC

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Martin at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in person and via zoom. Mitch Attaway gave the invocation

The following board members were present via zoom: Chairman Bob Martin, Vice Chairman Vikki Consiglio, Edwin Nix, and Jason Winters. A quorum was established.

Partners/Supervisors in attendance via zoom: Jake Ford, Katelyn Poppell, Katie Sponberger, Dana Tripp, Tabatha Wooten, and Leanne Hopper from GACD, Tansel Hudson and Terrance Rudolph from NRCS, Ellis Lamme, Gwinnett Co. Supervisor, Danny Hogan, Central Georgia Supervisor, and Wes Fogle, Limestone Valley Supervisor.

Others in Attendance via zoom: Austin Hackney and Cindy Morley from the Home Owners Association of Georgia, Megan Mercer, Glenn Cook, and Tiffany Hogan

Attending members of the Commission who appeared in person were Mitch Attaway, GASWCC Director, Robert Amos, State Conservation Manager, Ben Hyer, Rural Project Manager, and Jacqueline Holt, Administrative Assistant. Attending members of the Commission who appeared via zoom: Karen Bruce, Office Manager, Michelle Conner, Region IV Conservation Manager, Ben Roberts, Region V Conservation Manager, and Greg Walker, Rural Project Manager.

Chairman Martin asked for approval of the minutes from the June 16, 2023 meeting. There was a motion by Ms. Vikki Consiglio to approve the minutes, a second by Mr. Jason Winters and the motion carried to unanimous approval

Executive Director's Report — Mr. Attaway stated there is no old business. Mr. Attaway stated there is 1 new employee, Devekio Terrell, in the Athens office. He stated the financial report is in the packet, if you have any questions please contact Karen Bruce or myself. Mr. Attaway said the new business is the Supervisor Training. He would like to offer GACD \$1000 per supervisor which would be \$4000 for training. Last year GASWCC paid \$3500 so this will be a \$500 increase for 2024. Chairman

Martin requested a motion. Vikki Consiglio made a motion to approve the increase, a second by Mr. Jason Winters, and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Mr. Attaway stated for the FY '25 ask is more personal for GASWCC and more program funding. GACD will be involved in the ask. Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the FY '25 ask. There was a motion by Ms. Vikki Consiglio to approve the FY '25 ask, a second by Mr. Jason Winters, and the motion carried to unanimous approval.

Conservation Report —Mr. Amos stated that there are 34 supervisors that need to be approved by the board. Chairman Martin asked to check with supervisors who attendance is under 50% to find out why. Mr. Amos said that he has directed his staff to ask why when attendance for any supervisor is under 50%. As for appointments, he will take direction from the Board if a person's attendance is under 50% regarding appointment or re-appointment. If the Board wants to re-appoint a supervisor whose attendance is under 50% then he will follow the direction of the Board. Ms. Vikki Consiglio wanted the record to reflect that any comments are not negative toward Mitch and Robert. Mr. Amos stated there are 3 resignations Mr. Robert Rish from Flint River, Mr. Frank Jordan from Pine Mountain, and Ms. Shay Smith from Rockdale County. Mr. Amos wanted the record to reflect that Shay Smith has really been a trooper, she has stuck it out and she is relocating to Washington, DC. Mr. Amos also stated that Flint River received 2 interested people to fill the Decatur Co. elected supervisor position. Please forward Mr. Justin Long and Mr. Peter Miller to the Capitol. Chairman Martin called for a motion on the appointments and resignation. Ms. Vikki Consiglio made a motion to approve the appointments and resignation, a second by Mr. Jason Winters and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Mr. Amos stated that the districts have been very busy. Jennifer Standridge, Region II Conservation Manager is doing a Small Farm Conference and the first 96 people attend for free, Michelle Conner is presenting a Septic Tank Seminar, also she traveled to Utah for the NASC where she stayed for a week and has come back with a lot of new ideas. Mitch Attaway and Robert Amos said they would like to thank the Regional Representative for all they do.

Urban Report —Mitch Attaway gave the Urban Report due to Ben Ruzowicz's absence. Mr. Attaway stated the plan reviewers have been busy since the last meeting and have hired a new plan reviewer. He said he would like to do 2 different approvals for the Trainer I and Trainer II applicants. He stated anyone whose information was received in the packet has passed the courses. Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the Trainer I applicants: Nicholas Cleland, Sara Martin, Kevin Middlebrooks, Rachael Osborne, Jon Rosen, Brannon Rufo, Daniel Taylor, Alice Vick, and Stephen Wurtz. Mr. Jason Winters made a motion to approve the applicants for Trainer I, a second by Mr. Edwin Nix and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the Trainer II applicants: Paula Days, Richard Ferreira, Sarah Martin and Angelique Young. Ms. Vikki Consiglio made a motion to approve the Trainer II applicants, a 2nd by Mr. Jason Winters and the motion

carried to unanimous approval. Mr. Attaway stated that the 2024 Greenbook has to be approved by the Overview Board and the GASWCC. He hopes we can get the book to the Overview board by early December. Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the 2024 Greenbook. Mr. Edwin Nix made a motion to approval the 2024 Greenbook, a 2nd by Mr. Jason Winters and the motion carried to unanimous approval.

