

**GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Atlanta, GA  
February 1, 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, Regional Representatives John Loughridge, Keegan Malone, Luke Crosson, and Rahn Milligan. Also present from the Commission were Region III Resource Specialist Guerry Thomas, and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur. Representing GACDS was Danny Hogan. Guests included Gwinnett County district supervisor Ellis Lamme, DeKalb County supervisor Dell MacGregor and Fulton County Supervisor Walter Rekuc, Cobb County supervisors Woody Snell and Alice Champagne, and Altamaha supervisor Travis Cook. Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order and asked Executive Director Dykes to give an invocation.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 13, 2012 Board Meeting.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Hal Haddock, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mark Masters to the Lower Chattahoochee district, representing Terrell County.

At this time, Ms. Niki Strain presented the agency's quarterly expenditure report, explaining that the Commission is currently on-track with the amended FY13 budget.

The Board next called on Mr. Brent Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began by updated the Board on action items from the previous Board meeting in December 2012. The current Farm Bill has been extended by nine months, and the Senate subcommittee has begun to take action on the new version; however, the House discussions have stalled out regarding the dairy policy.

The new state-required legal citizen verification process necessary to participate in the Commission's certification program has generated a large amount of new paperwork for that department. Mr. Dykes explained that Certification staff were doing a good job of handling and processing that paperwork in a timely manner.

The Golden Triangle RC&D Council has requested the temporary use of a portion of the Commission's telemetry monitoring equipment. Due to changes in budget, the Commission has suspended use of the equipment, and the possibility of a partnership between the Commission and Golden Triangle will be further explored.

The EPD has published draft changes to the Flint River Drought Protection Act, and Commission metering program staff continue to meet with EPD on a regular basis for coordination.

Next, Mr. Dykes updated the Board on the Governor's Budget Recommendation, which was released on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Governor's budget includes bond money for water supply and additional funds for the Savannah Harbor project in FY14. Mr. Dykes reported that he, Mr. Eigenberg, and Ms.

Strain attended an agency budget hearing on January 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the amended FY13 budget, including the governor's proposed 3.4% total Commission budget cut, and the governor's recommended 4.5% total cut for the proposed FY14 Commission state budget.

Mr. Dykes continued his report with an update on the Conyers office. Mr. Dykes explained that in light of the decision to close the Conyers office by the end of June 2013, he has been attending the Region III district meetings to meet with supervisors and get their feedback. He has attended all but the Cobb County and Clayton County district meetings. Mr. Dykes and Mr. Eigenberg met with the Region III staff on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and have also met with the Regional Representatives who will be in charge of the respective districts, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Further discussion with the regional representatives will take place at their upcoming meeting scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. At this time, the possibility of a reduction in force related to the Conyers staff was introduced by Mr. Dykes. On a motion by Hal Haddock and second by Carl Brack, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation of a reduction in force for the administrative assistant position in the Conyers office effective June 30, 2013.

Next, Mr. Dykes reported on the plans for this year's Washington, D.C. trip. Current tentative plans include timing the trip to coincide with the NACD Spring Fly-In, scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Legislative visits would take place on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dykes finished his report by reminding the Board that Personal Financial Disclosures must be filed with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission by June 30<sup>th</sup>. In a change from previous years, State Board members who are appointed to their respective local district boards no longer must file the Personal Financial Disclosure (all elected supervisors must continue to complete the disclosure annually). Instead, all Board members are now required to file an affidavit by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year stating that they did not materially profit from their position serving on the state board.

The Board next called on Mr. Dave Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg gave the floor to Mr. Jake Fleming to report on meter data acquisition. Mr. Fleming gave a brief overview of the data acquisition process, explaining that the Commission is targeting the Ichawaynotchaway sub-basin of the Flint River basin (selected because of current acreage mapping being conducted by the Albany State University Water Policy Center.) Data collection of this sub-basin will proceed with a three-prong approach consisting of gathering telemetry data through partners, sending out postcards to producers to self-report data, and expanding the number of monthly-read meter sites.

Mr. Eigenberg reported that Commission staff have met with GA-EPD to discuss data collection methods and ways of simplifying self-read meter data collection by producers. He also discussed the possible partnership with Golden Triangle RC&D. Mr. Dykes and Mr. Eigenberg thanked Mr. Fleming for his work with the program and with the data collection process.

At this time, Mr. Danny Hogan thanked the Board for their support of GACDS, and welcomed them to the 2013 GACDS Annual Meeting. He expressed his appreciation to those present for their help with the GACDS Legislative Luncheon held at the State Capitol the previous day, and complimented everyone on the food and the team effort. Mr. Hogan mentioned the possibility of GACDS and the

Commission working with the Library System of Georgia to document and archive information relative to both organizations, to be made available to libraries throughout the state. Gwinnett County District Supervisor Ellis Lamme stated that this would be a good way for GACDS to be more interactive and involved with the Commission and with local communities.

At this time, Chairman Thompson opened up the floor for public comments. Mr. Hogan thanked Mr. Snell, Ms. Champagne, and Mr. Lamme for their help on the 2013 GACDS Annual Meeting planning committee.

At this time, Mr. Dykes reminded the Board of their upcoming meetings. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>; however, since that date is directly after the 2013 Washington DC Meeting, Mr. Dykes suggested an alternate date of Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Thompson offered that the Board wait until early March to see what agenda items need action before setting the next meeting date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4-18-13

GSWCC Chairman

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4-18-13

GSWCC Executive Director

Date

