



## **GSWCC Board Meeting Minutes**

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026**

**4310 Lexington Road  
ATHENS, GA 30605**

### **Time And Place of the Meeting:**

The Board Meeting for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 in person at the GSWCC office and via Zoom.

### **Call to Order and Invocation:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Martin at 10:00 a.m. Director Attaway gave the invocation.

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

Supervisors in attendance in person: George Kelecheck, Rockdale County SWCD.

Partners in attendance in person: Dana Tripp, GACD.

Members of the Commission attending in person Mitch Attaway, Executive Director, Ben Hyer, Rural Project Manager, Jacqueline Holt, Administrative Assistant, Josh Jackwood, Region I Representative, Jennifer Standridge, Region II Representative, NancyAnne Conner, Region III Representative, Michelle Conner, Region IV Representative, Ben Roberts, Region V Representative.

Members of the Commission attending via zoom: Greg Walker, Rural Project Manager.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Martin asked for approval of the minutes for the March 10th, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Edwin Nix to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim Waters, no one opposed, passed, without opposition.

### **Executive Director's Report by Director Attaway:**

#### **Human Resources:**

None

#### **Financial Report:**

Director Attaway stated the financials are in good shape.

## **Old and New Business:**

The board approved a \$400 per diem for supervisors attending the annual meeting on August 23-24 at Brass Town Ball Resort. Jim Waters made the motion and Edwin Nix seconded, all voted in favor. The board approved the FY27 district allotment. Vikki Consiglio made the motion and Jason Winters second and all voted in favor. Vikki Consiglio also made a motion to sign an easement agreement with City of Perry and Tucker Turf for sewer improvements. Jason Winters seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

## **Legislative Update:**

Director Attaway gave an update on legislation and the budget process.

## **Conservation Report by Ben Roberts:**

Ben Roberts reported on 12 total appointments, including one new appointment in Clayton County and 11 reappointments, with all participants maintaining over 50% attendance. The board approved the new supervisors via motion, with Edwin Nix making the motion and Jim Waters providing the second. Ben also updated on regional activities, including Michelle Conner's completion of 6 local issuing authority workshops with 150 attendees across 47 authorities, and ongoing work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife on a Partners Grant and potential new agreements totaling approximately \$455,000 over two years with Georgia Milk Producers and a new agricultural non-point source management pilot program.

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

### **Updates:**

Ben Ruzowicz reported on recent activities including 674 plan reviews and 230 certification courses processed between March and May, with nearly 2,000 people attending these courses. The board discussed three new BMP products seeking approval, including two from the same company and an ESC siltworm product, with materials to be shared via email due to their length. Ben noted that board approval would be the first step, followed by review by the oversight council.

## **Rural Report by Ben Hyer and Greg Walker:**

See attached report.

## **Partner Updates:**

GACD by Dana Tripp-See attached

## **Public Comment:**

George Kelecheck discussed HR 416.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectively Submitted:

  
GSWCC Chairman      8/25/26  
Date

  
GSWCC Executive Director      05/12/26  
Date

## Rural Water Resources March 2026 Watershed Dam Update

- 1 **Noon Day 17-** Construction drawings have been approved and a construction permit has been issued by EPD. There is one easement agreement remaining that needs to be executed, digital copy received waiting on original signature. The compensation payment has been wired to our attorney's escrow account; release of funds will occur once original is received.
- 2 **Little River 25-** FNI has begun the detail design phase for this rehabilitation. The design will be altered from the original preferred option in the authorized SWP due to unexpected geotechnical findings. The left spillway will not be abandoned as had been discussed earlier.
- 3 **Trion-Chattooga River Dike System** - FNI has submitted the final SWP to NRCS in Athens for review. Final authorization has been slightly delayed due to authorization of the identified borrow site. Detail design will be funded by NRCS once the SWP has been authorized. Waiting to hear back from the design professional if one final public meeting is needed.
- 4 **Mill Canton 7-**Tetratech is now under contract for design of this project. Preliminary surveying and geotechnical investigation have been completed. Pipe inspection with NRCS scheduled to support design.
- 5 **Settingdown 54** - FNI is under contract and surveying and geotechnical investigation has been completed. Additional geotechnical investigation will be needed due to the depth of alluvial soils found in the initial investigation.
- 6 **Settingdown 56** - Schnabel is now under contract for design of this project. Preliminary surveying and geotechnical investigation have been completed.
- 7 **Maintenance Funds-** Currently replacing dilapidated metal work and clearing clogged structures at multiple sites. Various mowing contracts are underway across the state to maintain dams that have been cleared of large trees in previous years.
- 8 **Assessments-** All remaining Cat I structures have completed EAPs with the assistance of a grant received by EPD, continuing monthly coordination with EPD on prioritized projects and citizen concerns.
- 9 **Permitting-** Currently in the process of contracting multiple engineering firms to submit permit applications to GA Safe Dams for watershed structures that can possibly be permitted "as is" or with only minor repairs. Permit applications are currently underway for Sharp Mountain 14 and Settingdown 4 & 27 Watershed Structures. Settingdown 6 has been permitted. Soque 44 permit application is in process to be presented to EPD by GSWCC.

## **GACD Grants Update**

1. Working with EPD to discuss new Grant project opportunities, 319 future funding is uncertain. Resolving citizen inquiries by offering available resources and Information into streambank erosion concerns, and agricultural water quality complaints.
2. Researching a statewide "Master Farmer" pilot program based off of environmentally sound on-farm practices that will associate education, Incentives, and the promotion of Georgia Farmers and the products that they produce,
3. An agreement with NRCS to continue conservation workshops and engage conservation districts in local funded projects was awarded funding. This new agreement will be implemented statewide, and new workshops and conservation projects commencing in 2024. \$400,000 in funding available for BMP Implementation projects across all of Georgia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Each conservation district has been allocated a \$10,000 budget for a project/s.