



## **GSWCC Board Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 25, 2026**

**Brasstown Valley Resort Creekside Pavilion  
And  
Via Zoom**

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

The Board Meeting for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 in person at the Brasstown Valley Resort Creekside Pavilion 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: Chairman Bob Martin, Vikki Consiglio, Edwin Nix, and Jim Waters. A quorum was established.

Supervisors in attendance in person: Jan Dunaway, Dekalb County SWCD, George Kelecheck, Rockdale County SWCD, and Ellis Lamme, Gwinnett County SWCD.

Partners in attendance in person: Terrance Rudolph and Hal Dorsey, NRCS.

Members of the Commission attending in person: Mitch Attaway, Executive Director, Jennifer Standridge, Region II Representative, NancyAnne Conner, Region III Representative, Michelle Conner, Region IV Representative, and Ben Ruzowicz, Urban Program Manager.

Members of the Commission attending via zoom: Ben Hyer, Rural Project Manager, Jacqueline Holt, Administrative Assistant, Marla Whittington, Financial Analyst, and Ben Roberts, Conservation Manager.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Martin asked for approval of the minutes for the May 12, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Edwin Nix to approve the minutes, seconded by Vikki Consiglio, no one opposed.

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

## **Human Resources:**

Attaway stated that Ben Ruzowicz has hired 2 new plan reviewers, Kirsten Callaway and Jamieson Nash. They started on August 16. A Watershed Technician position is posted and Ben and Greg are working through those applications. Just last week we posted a position for a Region V Conservation Representative in the Albany Office to replace Ben Roberts. Ben Roberts is now the Conservation Manager.

Attaway stated there has been an update to the Employee Handbook in regard to how family leave is taken. This update is so we will be congruent with the State personnel board policy and is what the Legislator passed late session.

Attaway spoke about the organizational chart he provided. He stated that he felt that after promoting Ben Roberts to Conservation Manager that an updated organizational chart would be informative.

## **Financial Report:**

Director Attaway went over the report.

Attaway stated there will be a new payment system for per diem.

Attaway congratulated everyone who won an award last night. They were well deserved. He thanked GACD for putting everything together for their Annual Conference. He stated that GSWCC would have booths at the Sunbelt and the GA National Fair. The districts are getting prepared for banquet season and we will wrap this up then start working on budget submittals per request for FY28.

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

**Updates:** Ben Ruzowicz reported on recent activities including 1,140 plan reviews and 1,510 certification courses were held with 2,896 people being certified. The board discussed the three new BMP products seeking approval, including two from the same company and a Core Erosion Control product. Chairman Martin asked for a motion to approve the three BMPs. A motion was made by Vikki Consiglio to approve the three BMPs, seconded by Edwin Nix no one opposed. Ben noted that board approval is the first step, followed by review by the overview council.

Ben Ruzowicz stated that 6 people applied for and passed the exam to be approved to be a Trainer I (Jake Davis, Josh Jackwood, Tshiamala Katala, Heather Kelley, Madison Smith, and Jennifer Standridge) and 2 people applied for and passed the exam to be approved to be a Trainer II (Tammie Croy and Heather Kelley.) Chairman Martin called for a motion to approve the Trainer I and Trainer II applicants. A motion was made by Vikki Consiglio to approve the Trainer I and Trainer II, seconded by Jim Waters, no one opposed, passed, without opposition.

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

Ben Roberts reported on 17 total appointments, including 2 new appointments and 15 reappointments, with all must maintaining over 50% attendance. Chairman Martin called for a motion to approval the appointments. A motion was made by Jim Waters to approve the appointments, seconded by Edwin Nix, no one opposed. Ben Roberts stated there was one resignation, Paul Nealy, Limestone Valley. Chairman Martin called for a motion to approval of the resignation. A motion was made by Jim Waters to approve the resignation, seconded by Vikki Consiglio no one opposed.

Ben also updated on regional activities. He spoke about the new per diem rollout and wrapping up some issues. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife will probably be wrapped up in the next 2 to 3 weeks and there is about another month or 2 for the projects for the NRCS Agreement. We are preparing the final draft of the EPD 319 agreement. This is starting a non-point source management pilot program that will eventually turn into a kind of cost share ag program with the EPD to do AG BMPs.

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

See attached report.

## **Partner Updates:**

NRCS by Terrance Rudolph

## **Public Comment:**

George Kelecheck discussed projects in Rockdale County.

## **The Next Board Meeting:**

The next board meeting will be October 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. via zoom.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectively Submitted:

 10/6/26  
GSWCC Chairman      Date

 08/25/26  
GSWCC Executive Director      Date