# Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission MIDDLE SOUTH GEORGIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Middle South Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District

**Annual Plan of Work – FY 2025**

**7/1/24 -- 6/30/25**

**District Identity:**

The Middle South Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District was constituted as an agency of the State Government by the authority and under provision of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Law of 1937 on March 16th, 1939. The Board is made up of farmers, landowners, and land-users that are dedicated to the conservation, development, and protection of natural resources. The District comprises Ben Hill, Brooks, Colquitt, Crisp, Irwin, Thomas, Tift, Turner, and Worth Counties. Two supervisors from each county, one elected and one appointed, serve on the eighteen-member Board.

Meetings are held quarterly at the USDA Service Center in Tifton, Georgia on a Wednesday at 2 pm with date/time and agenda posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. Public is encouraged to attend. Demonstrations, tours, and special meetings are held periodically with proper notification given as to time and location.

Current Board of Supervisors

**Ben Hill Brooks Colquitt Crisp**

Wesley Griffin Dan Niewoehner Thomas Coleman Randy Ellis

Joseph Phillips Adam Rowland Preston Jimmerson James Baker

**Irwin Thomas Tift Turner**

Bob Martin Darrell Hart Grady Thompson, Jr. Alex Sumner

Donald Mc Whorter Vacant Brian Ponder Ross Kendrick

**Worth**

Keith White

 Chris Young

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Leanne Hopper, Regional Program Manager - Southwest Georgia

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ben Roberts, Regional Conservation Manager – Region 5

Jim Friese, Resource Manager – Region 5

1. **Natural Resources Conservation** – Work with government agencies and conservation organizations to assist in planning, developing, and implementing conservation programs. Provide local direction and priorities for government technical assistance. Support habitat, agricultural and urban conservation throughout the district through the following action items:
* Develop and approve 1 project promoting an NRCS program
	+ **Budget: $0,000 ($10,000 project budget being funded by Region 5)**
* Meet with 2 Local Issuing Authorities (LIA) within the district per FY to promote the benefits of a Memorandum of Agreement between the LIA and the District.
	+ **Budget: $0.00 (Tift County)**
* Meet with 2 local units of government to promote using various forms of BMPs to better control storm runoff, promoting urban conservation through the use of rain gardens, pollinator gardens, etc.
	+ **Budget: $0.00**
* Support local hog control initiatives through the purchasing of equipment and promotional materials for current hog custodians. Look to potentially increase the number of custodians by 1 if funds allow.
	+ **Budget: $1,000**
* Have all open supervisor positions filled within 1 year of them being opened
	+ **Budget: $0.00**
* Increase awareness of conservation programs that are available through local, state and federal agencies by increasing the number of outside organizations reporting or attending District Meetings.
	+ **Budget: $0.00**

**Total Conservation Budget: $1,000.00**

1. **Education & Outreach** – The SWCD should strive to provide conservation education opportunities throughout the district. Through partnerships with other conservation groups plan, develop, and implement seminars, programs, contests, etc. used for the purpose of conservation education to accomplish the following action items:
* Develop, approve & run 1 workshop supporting an NRCS program
	+ **Budget: $1,000**
* Support local schools and promote natural resource conservation and agriculture through the sponsorship of 6 grants totaling not more than $6,000. Each grant will be supported at a maximum of $1,000.
	+ **Budget: $6,000.00**
* Promote the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at ABAC by actively recruiting and sponsoring at least 4 students within the district. Further support NRCW by assisting with the funding of a scholarship to be awarded at the camp.
	+ **Budget: $1,200**
* Support local students that are studying agriculture or natural resource conservation with the Essay Contest Scholarship in partnership with ABAC Foundation
	+ **Budget: $1,957.23**
* Support local conservation efforts by supporting a Conservationist of the Year from each county.
	+ **Budget: Paid for by District funds.**
* Support and promote conservation with local students by holding a Poster Contest"
	+ **Budget: District Funds**

**Total Education & Outreach Budget: $9,700**

1. **Public Relations, Supervisor Travel/Training & Misc.** – Create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives. Keep the general public informed on conservation issues and concerns through the following action items:
* Pay GACD & NACD Dues for FY 2023/24.
	+ **Budget: $2,125**
* Sponsor 3 Supervisors to attend the GACD annual meeting in 2024 FY (Note: state allotment cannot pay for hotel fees)
	+ **Budget: $0.00**
* Support a District Conservationist of the year by purchasing and displaying a sign at the discretion of the award winner.
	+ **Budget: $600**
* Review and approve all Erosion & Sediment Control Plans for developments within the jurisdiction of Local Issuing Authorities within the District as required under **The Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law** of Georgia.
	+ **Budget: $0.00**
* Develop an Annual Report on District accomplishments at the end of the fiscal year
	+ **Budget: $0.00**
* Have at least 1 elected official, local, state and/or federal, attend all District functions in order to make them aware of conservation concerns, programs, and accomplishments.
	+ **Budget: $0.00**
* Increase knowledge about the rental equipment the District offers to farmers and land-users by creating and distributing a publication.
	+ **Budget: $0.00**

**Total PR & Info Budget: $2,725**

1. **Watershed Inspections and Maintenance** – Carry out watershed inspections and maintenance in the District. Work to prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, control floods, and assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers in the District. Work towards the development of an Emergency Watershed Program.

**TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET: $13,425.00**

**TOTAL INCOME BUDGET: $3,000.00 (to the District)**

**TOTAL STATE ALLOCATION: $11,958.00**