

COLUMBIA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK FY-2024

DISTRICT'S IDENTITY AND ROLE:

The Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District is an agency of the State of Georgia established on October 31, 1929, by authority and under provision of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Law of 1937, as amended, and according to the District Certificate of Organization.

The District seeks, utilizes and coordinates assistance from all available appropriate sources, private and public, local, state and federal. Columbia County Conservation District is committed and dedicated to the conservation, development and protection of the land, water, forest, wildlife and related resources for the benefit of mankind, now and for generations to come.

The district develops and carries out its program of work designed for the protection and conservation of our natural resources by a Board of Supervisors as the governing body with the cooperation and assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Local Committees.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Rick Crawford - Chairman

John Shearouse – Chaplain

Beverly Hardaway – Supervisor

Bob Anderson- Supervisor

District Supervisor's Responsibility:

1. District Supervisors will continue to review and keep current district cooperators conservation plans.
2. Sponsor and conduct demonstrations, tours, and field days to acquaint farmers and land owners with methods for protection soil and water resources and promote greater participation within the community.
3. District Supervisors are expected to attend every monthly meeting as well as the Group II Summer Meeting, usually held in August, and GACD's Annual Meeting, held in January.
4. Supervisors will review current erosion and sedimentation plans at each regular meeting.

Education/Schools:

1. Manage and expend funds made available through private, local, state, and federal sources in such a way as to promote soil and water conservation and conservation education within the Columbia County Schools and the community at large.
2. Promote outdoor classrooms/nature trails among the county schools
3. Have a district award for a teacher who is dedicated to environmental education, which will be presented at the annual wild game supper.
4. Promote and fund Columbia County 4-H and Columbia County School functions that pertain to Conservation Programs.
5. Promote the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop within the local Columbia County High Schools and sponsor potentially interested students.
6. Support the Georgia Envirothon program.

Community:

1. Sponsor community seminars, including Erosion and Sediment Control workshops for local contractors/developers.
2. Participate and promote availability of RC&D Programs.
3. Host the annual Wild Game Supper and recognize citizen and educator contributions to conservation matters.
4. Develop informational programs and provide speakers for community groups.
5. Increase communication with the local county government and other agencies and develop a strong working relationship with them.

Developers and Contractors:

1. Conduct seminars for local developers on controlling erosion and sedimentation.
2. Sponsor E&S Certification classes for those working in land disturbance.

Land Owners:

1. Provide technical assistance to land users through NRCS program promotion.
2. Provide technical assistance to agribusinesses, timber growers, poultry and livestock operations, row crop farmers and other farm-related activities.
3. Complete all applicable Farm Bill programs as well as all other Federal, State and local grants
4. Maintain working relationship with district feral swine trap custodian and manage the feral swine initiative within the county.

Finance:

1. Develop and implement a budget. Manage district financial, and material resources to meet district goals in an efficient and productive manner and as prescribed by state guidelines.
2. Maintain membership in the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts and NACD.
3. Submit a financial report to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Supervisor Education:

1. Invite County Erosion and Sedimentation Inspector/Engineer to District Meeting to explain procedures for erosion and sedimentation plans.
2. Encourage at least one supervisor to attend the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission sponsored Supervisor Training Session at scheduled time.