Rural Report: Mr. Ben Hyer and Mr. Greg Walker gave the report. See the attached report.

Public Comment: Austin Hackney introduced himself and Cindy Owens Morley. They are from the Home Owners Association of Georgia. Ms. Betty from the HOA of Georgia is in hospice care. Mr. Hackney asked for everyone to say a pray for her.

Partner Update: No Comments.

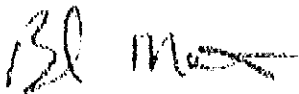
The next meeting will be December 12, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Farm Bureau Auditorium, located at 1620 Bass Road, Macon, GA 31210.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Martin at 10:43 a.m..

Respectively Submitted by:

Jacqueline Holt

Approved by:



GSWCC Chairman

12/12/23

Date



GSWCC Executive Director

10/10/23

Date

Watershed Dam Update

1. **Noon Day 17-** Construction drawings have been approved and a construction permit has been issued by EPD. There is one easement agreement remaining that needs to be executed. Negotiations are currently in progress with the landowner. Once it is executed, then bid documents will be released to the qualified bidders. An offer letter has been presented to the remaining landowner for the required easements.
2. **Little River 25-** FNI has submitted the Supplemental Watershed Plan to NRCS for final authorization. The permanent access road and removal of the trees has been completed. FNI has been contracted to complete detail design of the rehabilitation and all geotechnical drilling has been completed.
3. **Bull Creek 14-** This project has reached material completion. Schnabel and Associates are currently submitting permitting documents to the GA Safe Dams Program.
4. **Bull Creek 12-** Construction is expected to reach material completion by November of this year.
5. **Little Sandy Trail 16** – FNI has been contracted to investigate if this dam is permissible per GA Safe Dam regulations.
6. **Hazel Creek 12** - FNI has been contracted to investigate if this dam is permissible per GA Safe Dam regulations.
7. **Trion-Chattooga River Dike System-** - FNI has received comments from the NRCS National Headquarters. Comments will be addressed and final authorization is anticipated soon. FNI has been contracted for detail design pending Supplemental Watershed Plan authorization by NRCS. Design is funded by NRCS pending approval of the Supplemental Watershed Plan.
8. **Mill Canton 7** - Negotiations are underway with design professional for detail design of rehabilitation pending Supplemental Watershed Plan authorization by NRCS.
9. **Settingdown 54** - Negotiations are underway with design professional for detail design of rehabilitation pending Supplemental Watershed Plan authorization by NRCS.
10. **Settingdown 56** - Negotiations are underway with design professional for detail design of rehabilitation pending Supplemental Watershed Plan authorization by NRCS.
11. **Supplemental Watershed Plans-** 10 of the 12 contracted SWPs have been authorized by NRCS.
12. **Maintenance Funds-** Currently clearing large trees from Rooty Creek 25 in Putnam County. Various mowing contracts are underway across the state to maintain dams that have been cleared of large trees in previous years.
13. **Bull Creek 3-** This project is currently under contract with Cline Service Corp. All excavation activities removing the unsuitable material are completed at this time. Import of appropriate fill material to repair the embankment is to begin immediately.
14. **Assessments-** 21 watershed structures are complete and the needed EAPs are under review by GA Safe Dams Program. A new round of assessment will be contracted this fall.

15. **Permitting-** Currently in the process of contracting multiple engineering firms to submit permit applications to GA Safe Dams for watershed structures that can possibly be permitted “as is” or with only minor repairs. Permit applications are currently underway for Sharp Mountain 13 and 14 Watershed Structures.

Grants Update

1. A new Watershed Management Plan has been completed for Hard Labor Creek within Walton and Morgan Counties. BMP cost-share work continues within the North Fork Broad River-Middle Fork Broad River (Banks, Franklin, Habersham, and Stephens.) and Wahoo Creek- Little River (Hall, Lumpkin and White) Agriculture BMP projects currently under contract totaling \$53,086. Outreach and coordination efforts with NRCS and District Supervisors continues to secure additional projects with the remaining funds.
2. A Resource Conservation Partnership is grant with NRCS seeking to promote conservation practices and programs has been completed with a cooperative partnership with GACD. Golden Triangle RC&D and UGA Extension in Terrell County, assisted with a cover crop trial and full-scale field demonstration last spring.
3. A new agreement application to NRCS to continue conservation workshops and engage conservation districts in local funded projects was awarded funding. This new agreement will be introduced statewide this fall, and new workshops and conservation projects commencing in 2024.