

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Athens, GA
April 18, 2013

Present were Chairman Garland Thompson, Vice-Chairman Dennis Brown, Commission Members Carl Brack, Hal Haddock, and David Hays. Participating from Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Executive Director Dave Eigenberg, Administrative Operations Manager Niki Strain, Executive Manager for Water Policy Bob Hanner, Urban Waters Resources Program Manager Lauren Zdunczyk, E&SC Technical Specialist Ben Ruzowicz, Public Outreach Coordinator Michael Wald, and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur. Representing NRCS was Assistant State Conservationist for Programs Aquanda Jones. Guests included Kevin Clark, Executive Director of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, Brian Williamson, Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and Britt Faucette, Chairman of the GSWCC Technical Advisory Committee. Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order and asked Executive Director Dykes to give an invocation.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Carl Brack, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 1, 2013, Board Meeting.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by Dennis Brown, the Board unanimously approved the resignations of Oconee River district supervisor David Jackson, Towaliga district supervisor Tom Kerlin, and Ogeechee River district supervisor H.B. "Bart" Waller, III.

On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Hal Haddock, the Board unanimously approved the supervisors and candidates put forth on the April 2013 Appointment Report (please see attached.)

At this time, Mr. Dykes updated the Board on the applications that districts have submitted to the Governor's office for interim appointments to fill vacant elected supervisor positions. To-date, four districts have submitted applications: the DeKalb County district, the Piedmont district, the Upper Ocmulgee River district, and the Satilla River district. Mr. Dykes explained that the Governor's office has acknowledged receipt of all of the applications, and that based on the Governor's decision to act, interim appointments should be forthcoming.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to continue and give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Dykes updated the Board on the recent trip to Washington, D.C., on March 18-20th, timed to coincide with the NACD "Spring Fly-In," wherein the representatives from GSWCC, GACDS, and NRCS met with all of the Georgia legislative offices. Further follow-up e-mails were sent after the group returned, and regional representatives are in the process of visiting in-person with local offices.

Mr. Dykes next discussed with the Board a list of the legislation that passed in the recent General Assembly session. Several bills of note were discussed, including HB143, the "Legislative Ethics Package", and HB298, which creates the agricultural commodity commission for Georgia Grown

Products, as well as SB160, which will affect the Commission's E&SC department in regards to citizenship verification standards in the future. One bill that did not pass was SB213, Amendment to the Flint River Drought Protection Act. Mr. Dykes also updated the Board on the Commission's AFY13 and FY14 budgets. Additional cuts to the FY13 budget were already internally anticipated; while the proposed 4.5% cut to the FY14 budget was reduced to 2.9%.

Next, Mr. Dykes reported on the Commission's plans to transition the current Region III districts over into the Rome, Athens, and Milledgeville regional offices as of June 30, 2013. Once the transition is complete and the Conyers office is closed, Guerry Thomas will work with Region IV out of office space in Henry County, and Susan Castle will work with Region II out of the Oconee River district office in Barrow County. The Rome office currently does not have an E&SC plan reviewer, but GSWCC is seeking critical hire approval from OPB for a new E&SC specialist for the North Metro and current Region I districts. Mr. Dykes explained that this should give the Commission a total of three plan reviewers, which is the most on-staff in recent years.

To conclude his report, Mr. Dykes reminded all Board members that financial disclosures for all locally-elected district supervisors are due to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission by June 30th. Disclosures must be filled out and submitted online through the GGT&CFC's website.

Chairman Thompson next called the Board's attention to two presentations regarding Community and Statewide Water Infrastructure needs and the opportunity of partnering with other agencies on pilot projects across the state. The Board called on Mr. Kevin Clark to give a brief presentation on the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority's Land and Water Resources programs, and Mr. Brian Williamson to give a brief over-view of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' grant programs targeting underserved and rural communities. Both presentations gave evidence of ways GSWCC can partner in the future with the respective agencies and communities to meet local water needs.

The Board next called on Mr. Dave Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's report. Mr. Eigenberg updated the Board on the Monthly Meter Data Reading Project. The Commission has devised a one-day route that covers 14 sites for data requested by the Georgia Water Policy Center. An additional 100 sites are read for USGS, for a total of 114 sites read monthly. Additionally, letters were mailed to 279 landowners accounting for a total of 970 metered sites, asking them to self-read their meters and report back to the Commission with that data. To-date, 21 producers have reported back with readings. Mr. Eigenberg cautioned that the Commission does not have many replacement meters in-stock, and he also stated that the agency was preparing a OneGA budget request for FY14.

At this time, Ms. Niki Strain presented the Board with the Commission's Quarterly Expenditure Report. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Hal Haddock, the Board unanimously approved the report.

