



**GSWCC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING:**

The Board Meeting for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 via Zoom.

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Martin at 10:01 a.m. Edwin Nix gave the invocation.

The following board members were in attendance via zoom: Chairman Bob Martin, Vice-Chairman Vikki Consiglio, Edwin Nix, Jason Winters, and Jim Waters. A quorum was established.

Supervisors in attendance via Zoom: Deetra Poindexter, Clayton County SWCD, Andrew Standard, Coastal SWCD, Ellis Lamme, Gwinnett County SWCD, and George Kelecheck, Rockdale County SWCD.

Partners in attendance via zoom: Terrance Rudolph, NRCS, Katie Sponberger, Leanne Hopper, Katelynn Poppell, Jean Leone, and Dana Tripp of GACD.

Members of the Public in attendance via zoom: No One.

Members of the Commission attending via zoom: Mitch Attaway, Executive Director, Marla Whittington, Financial Analyst, Ben Hyer, Rural Project Manager, Jacqueline Holt, Administrative Assistant, Ben Ruzowicz, Urban Program, Jennifer Standridge, Region II Representative, NancyAnne Conner, Region III Representative, Michelle Conner, Region IV Representative, Ben Roberts, Region V Representative, and Leslie Peterson, Region IV Resource Specialist.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Martin asked for approval of the minutes for the November 12, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Edwin Nix to approve the minutes, seconded by Vikki Consiglio, no one opposed, passed, without opposition.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY MITCH ATTAWAY:**

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

Incoming: Emma Stephenson – Intern

Outgoing: Robert Amos, Lindsey Smith, Dylan DiNello

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Director Attaway gave an update and went over the report provided in the meeting packet.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Director Attaway gave an update on the transition to the NextGen platform.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Legislative Update: AFY 26 budget includes supplemental bonus for employees. Director Attaway discussed HB 812 and what it might mean for plan reviews.

Elections: 2026 elections will be held in the fall. Staff is preparing for them and making sure supervisors are aware.

Board Meeting Schedule: Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the meeting schedule as suggested. A motion was made by Jason Winters to approve the meeting schedule, seconded by Edwin Nix, no one opposed, passed.

Supervisor Trainings: Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve that the supervisor training amount to stay be \$1,000 per meeting for a total of \$4,000 for Georgia Soil and Waters part of these meetings. A motion was made by Jason Winters to approve that the supervisor training amount stay at \$1,000 per meeting for a total of \$4,000, seconded by Jim Waters, no one opposed, passed.

### **CONSERVATION REPORT BY MITCH ATTAWAY:**

#### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:**

Director Attaway stated there are a total of 24 appointments, 21 are re-appointments and 3 are new appointments.

Chairman Martin ask if there were any discussion regarding the appointments. There was some discussion regarding appointment attendance.

Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the appointments. There was a motion by Jim Waters to approve the appointment list and let the local representatives speak with supervisors regarding some attendance, a second by Jason Winters, and motion passed with 1 descent (Vikki Consiglio).

### **UPDATES:**

So far this year they conducted over 20 overviews, over 50 outreach events, just recently focusing in Region IV kicked off LIA training events where we're bring in the people from the local municipalities. A smaller setting making sure they understand the state rules and regulations we are asking them to follow. This is kicking off in Region IV excited to see that grow. Managing a little of 2.5 million dollars to assist private land owners with conservation efforts on their properties.

## **URBAN REPORT BY BEN RUZOWICZ:**

### **Updates:**

Ben Ruzowicz stated there have been 667 plans reviewed from November 12, 2025 through January 20, 2026. He stated there have been 211 courses with a total of 1,609 attendees and of that total 1,032 were re-certifications and 964 were new certifications. He said of the new certifications there were 25 Awareness, 421 Level 1A, 61 Level 1B, and 70 Level II.

### **BMP Approval:**

Ben stated he is submitting 8 from American Excelsior and 2 from WinFab. Ruzowicz discussed each BMP requesting to be approved.

Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve all BMPS presented to go to the Overview Council. A motion was made by Edwin Nix to approve all BMPS to go to the Overview Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Winters, no one opposed, passed.

### **Trainer I and Trainer II:**

Ruzowicz stated there is 1 person who completed the Trainer I: William Credille and 1 person completed the Trainer II: Tshiamala Katala. Ruzowicz asked if the board would approve the Trainer I and Trainer II personal, both passed the class with the 85% or higher.

Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve Trainer I and Trainer II applicants. A motion was made by Edwin Nix to approve Trainer I and Trainer II applicants, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Winters, no one opposed, passed.

### **MOAs**

Dawson County and Forsyth County:

Ruzowicz said Jennifer Standridge has been busy she has two MOAs for approval, all the information is there.

Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the MOA's. A motion was made by Vikki Consiglio to approve the MOAs, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Winters, no one opposed, passed.

## **RURAL REPORT BY BEN HYER AND GREG WALKER:**

See attached report.

Attaway stated that the Noon Day 17 easement has been signed.

## **PARTNER UPDATES:**

NRCS by Terrance Rudolph—See attached

GACD by Katie Sponberger—See attached

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No commit.

Discussion that the next board meeting will be 3/10/26 at 10:00 at Erosion Day at UGA.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Respectively Submitted:

 3/10/26  
GSWCC Chairman    Date

 01/28/26  
GSWCC Executive Director    Date