



MINUTES
MEETING MARCH 3, 2020

The meeting was changed to in person by Mitch Attaway, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Martin at 10:00AM. Conservation Manger Robert Amos gave the invocation and had a minute of silence for remembrance of Chairman Harold Fallin.

The following board members were present: Chairman Bob Martin, Board Members Kerry Van Moore and Drew Echols. Attending members of the Commission were Conservation Manager Robert Amos, Urban Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz, Rural Project Manager Ben Hyer, Greg Walker was on the teleconference, Office Manager Karen Bruce and Administrative Assistant Jerri Helbing. From other Organizations were Terrance Rudolph and Tansel Hudson from NRCS and Woody Snell from GACD.

Mr. Martin asked for approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting. There was a motion by Kerry Van Moore to approve them a second from Drew Echols and they were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mitch Attaway was unable to attend the meeting due to personal unforeseen circumstances. In his absence Robert Amos gave his reports. Mr. Amos stated there was no old business so he proceeded to the Personnel Report. He reported Mary McQuigg is working as intern for GSWCC and is majoring in engineering at UGA. He also added there is a new E&S Control Specialist Will Credille that started February 1st. Mr. Amos mentioned he has conducted interviews for the E&S Control Specialist in Dawson and there were several good candidates but no final decision has been made.

Financial Report – Mr. Amos stated the Governor's budget cut took more than 4%. There was an additional \$35,000 taken. The 6% cut is still going to be implemented in FY' 21.

New Business – In new business Mr. Amos stated that GSWCC would compensate the supervisors \$120 per diem per day not to exceed more than two days for the GACD Annual Meetings. Mr. Moore made a motion to approve this and Mr. Echols seconded it and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Amos then stated there is a change to the Employee Handbook, announcing that the minimum leave that an employee may take is fifteen minutes and leave must be taken in fifteen minute increments. Mr. Echols made a motion to pass it and Mr. Moore seconded it and it was approved unanimously.

Conservation Report – Conservation Manger Robert Amos announced there were 8 new appointed Supervisors, 16 re-appointed Supervisors and 3 resignations, Lynne Anderson, Fred

Warnell and James Burton. A motion was made to approve all of these by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Echols and the approval was unanimous. Mr. Amos stated Andrea Tuggle continues to be trained in "Online Plan Reviewing" by Jackson County and that it seems to be going well. Mr. Amos went on to say that Elected Supervisors Positions needed to qualify by March 6th and they do not need to file a finance report. Mr. Amos reported there are some banquets coming up that he plans to attend. The Camp at ABAC is going to change from 4 days to 5 and the fee will be going up. Also Mr. Amos mentioned that there is some special project money left in the budget for raised beds, hemlock trees or other similar projects for the districts. He mentioned some districts have already taken advantage of this program.

Urban Report – Urban Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz reported that the Walton MOA is going slower than anticipated but it is still in the process. Mr. Ruzowicz had 5 - Level I & 2 - Level II trainers to be approved. The trainers must make 85% or higher on the exams to be qualified. Mr. Echols made a motion to approve them and Mr. Moore seconded it and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Ruzowicz told about Erosion Control Day that will be held March 19, 2020 at the UGA Continuing Ed Center.

Rural Report – Mr. Hyer gave the rural report. He talked about the success of the Field Day in Pine Mountain. The crop covers in Gilmer are going well and they are going to have a demonstration in the Coastal Plain area. They are expanding participation in programs offered through the Farm Bill. Mr. Walker updated the dams. Noon Day 17 is under review, Sallacoa 77 is done and they are working with Columbus and Georgia Safe Dam for Bull Creek.

GACD Update – Mr. Snell gave a length GACD Report.

NCRS Update – Mr. Rudolph gave the report. The NRCS is looking for qualified people to enlarge their work force from 190 employees to 241 in the coming months. The jobs will be listed on their website and Farmers.gov. The RC&D council meeting will be in April.

Public Presentation: Tim and Kelly Becker talked about the dam safety of Little River 25.

The next Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM and it will be a teleconference call. With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Martin.

Respectively Submitted by: Jerri Helbing
Approved


8/4/20
GSWCC Vice-Chairman Date


8/4/20
GSWCC Executive Director Date