At this time, the Board called on Ms. Zdunczyk to introduce Mr. Faucette from the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Faucette presented the Board with the research the Committee has been

conducting over the past several years regarding the establishment of standard testing methods for the products approved for inclusion in the Commission's Best Management Practices Manual (i.e., the "Green Book".) This research has been funded by a grant awarded to the Commission in 2009, and expiring September of this year. Mr. Faucette explained that the Committee has been working with a site-testing facility in South Carolina that is able to simulate real-world conditions for erosion and sediment control products field-testing. Mr. Faucette presented the Board with two testing and approval options for sediment barriers: the first would require approving products and allowing their use based strictly on the products' trapping efficiencies as measured in field-testing. The second would require approval of products to be based on trapping efficiencies and also product durability. The general consensus of the Board was to proceed using the second option. Mr. Faucette said that a 30-day public comment period would be held once all proposed changes were made to the Green Book.

The Board next called on Ms. Aquanda Jones to give the NRCS Update. Ms. Jones reported that the current Farm Bill has been extended through the end of the federal fiscal year by the continuing resolution. Additionally, Georgia NRCS is still awaiting their Technical Assistance budget for this year, though the Financial Assistance budget has been received. The AWEF sign-up is scheduled to end on Friday, April 19th, and the WRP will receive funds; however, specifics on the program are still forthcoming. The CSP is on-hold for 2013. Ms. Jones reminded those present of the upcoming State Technical Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2013, in Perry.

Mr. Dykes reminded the Board that a GACDS Board Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2013, in Atlanta, and that the NACD Southeast Meeting is scheduled for August 11-14, 2013, in Savannah. Additionally, the next Commission Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20th. The Board members agreed to research several meeting options and to report back and decide on a meeting location at a future date.

At this time, Chairman Thompson opened the meeting up for any further comments. Mr. Haddock reported briefly on an issue in the Flint River district regarding regulations and protocol for the approval and awarding of federal program funds. Mr. Haddock made a motion for the GSWCC to conduct a review of the matter. The motion received no second but discussion continued. Mr. Dykes was asked to attend the next upcoming district meeting and to offer any appropriate assistance regarding the matter. He agreed to do so, and to report back at the next Commission Board Meeting. The Board expressed its desire that the local district seek to address the issues local first before any official action was considered by the State Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

 6-21-13

GSWCC Chairman Date

 6-21-13

GSWCC Executive Director Date



February 13, 2013

Oconee River Soil and Water Conservation District
90 Lanthier Street
Winder, GA 30680

Dear Supervisors:

My 23 years as a supervisor for the Oconee River Soil and Water Conservation District have been very rewarding. I have a long-standing love and respect for the work of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This respect was passed down from my father and his father, who saw first-hand what could be accomplished with cooperation between landowner, local neighbors, and State and Federal Conservationists in protecting our natural resources. My family has benefited from this partnership and, through my participation as a supervisor, I attempted to pay my family's debt.

During my years with the organization, I have served with some of the finest and most dedicated people not just in our district but throughout the state. However, things do change, and the time has now come when I feel that I must resign my position as a supervisor from Barrow County.

I am sure there is a qualified person to fill the position. I will always support and work with the District in any way I can as a private citizen who truly believes in the conservation of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David H. Jackson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David H. Jackson
PO Box 160
Winder, GA 30680

cc: Garland Thompson
Brent Dykes
Danny Hogan

Tom Kerlin

1759 Hwy. 85 South
Fayetteville, GA 30215
Phone (770) 461-8974

March 7, 2013

Doug Cawthon
District Chairman
Towaliga Soil and Water Conservation District
3014 Heritage Road, Suite 1
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Dear Doug,

When District Supervisor Travis Hardy first approached me about filling an appointed position on the district board I was honored to be asked and agreed, knowing that my job allowed me the time to serve. Over the years, I have enjoyed the time I have been on the board and felt privileged to be associated with the people with whom I have served.

Unfortunately time has brought with it changes in my job situation. With the downturn in the economy, complicated by the loss of my former job and means of livelihood, I have had to turn to employment in the retail industry, which has interfered with my ability to attend monthly meetings. I had hoped some changes would have been forthcoming in 2013, but apparently, that is not to be.

Therefore, please accept this letter as notice of my formal resignation from the Towaliga Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Thank you and the other board members for the opportunity to serve as long as I have.

Sincerely,



Tom Kerlin

H.B. Waller, III
706 Laurel Tree Rd.
Clyo, Georgia 31303

January 8, 2013

Memo to Georgia Soil & Water Commission:

It is with regret that I submit my resignation from the Soil & Water Board of Commissioners due to health reasons, effective immediately. I will be prioritizing my efforts for my farm and family in the coming months, and I no longer feel that I can offer the level of leadership this position deserves. It has been my pleasure to serve as Supervisor representing Effingham County for 20 years, and I appreciate the hard work and dedication displayed by the many individuals comprising this body throughout my tenure. It has been an honor to serve with you over the years, and I wish you every success with your future endeavors.

