

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Plan of Work

**LIMESTONE VALLEY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

On May 12, 1939 the Limestone Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was organized and is a legal subdivision of the Georgia State Government. The SWCD meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every other month in Ellijay unless publicized otherwise.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS:

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Don Keeter
1961 Carters Rd.
Chatsworth, GA 30705 (Chairman)

William H. Grizzle
762 Lower Union Hill Rd.
Canton, GA 30115

GILMER COUNTY

Michael Bushey
PO Box 143
Ellijay, GA 30540

Paul Nealey
175 Jennifer Drive
Ellijay, GA 30540

MURRAY COUNTY

(VACANT)

David Loughridge
699 Loughride Road
Chatsworth, GA 30705

PICKENS COUNTY

Robert Jones
1211 S. Main St.
Jasper, GA 30143

Jerry L. Edwards
49 Cape Trail
Jasper, GA 30143

WHITFIELD COUNTY

Wes Fogle
159 Farmdale Way
Dalton, GA 30721

Trey Hasty
PO Box 303
Rocky Face, GA 30740

This Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Limestone Valley Soil and Water Conservation District during FY 2025. It emphasizes conservation of natural resources within the District.

Major Objectives

- 1. Natural Resources Conservation** - Promote the conservation of soil, water, forestry, wildlife, and other natural resources.
- 2. Conservation Education** – Promote conservation education through youth and adult education programs.
- 3. Public Relations & Information** - To create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives.
- 4. Erosion and Sedimentation Program** - Provide technical assistance related to erosion control and sedimentation prevention to citizens and local units of government.
- 5. Watershed Flood Control Program** – Uphold the duties as sponsor of watershed flood control structures in the District and assist other watershed control structure sponsors with technical assistance.

Natural Resource Conservation

Action Item

1. Promote natural resources conservation through the District responsibility for implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and other Farm Bill programs.
2. Implement program activities with the Natural Resources Conservation Service that adequately protect agricultural land in the District.
3. Host an annual Local Work Group Meeting with agency partners and local farmers to prioritize resources and practices for Farm Bill Program Funding.
4. Promote minimum and no-till conservation farming through the use of the no-till drill through the Limestone Valley RC&D.
5. Administer the Grassworks Weed Wiper 319 Pilot Project to conserve water and protect water quality by limiting the amount of herbicide applied to farmland.
6. Promote the Limestone Valley RC&D Council's 319 Watershed Plans for watershed areas within the district.

Conservation Education

Action Item

1. Sponsor high school students to attend the Natural Resources Conservation

- Workshop (NRCW) at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton to introduce them at an early age to the concepts of soil and water conservation. Tuition for each student will be paid from District funds or from outside sources.
2. Work with a local school system to provide a bus to send students to the NRCW. Pay tuition for 2 students within the district to attend the NRCW.
 3. Purchase and distribute stewardship materials from NACD to inform the public of the need to manage and protect natural resources.
 4. Coordinate with other natural resource agencies to create an agricultural / natural resources awareness field day for elementary school students in the District. This field day will give students hands-on experience that can't be taught in the classroom.
 5. The SWCD will pay a per diem and mileage at a rate not to exceed the rate set annually by the GSWCC to supervisors who attend conservation meetings and continuing education opportunities.

Public Relations and Information

Action Item

1. Develop and distribute an annual report on the District's accomplishments.
2. Provide for oversight of District funds by the annual review of expenditures and income, and provide a detailed financial report to the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the end of each fiscal year.
3. Prepare news articles on the District's program and activities.
4. Invite public government officials to all District functions to make them aware of District goals.
5. Keep locally elected officials fully informed about conservation issues and of on going conservation programs and District accomplishments.
6. Appoint a SWCD Liaison to serve on the Limestone Valley RC&D Council board.

Erosion and Sedimentation Program

Action Item

1. Review erosion and sediment control plans for land disturbance projects within the limits of each Local Issuing Authority (LIA) that falls under the requirements of the erosion and sediment control ordinance of the LIA where there is not a Memorandum of Agreement with the District.
2. Promote soil and water conservation through the GSWCC Erosion and Sedimentation Certification Program.
3. Provide LIA's with technical assistance for their erosion and sedimentation control program and assist with interpretation of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act.

Watershed Flood Control Program

Action Item

1. Conduct regular inspections of the District sponsored Watershed Flood Control Structures.
2. Request funding to clear trees and repair damage on District sponsored Watershed Flood Control Structures.
3. Raise awareness of the Watershed Flood Control Structures with the public and locally elected officials to solicit assistance with maintenance and to show their importance to the watershed.

The District will seek, 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.

Limestone Valley Conservation District - Annual Budget for FY 2025

FY 2025 State Allotment Starting Balance as of July 1, 2024 = \$8,462.00

<u>Item</u>	<u>District Funds</u>	<u>State Allocated Funds</u>
<i>Allocation for Unbudgeted Incidentals</i>	-	<i>\$1,462.00</i>
<i>Georgia Envirothon Sponsorship</i>	-	<i>\$200.00</i>

<i>Dues (NACD & RC&D)</i>	-	\$500.00
<i>Dues (GACD, \$125 per supervisor)</i>	-	\$1,250.00
<i>Sponsorship to NRCW (2 students @ \$275 each)</i>	-	\$550.00
<i>NRCW Bus (Driver Fee & Fuel Costs)</i>	-	\$2,500.00
<i>Supervisor Expenses for Non-Local Conferences</i>	-	\$600.00
<i>Postage/Office Supplies (As Needed)</i>	\$150.00	-
<i>Workshop/Field Day Sponsorships</i>	-	\$200.00
<i>Community/School Sponsorships</i>	-	\$1,200.00
<i>Estimated Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$(150.00)</i>	<i>\$(8,462.00)</i>
<i>Estimated Reimbursement for NRCW Bus (\$50/student)</i>	<i>\$700.00</i>	-
<i>State Allotment Funds</i>	-	<i>\$8,462.00</i>
<i>Net</i>	<i>\$450</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>