



MINUTES
MEETING – November 17, 2020
Teleconference 10:00AM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Martin at 10:00AM. Mitch Attaway gave the invocation.

The following board members were present on the conference call: Chairman Bob Martin, Board Members: Kerry Van Moore, 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 Manager Ben Hyer and Greg Walker, Office Manager Karen Bruce and Administrative Assistant Jerri Helbing.

Mr. Attaway asked for approval of the minutes from the August 4, 2020 meeting. There was a motion by Jason Winters to approve, a second from Kerry Van Moore and they were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mitch Attaway introduced and welcomed the two new board members, Vikki Consiglio and Edwin Nix. Then Mr. Attaway stated there was no old business so he proceeded to the financial report Karen Bruce prepared showing the State Finance is on track for the 2nd quarter.

New Business – Mr. Attaway reported on the new employee Taylor Vining that joined GSWCC as an Erosion Control Specialist on November 16, 2020. Will Credille changed his position from Erosion Control Specialist to helping Ben Hyer with Grants. Also GSWCC will hopefully be hiring another new Erosion Control Specialist, Stuart Suttle that will start Dec 1st.

Mr. Attaway continued by stating that he needed approval on five products for the BMP List. Two different companies, one with one product the other with four separate products. He also stated that all products have all the required data, have been signed off on by certified Level IB and II individuals who witnessed the products' performance in the field and have also been favorably reviewed by the Overview Council. Mr. Attaway is recommending that all five products be approved. Mr. Attaway stated there is no conflict of interest doing business with the state.

Winfab 2098CS

WBSF SD C-System (SD C-SYS)

WBSF 2S (2S-4)

WBSF 2CB (2CB-4)

WBSF 2CB-TR Combo Tree Protection (2CB-4-TR)

Mr. Kerry Van Moore made a motion to approve them Ms. Vikki Consiglio seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Attaway then asked for the Board's approval of adding these products to the BMP Manual. Ms. Consiglio made a motion to approve, Mr. Winters seconded the motion and it was approved by all the members.

Mr. Attaway continued with HR policies that need to be adapted by the board. The first was changing the available four days of Sick Leave for family deaths to five days. Mr. Moore made a motion Ms. Consiglio seconded it and it was unanimously approved. The second was State Telework Policy that had not been updated since 2004. With Covid-19 the state sent new guidelines and GSWCC updated the policy in the handbook to reflect any changes made by the state. Ms. Consiglio made a motion to approve Mr. Winters seconded it and it was approved by all board members.

Mr. Attaway added that the Governor does not foresee a need for another budget cut because of the 10 percent cut this year. Mr. Attaway also stated he was working on NRCS and GSWCC agreement and will be sending the board members information and would like their input.

Conservation Report – Conservation Manger Robert Amos announced there were four new appointed Supervisors and eight reappointed Supervisors to approve. A motion was made to approve these by Mr. Winters and seconded by Ms. Consiglio and the approval was unanimous. Mr. Amos also stated that the re-elected supervisors will be notified by January. He went on to say he held a Green Infrastructure Class virtual at the beginning of the month it went well but the in person classes have better interaction. Mr. Amos also has partnered GSWCC with the US Fish and Wildlife. The contract will help Coosa, Flint and Coastal areas to begin with and pay 90 percent of the cost up to 10 – 12 thousand dollar fence projects. There are also funds for small stream bank projects.

Urban Report – Urban Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz reported that he has a new trainer Mr. Ben Presley to be approved by the board. He has already been approved by the advisory board. Ms. Consiglio made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Moore and the unanimous approval followed.

Mr. Ruzowicz also had a MOA for the city of Marietta for approval so they may review their own plans. Ms. Consiglio made a motion Mr. Moore seconded it and the approval was unanimous. He also stated that Brookhaven and Tucker are trying to achieve MOA status.

Mr. Ruzowicz reported that GSWCC reviewed 1,439 plans a month from March 1st to October 1st and the plan reviews are running on a 7 – 10 day turn around. Mr. Ruzowicz also said last month 984 certifications 418 were new. Mr. Ruzowicz also announced he is going to try to have a virtual Erosion Control Day in January. UGA could not book a location until spring and that was not guaranteed.

Rural Report – Rural Project Manager Ben Hyer and Greg announced they need board approval to purchase a house for Noonday 17 Watershed Structure a Category 1 dam located on the border of Cobb and Cherokee Counties in northwest Georgia. This is a proposed rehabilitation project that is currently in the design review phase. GSWCC has been awarded a 65% cost share up to \$5,809,700 by NRCS to rehabilitate the dam to federal design standards. One of the conditions to be eligible for this federal funding is that the 100 year flood conditions created by the rehabilitated dam must not inundate an upstream

structure. There is currently a residence in Cherokee County upstream of the dam, located at 5118 Highland Trail Acworth, GA 30102 that would be subject to flooding during a 100 year storm event. There are two options to remedy this issue; the residence must be flood-proofed or the residence must be purchased and demolished. Flood-proofing the residence would require a very sizable flood wall that would include a pump station and/or flood gate that would require regular operation and maintenance needs. Purchasing and demolishing the home to be eligible for the federal funds was determined to be the least costly and most logical solution. GSWCC has reached out to the Georgia State Properties Commission to initiate the process of purchasing the residence. The house has been appraised, and a price of \$230,000 has been negotiated with the landowner for the purchase of the residence.

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve Mr. Nix seconded it and the approval was unanimous.

Mr. Hyer also noted that 47 dam assessments have been completed. He continued with an update on grants stating a Resource Conservation Partnership is gearing up and statewide workshops for using Cover Crops will be expanded this year. A partnership has been agreed to with Golden Triangle RC&D and the Extension office in Terrell County.

GACD Update- Vice President Roger Bowman gave an update. He is pleased to be working with Mr. Attaway on the agreement. Also they are pleased with the Feral Swine program they have eliminated over 5,000 hogs. Also they are working on Pollinator Demonstration and classroom instructions. They are excited about the Meet & Greet on January 15th.

NCRS Update – Mr. Rudolph gave the NCRS update and mentioned there are a lot of available positions. Hurricane Sally and Zeta did not do major damage mostly rain and wind, for this they are thankful. NCRS passed their audit and it looked good.

Public Comment- Roger Singleton thanked the board for the approval of his product.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2021 at the GACD Meet and Greet in Acworth. More information to follow.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM.

Respectively Submitted by: Jerri Helbing

Approved by:

1/15/2021



GSWCC Chairman
Director Date

11/17/2020



GSWCC Executive