Best wishes for a blessed and prosperous New Year.

With regards,



Bart Waller

Grant Update: Setting BMP Methods & Standards for Inclusion into the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia

The goal of the grant is to establish a process and procedure for accepting new practices/products into the Manual. By the end of this grant GSWCC will have established benchmark standards for specific BMPs in the Manual for which new practices/products will be reviewed against.

GSWCC contracted TRI/Environmental, Inc to conduct tests for two of the most commonly used erosion and sediment control best management practices, sediment barriers (Sd1, i.e. silt fence) and check dams (Cd).

This update will focus on sediment barriers and seek direction from the GSWCC Board how to move forward.

Sediment Barriers Sd1

Testing Overview:

Sediment barriers were tested in accordance with ASTM's WK11340 (as of February 2012). This test was selected because the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) felt it best represented real world conditions. In addition to the ASTM WK11340, GSWCC had

TRI conduct a series of index tests such as tensile strength and mass/volume.

Products evaluated:

1. Vendor selected at random distributors on the Georgia Department of Transportation's Qualified Product List 36 as follows:
 - Three distributors for Type A fabric
 - Installed according to specifications in the Manual using wood posts
 - Wood posts shall be oak and 1.5" x 1.5" in diameter and 4ft in length.
 - Three distributors for Type C fabric
 - Installed according to specifications in the Manual
 - Two distributors for C systems
 - Installed according to manufactures specifications
2. Products listed on the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission's Approved Products List for Type C Silt Fence Alternatives.
 - Install according to manufactures specifications

Pictures of ASTM WK11340 conducted by TRI Environmental, Inc



Figure 3. Typical Prepared Control Slope



Figure 4 Typical Prepared Slope & Sediment Barrier Installation



Figure 5. Control End-of-Test



Figure 6. Type A End-of-Test

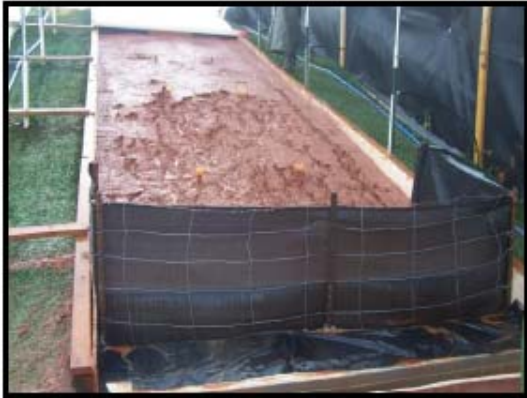


Figure 7. Type C End-of-Test



Figure 8. C-System End-of-Test



Figure 10. Type B Silt Fence End-of-Test



Figure 11. Type B Compost Sock End-of-Test



Figure 12. Type B Straw Bales End-of-Test

In the Manual there are three types of silt fence, Type A, B, C. The Manual specifies where each type can be used, for how long it can be used and specifications such as minimum fabric width, bursting strength, types of post that must be used, etc.

| | Minimum Length | Type of Post | Size of Post |
|--------|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Type A | 4' | Soft wood Oak Steel | 3" dia. or 2x4 1.5" x 1.5" 1.3lb./ft. min. |
| Type B | 3' | Soft wood Oak Steel | 2" dia. or 2x2 1" x 1" .75lb./ft. min. |
| Type C | 4' | Steel | 1.3lb./ft. min. |

| | Gauge | Crown | Legs | Staples/Post |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Wire Staples | 17 min. | 3/4" wide | 1/2" long | 5 min. |
| | Gauge | Length | Button Heads | Nail/Post |
| Nails | 14 min. | 1" | 3/4" | 4 min. |

Note: Filter fabric may also be attached to the post by wire, cord, and pockets.

To be considered going forward:

Option #1 – Approve products and allow use strictly based on trapping efficiencies.

The trapping efficiencies would be based on the P-factor.

The P-factor for this test is the practice factor that equals the ratio of protected slope sediment loss (via seepage through a sediment barrier) to control slope sediment loss (via runoff without sediment barrier)

The Manual would still provide certain specifications; height requirements for sensitive areas, i.e. State Waters and steep slopes and two rows of sediment barriers along sensitive areas.

GSWCC would use the calculated P-factor test results to set a range for which all new products must fall within to be approved.

GSWCC would set a minimum of two ranges, one for general use and one for sensitive areas (ie State Waters)

Traditional categorization and specifications may no longer exist.

Option #2 - Approve products and allow use strictly based on trapping efficiencies and a product durability test.

This option is the same as Option 1, but would require an additional test, a durability test, such as tensile strength test for silt fence fabrics.