

Lower Chattahoochee River

Soil & Water Conservation District



On July 17, 1939 the Lower Chattahoochee River Soil & Water Conservation District was organized and is a legal subdivision of the Georgia State Government. The Conservation District meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The Back-Porch Restaurant in Shellman, GA. unless publicized otherwise.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS:

Gerald Isler and Patrick Shivers, **Clay County**

Ry McRee and Tom Sumners, **Lee County**

Ralph M. Balkcom and George Cathrall, **Quitman County**

Hiram Bo Beard, *Chairman* and Frankie Sauls, **Randolph County**

Bill Bowen, **Sumter County**

Jack H. Hufstetler, *Treasurer* and Mark Masters, *Vice Chair*, **Terrell County**

Andrew Payne, **Webster County**

Currently we have vacant seats in Stewart, Sumter, Schley, and Webster Counties

Annual Plan of Work

FY-2023

This Plan of Work establishes the objectives for the Lower Chattahoochee River Conservation District during FY 2023. It emphasizes conservation of natural resources within the District.

Natural Resource Conservation

- Conservation of soil, water, forestry, wildlife and other valuable natural resources.
 - Promote natural resources conservation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency, (FSA) through the District responsibility for implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, (EQIP) Conservation Stewardship Program, (CSP) Conservation Reserve Program, (CRP) and other Farm Bill programs.
 - Provide assistance to landowners in our District to plan and apply conservation Best Management Practices.
 - Lower Chattahoochee District in partnership with the Golden Triangle RC&D, on the Grassy Creek Project in Steward County. This project came up as an opportunity as it relates to the Better Back Roads report that we partnered with the Golden Triangle last year. It is on two sites on dirt roads with crushed culverts which are in desperate need of repair. These are dirt roads that have direct access to cross streams and creeks in Stewart County.
 - Host an annual Local Work Group Meeting with agency partners and local farmers to prioritize resources and practices for Farm Bill Program Funding.
 - Host training events around the current GACD Grant involving ways to resolve soil erosion problems.
 - Provide soils information to the public through the web-based Web Soil Survey to promote proper land use planning.

Conservation Education

- Promote education throughout the District
 - Sponsor high school students to attend the annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop (NRCW) held at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) located in Tifton, GA. This workshop provides an excellent opportunity to engage students in the importance of our natural resources and teaches them about conservation, stewardship, and sustainable agriculture with both classroom and outdoor experiential learning.
 - Offering an Environmental & Agricultural Education Grant to our district's local public and private schools. This Grant provides the educator access to additional funding to help educate their students on the importance of agricultural and ways to conserve our natural resources.
 - Hosting on site demonstrations with local partners NRCS, & GA Forestry, on various resource concerns and offering best management practices to assist the landowner.
 - Providing the public resources to get information on soils through the web-based program call Web Soil Survey, to educate and promote proper land use planning.
 - Conduct a Cover Crop Field Day in Terrell County in partnership with UGA Extension, Golden Triangle RC&D, NRCS Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center and with Bellfower Farms.

- Promote NACD Poster Contest offered to all students from K-12 grade in public, private and home schools, giving them the opportunity to design a poster, which needs to be done with the current theme in mind. Research needs to be done which is a learning experience around our environment and natural resources.
- Promote GACD Pollinator Initiative by partnering with Terrell County High School on a Pollinator Habitat.

Public Relations & Information

- Create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives
 - Develop and distribute an Annual Report on the District and highlighting the past years accomplishments.
 - Provide oversight of the District funds by doing an annual audit of expenditures and income. Prepare a detailed financial report at the end of each fiscal year.
 - Work closely with other agencies (FSA, RD, Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, GSWCC, NRCS, RC&D, and DNR) to coordinate conservation program activities in the District. Encourage each agency representative to attend board meetings and keep District supervisors informed on the various agency programs in the District.
 - Maintain the district Website and Facebook page to highlight District activities and objectives.
 - Keep locally elected officials fully informed about conservation issues and of on-going conservation programs and District accomplishments.
 - Hold officer elections every 2 years in December of even-numbered years to elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a Treasurer.

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.