

**GEORGIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OCMULGEE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL PLAN of WORK – FY 24
7/1/23 – 6/30/24**

District Identity:

The Ocmulgee River 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 February 10th, 1938. 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 Bibb, Crawford, Dooly, Houston, Macon, Peach, Pulaski, Taylor, and Wilcox Counties. Two supervisors from each county, one elected and one appointed, serve on the eighteen-member Board.

Meetings are held at the Houston County Government Building at 2030 Kings Chapel Rd, Perry, GA the first Thursday each month at 6 pm with date/time and agenda posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. There are no meetings in May and October. 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

Bibb

Lindsay Holliday (E)
Donald Newberry (A)

Crawford

Dee Martin (E)
Vacant

Dooly

Blake Reid (E)
James Warbington (A)

Houston

Sam Morton (E)
David Muse (A)

Macon

Vacant
Gary Slaton (A)

Peach

Jacob Turner (E)
Neal Hancock (A)

Pulaski

David Bishop (E)
Bobby Lancaster (A)

Taylor

Vacant
Jack McGlaun (A)

Wilcox

Larry Stubs (E)
Tim Bloodworth (A)

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Leanne Hopper, Regional Program Manager - Southwest Georgia

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ben Roberts, Regional Conservation Manager
Amelia Nystrom, Resource Specialist

Major Objectives:

This Annual Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Ocmulgee River Soil and Water Conservation District for the Fiscal Year 2024. The following objectives will be planned, developed, and implemented under partnership with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A. **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:

1. Apply for a 319 grant to support the restoration of an imperiled stream as identified by the GA EPD within the district.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
2. 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**
3. Recruit 2 new private land-users/owners to apply best management practices (BMPs) that provide conservation benefits to soil, water, and/or wildlife habitat, within the district.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
4. Work with the Georgia Forestry Commission to get 2 new landowners to establish pine trees on marginal cropland to promote wildlife habitat.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
5. 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**
6. 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: \$3,000**
7. Have all open supervisor positions filled within 1 year of them being opened
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
8. Establish 1 new program to raise funds for conservation projects in the District
 - **Estimated Income: \$3,000**
9. 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: \$3,000.00

B. 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:

1. Increase the visibility of the District in other counties by acquaint farmers, land-users and government agencies with methods for protecting soil and water resources, through sponsoring and conducting 2 demonstrations, tours, workshops and field days in covering soil health, water conservation, urban agriculture, and habitat management.
 - **Budget: \$1,500.00**
2. Host Level 1A, 1B and 2 certification classes for Local Issuing Authorities and contractors working under the *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law* of Georgia
 - **Budget; \$1,000.00 (District gets the income @ \$150-275 per person)**
 - **Estimated Income: \$3,500**
3. Promote the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at ABAC by actively recruiting and sponsor at least 4 students within the district. Tuition to the workshop will be paid from state allotment funds or from outside sources.
 - **Budget: \$1,100.00**
4. Support local elementary schools by participating in Georgia Farm Bureau's Book of the Month subscription and supplies. The District will supply a subscription and necessary supplies to one school per month in each county. GACD will read the book to and do the lesson for two counties per month with assistance from Supervisors and GSWCC as needed. The 7 counties that do not get visited that month, the book will be delivered by the Supervisor or mailed.
 - **Budget: \$1,350.00**
5. Promote conservation to local students by hosting a Poster Contest in conjunction with NACD's Stewardship theme.
 - **Budget: District funds**
6. Support local schools and promote natural resource conservation and agriculture through the sponsorship of mini grants. Grants should promote teaching students natural resource conservation, agriculture or similar STEAM based subjects. 4 grants will be supported at a maximum of \$1,000.
 - **Budget: \$4,000.00**

Total Education & Outreach Budget: \$9,070

C. 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:

1. Pay GACD & NACD Dues for FY 2023/24.
 - **Budget: \$2,476**
2. Sponsor 3 Supervisors to attend the GACD annual meeting in the 2024 FY (Note: state allotment cannot pay for hotel fees)
 - **Budget: \$2,000**
3. 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**
- 4. Develop and distribute an Annual Report on District accomplishments at the end of the fiscal year
 - **Budget: \$0.00**
- 5. Check all District boundary signs; Purchase and/or replace as needed.
 - **Budget: \$350** (= 1 new sign per county)
- 6. 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**
- 7. Promote Soil and Water Stewardship Week by purchasing and distributing materials to educate the public to the need of managing and protecting soil and water resources.
 - **Budget: \$0.00**

Total PR & Info Budget: \$4,826

D. 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: \$16,896

TOTAL INCOME BUDGET: \$6,500.00 (to the District)

TOTAL STATE ALLOCATION: \$11,275.00