



MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday March 17, 2021
Zoom 10:00 AM

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

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

Public Comment: Mr. Tim Becker, a resident near Little River Dam 25, attended the meeting and ask Acting Chairman Bob Martin to please move Public Comment to the beginning of the Meeting. Mr. Martin asked for a motion to move the Public Comment, Mr. Moore made a motion to move it and Ms. Consiglio seconded it, it was approved unanimously so it was moved to the opening of the meeting. Mr. Martin asked that they keep their comments to ten minutes as the agenda for the meeting was full. Mr. Becker started the conversation by telling everyone that he felt that when he talked to GSWCC last year it was the first time he thought anyone had cared about their concerns about Little River Dam 25. Mr. Becker continued by saying he was told by Mr. Attaway that he (Mr. Attaway) would be the bridge between the residences of the community near the dam and the GSWCC team. Keith Hartford, Alan Lindsay and Kim (her last name was not stated) mentioned the main thing they felt was their main concern was the dam needs to have a pipe cleaned and that no maintenance has been done on the dam in twenty years. They feel they are not being told what the plans are for the dam. They did exceed their time limit. Mr. Attaway thanked the people for their comments and reassured them that he understands all of their concerns. He stated that the Little River Dam 25 is a Category 1 Dam and therefore regulated by the EPD Safe Dam Program. Under those regulations it has to be maintained and kept up to EPD standards. It also needs to be permitted. To perform the necessary work an easement was granted on vacant land for a point of access for maintenance and emergencies. Mr. Attaway told them he will keep them updated and informed on the status of the permit and any maintenance that may be done. The NCRS in DC may give approval as soon as May 2021. Proper permits for the access road will need to be obtained from the local government and for any construction or rehabilitation on the dam. Mr. Attaway stated the residence will be given verbal and written summaries by GSWCC of any work that will be done.

Executive Director's Report - Mitch Attaway stated he continues to work on the NCRS agreement with Mr. Rudolph and Mr. Hudson hoping to bring opportunities for the districts and the Commission.

At this point it was remembered that the minutes had not been approved. Mr. Martin asked for a motion to approve the January 15, 2021 minutes, which was made by Ms. Consiglio and seconded by Mr. Moore and was approved unanimously.

Personnel Report – Mr. Attaway continued with the Personnel Report stating that one E&S employee left in February and there is an opening for a new E&S with a few interviews already been planned for the next couple of weeks.

Financial Report – Mr. Attaway stated that the budget is on track and close to schedule. Letters were sent to the District Supervisors showing what their remaining balances are and that they need to spend it by June 30. There seems to be more of a surplus this year because of Covid-19. Mr. Attaway continued that the House approved \$57,000 for another position to work with Greg Walker and Ben Hyer in the Watershed Department.

New Business – Mr. Attaway reported he had no new business but Mr. Martin stated he did. He has been the acting Chairman. He wanted to be instated as active chairman and select a Vice – Chairman. Mr. Moore made a motion to make Mr. Martin Chairman and Ms. Consiglio to be the Vice Chairman. Mr. Nix seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Conservation Report – Conservation Manger Robert Amos announced that 2 new and 11 re-appointed Supervisors need to be approved by the board. A motion was made to approve them by Mr. Moore and seconded by Ms. Consiglio and it passed unanimously. Three Supervisors need the Boards' approval for resignation. A motion was made to approve these by Ms. Consiglio and seconded by Mr. Nix and the approval was carried.

Urban Report – Mr. Ruzowicz was at the virtual Erosion Control Day so Mr. Attaway gave his report and started with at least 350 people have attended the virtual ECD and Mr. Ruzowicz will report more at the next meeting. Approval is needed for Perry to have a MOA and to do plans in house. Robert Amos has been working closely with Perry and they have done very well. Mr. Martin asked for a motion which was given by Mr. Nix and seconded by Ms. Consiglio and the vote was unanimous. Next were the trainers that needed to be approved, they have already been approved by the State Advisory Board and the Commission Board had been given all their resumes and related information. Mr. Attaway asked for an approval. Ms. Consiglio made the motion and Mr. Nix seconded and the approval again was unanimous. Mr. Attaway stated the Plan Reviews have increased slowly since December and are hitting approximately a 14 day turn around. The Certification Department has been very busy with over 100 courses offered state wide.

Rural Report – Rural Project Manager Ben Hyer and Greg had no action items to discuss. In response to the earlier discussion about Little River Dam 25, Mr. Walker stated Golder and Associates has submitted the Supplemental Watershed Plan to NRCS for final authorization. The pending design for the rehabilitation is 100% federally funded by NRCS. Exploration is underway for the design of a permanent access road and stream crossing to be built to accommodate rehabilitation design and maintenance projects.

GACD Update – Katie Sponberger gave the update. She was most excited about the revamped Supervisor Handbook that Mr. Attaway, Mr. Amos and Ms. Sponberger have been working on and hope to have in the districts in a couple of weeks. She also mentioned the STEM Challenge for 3-5 graders to explore Soil Health. They can get more information at the GACD website. Pollinator awareness is an important project and 75 schools have installed gardens across the state.

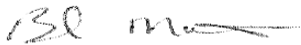
NCRS Update – Mr. Rudolph gave the NCRS update and mentioned they are also still teleworking and not open to the public. They have been approved to hire 39 more employees and hope to have 288 employees by the end of the calendar year. He stated Georgia is the 5th in the nation with the most watershed dams. He also mentioned that a Chief has not been appointed yet but hopefully soon.

Public Comment- This was moved to the beginning of the meeting

The next board meeting is TBD and Mr. Attaway and Mr. Martin would like it to be face-to-face. With no other business to discuss Mr. Martin as for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Nix made a motion and Ms. Consiglio seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectively Submitted by:
Jerri Helbing

Approved by:



6/29/2021

GSWCC Chairman

Date



3/17/2021

GSWCC Executive Director

Date