

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Savannah, GA
August 12, 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, Executive Manager for Water Policy Bob Hanner, Regional Representatives John Loughridge, Robert Amos, Keegan Malone, Luke Crosson, and Rahn Milligan, Region III Irrigation Specialist Jason Mallard, and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur. Representing Georgia NRCS was State Conservationist James Tillman. 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 June 21, 2013, Board Meeting.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays, the Board unanimously approved the resignations of Stephens County district supervisor Evan Hellenga and Pine Mountain district supervisor Josh Weaver.

On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board approved the nominees put forth in the August 2013 Appointment Report (please see attached.) Chairman Thompson asked that Mr. Dykes send attendance letters to the two re-appointed supervisors with previously low attendance rates (below 50%).

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Director's Report. Mr. Dykes updated the Board on several action items from their June meeting, including a meeting that Mr. Dykes and Chairman Thompson had with representatives from the Georgia Municipal Association regarding the potential of expanding GSWCC's current partnership with Department of Corrections' work crews on water projects. Additionally, Mr. Dykes reported that the transition from the Conyers office was complete as of August 9th. Mr. Guerry Thomas is now working out of an office in McDonough, and Susan Castle is working out of the Oconee River District's office in Winder.

The proposed Erosion and Sediment Control Award was further discussed. It was suggested that the award not be competitive in nature, and the Board agreed to table the topic until the next Board Meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Dykes asked the Board to consider approval of his recent travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the NACD Summer Legislative Conference. On a motion by Carl Brack and second by Dennis Brown, the Board approved Mr. Dykes' out-of-state travel.

At this time, Mr. Dykes presented the Board with the Personnel Report. The Region V—Dawson office administrative assistant, Ms. Lancia Wyant, will be leaving Commission employment as of Friday, August 23, 2013. GSWCC has also been or is currently advertising for three open positions: the

application deadline for the Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist position in the Region I office was July 15th, the deadline for the Ag Water Quality Project Specialist position in Region V was July 31st, and the deadline for the Administrative Assistant position for the Region III (Statesboro) office is August 16th. Mr. Dykes also reported that Ms. Niki Strain, the GSWCC Administrative Operations Manager, is planning to retire effective June 30, 2014. Tentative plans include down-sizing the Commission's financial department to consist of a staff of three people. Internal training of staff is beginning this month.

Next, Mr. Dykes presented the Board with the proposed amended FY14 and the FY15 budgets, explaining that unlike recent years, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget did not require any additional cuts at the beginning of this fiscal year. The Commission was also given the opportunity to make a state bond request; however, the recommendation by GSWCC staff is to refrain from making a bond request or re-directing funds in FY14. On a motion by David Hays and second by Dennis Brown, the Board approved the proposed budgets and bond recommendations as presented by Director Dykes.

At this time, the Board reviewed the FY14 Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Plans of Work. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board approved the plans as submitted by districts.

Mr. Dykes next updated the Board on changes to the NPDES Permitting Process. Specifically, the new permitting process will not be instituted until after a public comment process, so EPD is still permitting under the current NPDES permit. The new permits will be issued at some point after the public comment period ends, anticipated as not before the end of August 2013.

The GSWCC Green Book updates are also being finalized, and Mr. Dykes reported that the Board will have a chance to review the new draft before it is released for public comment.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Eigenberg to give the Deputy Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg presented the Board with the FY14 One Georgia Metering Budget. The FY14 approved budget amount is \$837,714.19 (including \$89,359.19 in funding rolled over from the FY13 budget.) These funds will be used by the Metering Program for meter repair and replacement and meter reading.

Mr. Eigenberg presented the Board with information published online by the USGS Georgia Water Science Center regarding metering program data. Results show that from 2010 to 2012, there was less expansion in surface water irrigation, and more expansion in ground water irrigation usage.

Mr. Eigenberg finished his update by reporting that the self-reported meter reading postcard program is still averaging only a 7% return rate, so that initiative may need to be re-formatted in the coming months to increase data retrieval and voluntary participation.

At this time, Mr. Tillman was called on to give the NRCS Update. He reported that NRCS is in the process of closing out this year's Farm Bill programs, and is also down-sizing administrative services to transition into larger, multi-state service regions. He stressed that this transition will not affect existing program services.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Dykes reported that the 2014 GACDS Annual Meeting will be held January 24-26, 2014 in the Macon-area. Mr. Brown said that GACDS is looking at holding the meeting at the

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Macon Marriott Hotel, in conjunction with the Macon Centreplex facilities. Additionally, another GACDS Legislative Luncheon is planned for February 12, 2014, at the State Capitol.

Chairman Thompson opened up the floor for public comments. Mr. Loughridge invited the Board to consider holding an upcoming meeting at the new Region I office in Calhoun. The Board considered this request, and decided to hold their next Board meeting scheduled for October 23, 2013, at the new Region I office.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Dennis Brown, the Board voted to go into Executive Session regarding personnel matters.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Dennis Brown, the Board voted to come out of Executive Session. No official actions were taken at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:



GSWCC Chairman 10-31-13
Date



GSWCC Executive Director 10-31-13
Date

AFFIDAVIT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared Chairman Garland Thompson, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

- (1) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.
- (2) Pursuant to my duties as Chairman, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission held on the 12th day of August, 2013. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.
- (3) It is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:
When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting, or, if the agency's policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.
- (4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows:
A meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).

This affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) and is to be filled with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 23rd day of October, 2013.

Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This ____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public