



GASWCC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2023
11:00 AM - GSWCC
Farm Bureau Auditorium
1620 Bass Road, Macon, GA 31210
And VIA ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Martin at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held in person and via zoom. Vikki Consiglio gave the invocation

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

Partners and/or Supervisors in attendance in person and/or via zoom: Jake Ford, Mark Masters, Brian Ponder. Dan Bennett, Ricky Yarbrough, Wes Fogle, Danny Hogan, Dana Tripp, and Tabatha Wooten, from GACD, Tansel Hudson and Terrance Rudolph from NRCS, Ellis Lamme, Gwinnett Co. Supervisor, Sonny Turner, Walton County Supervisor, Glenn Cook, Satilla River Supervisor, Tom Harrison, Rockdale County Supervisor, and George Kelecheck, Rockdale County Chairman.

Others in Attendance in person/via zoom: Will Bentley, GA Agri Business Counsel, and Adam Bedflower, Georgia Farm Bureau.

Attending members of the Commission who appeared in person and/or via zoom were Robert Amos, State Conservation Manager, Ben Ruzowicz, Urban Program Manager, Jennifer Howell, Erosion and Sediment Control Technical Specialist, Jennifer Standridge, Region II Conservation Manager, NancyAnne Conner, Region III Conservation Manager, Michelle Conner, Region V Conservation Manager, Ben Hyer, Rural Project Manager, Ben Roberts, Region V Conservation Manager, Stuart Suttles, Resource Specialist for Region II, Leslie Peterson, Resource Specialist for Region IV, Miki Smith, Administrative Assistant for Region III, Christie M. Brantley, Resource Specialist for Region III, and Jacqueline Holt, Administrative Assistant.

Chairman Martin asked for approval of the minutes from the October 10, 2023 meeting. There was a motion by Vikki Consiglio to approve the minutes, a second by Edwin Nix, and the motion carried to unanimous approval

Executive Director's Report — Mitch Attaway was unavailable so Robert Amos gave the Director's Report. Mr. Amos stated there is no old business. Mr. Amos stated

there are 3 incoming employees, Devekio Terrell, Lindy Bates and Serena Shopes, in the Athens office with 1 position still available. He stated there are 2 outgoing employees, Alexandra Chesna and Abigail Foster, in the Athens Office. We hate to lose them. He stated the financial report is in the packet, if you have any questions he will try to answer the questions. Chairman Martin asked when the fiscal year ends. Mr. Amos stated June 30. Mr. Amos stated that Mr. Attaway did not give him anything else to go over.

Conservation Report —Mr. Amos stated that there are 44 supervisors that need to be approved by the board and 1 resignation Mr. Larry G. Williams from the Coosa River SWCD. Chairman Martin called for a motion on the appointments and resignation. Vikki Consiglio made a motion to approve the appointments and resignation, a second by Edwin Nix and the motion carried to unanimous approval.

Urban Report —Ben Ruzowicz stated there have been 650 plans reviewed since the last meeting. Mr. Ruzowicz stated there have been 233 courses, with 880 re-certifications and 740 new certifications. We are averaging 700 to 800 coming into the program each month. Mr. Ruzowicz stated that other states like Tennessee are starting to accept Georgia's certification.

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

Public Comment: Danny Hogan stated there has been a problem getting money out when we have voted to send funds to an entity. It seems that it never gets there. He stated that he has had 3 entities contact him lately. Bleckley County asked for funds this year but also stated they had not received their funds from last year. He stated he is not sure what the technique is to get money sent out but he hopes you all will discuss this and figure out where the breakdown is. He was told by a representative to start at the top and work down. This is where government gets a bad reputation. He stated that when they vote to send funds out, we would like to see the funds go out within 30 to 60 days. That should be enough time. He stated he is sure there are some entities that never got their money but they never came back to us.

Partner Update: No Comments.

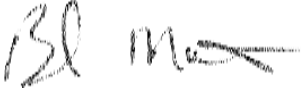
The next meeting to be determined.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Martin.

Respectively Submitted by:

Jacqueline Holt

Approved by:



5/2/24

GSWCC Chairman

Date



12/12/23

GSWCC Executive Director

Date