



GASWCC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2024 AT 10:00 AM
GSWCC STATE OFFICE IN PERSON/VIA ZOOM
4310 LEXINGTON ROAD
ATHENS, GA 30605

Chairman Bob Martin stated that Vikki Consiglio was going to be conducting the Board Meeting today.

The meeting was called to order by Vikki Consiglio at 10:00 a.m. and established that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in person and via zoom. Robert Amos 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, Ricky Yarbrough, Katie Sponberger-Executive Director, Dana Tripp, Leann Hooper, Katelyn Poppell, from GACD, Tansel Hudson from NRCS, Jimmy “Bo” Bramblett, Supervisor for Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD, and Andrew Standard, Supervisor for Coastal SWCD.

Attending members of the Commission who appeared in person and/or via zoom were Mitch Attaway, Executive Director, Robert Amos, State Conservation Manager, Ben Ruzowicz, Urban Program Manager, Jennifer Standridge, Region II Conservation Manager, Michelle Conner, Region V Conservation Manager, Ben Hyer, Rural Project Manager, Ben Roberts, Region V Conservation Manager, James Friese, Resource Specialist for Region V, and Jacqueline Holt, Administrative Assistant.

Vikki Consiglio requested approval of the Agenda with one correction. The day of the meeting was incorrect in the original agenda emailed and has been changed to Thursday. Mr. Jason Winters made a motion to approve the agenda, a second by Chairman Bob Martin and the motion carried to unanimous approval.

Vikki Consiglio asked for approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting. There was a motion by Jason Winters to approve the minutes, a second by Chairman Bob Martin, and the motion carried to unanimous approval.

Executive Director's Report — Mitch Attaway gave the Director's Report. Mr. Attaway spoke about shortening the MOA Process. He stated that it requires 6 months for approval. He would like to shorten that time length. Because of the way we are staffed, GASWCC can not do all overviews. He said he is going to find a legal way to shorten that time length with the AG's office. Jason Winters question, Does the process to shorten MOA process have to go through AG's office. Mr. Attaway stated it does not but he wants to try to protect GASWCC. Mr. Attaway stated that the annual per diem request is \$160.00 for attending the annual meeting. Vikki Consiglio requested a motion to approve the annual per diem. Mr. Jason Winters made a motion, a second by Mr. Edwin Nix and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Mr. Attaway stated SWCD allotment requested funding will be to stay at the 2024 level for 2025. Vikki Consiglio requested a motion to approve the SWCD allotment request. Chairman Bob Martin made a motion, a second by Jason Winters, and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Mr. Attaway stated the last thing is incoming and outgoing employees. He stated that unfortunately we continue to have a cycle of staff in and out of plan review positions but I can guarantee you it is nothing that Ben Ruzowicz is doing. New Business: Mr. Attaway said we have covered that. Vikki Consiglio stated to Chairman Bob Martin if he wanted to speak about scheduling the board meetings for the rest of the year. Chairman Martin said that he would like to schedule the board meetings and schedule an Administrative Organizational meeting also. It was noted that there is an in person meeting at the GACD Annual Meeting at Chateau Elan which will be August 4 through 6, 2024, Tentative dates of 10/8/24 and 12/3/24 via zoom were proposed for the GASWCC Board Meeting and 1/7/25 was proposed for the Administrative Organizational meeting. The board will check their schedules and agree on dates. Mr. Attaway stated he will work with Katie Sponberger of GACD to schedule the Board Meeting at the Chateau Elan and then send an email with the meeting date.

Conservation Report —Mr. Amos stated that there are 23 supervisors that need to be approved by the board. Vikki Consiglio called for a motion to approve the appointments. Chairman Martin made a motion to approve the appointments, a second by Edwin Nix, and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Mr. Amos stated there is 1 resignation, Ms. Jennifer Logan from the Blue Ridge Mountain SWCD. Vikki Consiglio called for a motion to approve the resignation. Jason Winters made a motion to approve the resignation, a second by Chairman Bob and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Mr. Amos reported on the Sandy Springs MOA. He stated it has been 4 years since the MOA was approved but the Fulton County District only approved a restricted MOA. Sandy Springs has made a request to the District for an unrestricted MOA. They have passed their overview and the Fulton County District has approved to modify the MOA for Sandy Springs. Vikki Consiglio called for a motion to approve giving Sandy Springs an unrestricted MOA. Edwin Nix made a motion to approve giving Sandy Springs an unrestricted MOA, a second by Jason Winters, and the motion carried to unanimous approval. Amos reported on

supervisor elections and if an individual is interested in serving as an elected supervisor there is still time to qualify that individual for a special election for the November 2024 election. He stated that the Regional Representatives in the District are really busy. They are holding recertification classes, doing field days, and AG days. Amos reported that he attended an AG day event with Region III that was very successful with Kindergarten through third grade. Envirothon was a big success and Gilmer County won and will compete at the competition in New York State. Amos reported the Commission is partnering with NRCS to hold Urban Workshops, Septic Workshops, and projects on public lands. Vikki Consiglio wanted to know if the Regional Managers could send a report to the Board Members to let them know what they are doing in the districts. Mr. Amos stated that all regional managers will add the board members to the email list for upcoming events.

Urban Report—Ben Ruzowicz stated there have been 1402 plans reviewed since the last meeting. Mr. Ruzowicz stated there have been 583 courses with 3,059 recertifications and 2,313 new certifications for a total of 5,372 participants. Mr. Ruzowicz stated there is a new BMP called Silt Saver High Velocity Ditch Check HVDC-14 CD-S application. The product has been approved by the board before but now it has been resubmitted and is 2 inches shorter. The manufacturer stated that because it was working so well, the DOT requested they make it 2 inches shorter. Mr. Nix stated he would like more information. Chairman Martin said he would go back to Ben about what he thinks. Mr. Ruzowicz stated it is the same project as before, the only difference is the height change. Mr. Attaway stated that at this time Ben has gone through and checked every box for approval process. Vikki Consiglio asked for a motion to approve the BMP. Edwin Nix made a motion to approve the BMP, Chairman Martin 2nd the motion, and the motion carried with unanimous approval. Mr. Ruzowicz stated that Erosion Day had 368 attendees. He also stated there were over 35 vendors. Vikki Consiglio asked how could the board get notice of Erosion Day. Mr. Ruzowicz stated that you can subscribe to our mailing list on the website to get notification for Erosion Day. He also stated that he will notify the board members for future Erosion Day dates.

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

Public Comment: Katie Sponberger stated that GACD President Jack Ford is in attendance. She has a flyer for the GACD Annual Meeting (August 4 through 6, 2024) to give to the board members. She stated the setup will be similar to last year. She did say on Tuesday they will be touring the Carlyle Blakely Farm.

Partner Update: James “Bo” Bramblett stated that if need arrives to pursue condemnation of the bridge, he would like to know if it is the bridge at Kennesaw State College. Greg Walker stated No. Mr. Bramblett stated he did plans, etc. for

condemnation of a bridge in Jackson County. They went to the Capital and were told that the Governor would sign off on it so they celebrated on the way back. The next morning, he received a call for the Governor's office saying to forget everything you heard yesterday so I want to offer my help if you need it.

The next meeting will be at the GACD Annual Meeting between the dates of August 4 through August 6, 2024 at the Chateau Elan.

Vikki Consiglio requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Edwin Nix made a motion to adjourn, second by Jason Winters, and the motion carried to unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectively Submitted by:

Jacqueline Holt

Approved by:


8/5/24
GSWCC Chairman Date


5/2/24
GSWCC Executive Director Date