

## 2025 Oconee River District Plan of Work

### OCONEE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

In June 1938, the Oconee River Conservation District was organized and is a legal subdivision of the Georgia State Government. The Conservation District meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 am unless publicized otherwise.

#### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS:

Name	Position	Address
<b>William Johnson</b> <b>Jackson County</b>	Chairman	2738 Cedar Grove Church Road Jefferson, GA 30549
<b>Janice Marable</b> <b>Oconee County</b>	Treasurer	5981 High Shoals Road Bishop, GA 30621
<b>Tony Embrick</b> <b>Jackson County</b>	Chaplain	286 Homestead Trail Commerce, GA 30530
<b>Russ Wilburn</b> <b>Barrow County</b>	Supervisor	44 Waverly Lane Winder, GA 30680
<b>Eli Garrett</b> <b>Oconee County</b>	Supervisor	1100 Bernard Garrett Road Statham, GA 30666
<b>Ray Rozier</b> <b>Clarke County</b>	Supervisor	301 Timber Creek Drive Athens, GA 30605
<b>Fred Smith</b> <b>Clarke County</b>	Supervisor	425 Rivermont Road Athens GA 30606
<b>Robert McLocklin</b> <b>Barrow County</b>	Supervisor	1169 Robertson Bridge Rd Statham, GA 30666

#### Oconee River Conservation District

#### Annual Plan of Work Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

This Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Oconee River 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.

### **Natural Resource Conservation**

#### **Action Item**

1. Promote natural resources conservation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency through the District responsibility for implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and other Farm Bill programs.
2. Provide assistance to landowners to plan and apply conservation Best Management Practices.
3. Host an annual Local Work Group Meeting with agency partners and local farmers to prioritize resources and practices for Farm Bill Program Funding.

### **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. *District will pay tuition for students to attend the workshop.*
2. Provide Soil Stewardship materials to schools.
3. Hold an annual poster contest for local K-6<sup>th</sup> graders and award winners appropriately.
4. Hold an annual photo contest for local 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders and award winners appropriately.
5. The SWCD may pay a per diem and mileage at a rate not to exceed the rates set annually by the GSWCC to supervisors who attend conservation meetings and continuing education opportunities.
6. The District will sponsor workshops for local farmers to learn about poultry composting, feral hog control, watershed dams, or others as the need arises.
7. The District will continue to grow their presence in the community through

- outreach events, such as farmers markets, schools, etc.
7. The District will conduct conservation education in the classrooms, presenting conservation education lessons and activities in conjunction with local schools.
  8. The District will utilize county 4-H and FFA organizations and be involved in Land Judging and other youth development based programs.
  9. The District will offer grants to educators of up to \$1500 for agricultural and/or environmental projects. Timeline: Fall-Send Letter, December 31 Deadline for submittal, Decision made by February 1, End of School year - project is due.
  10. Support Georgian Envirothon Teams from the district.

### **Public Relations and Information**

#### **Action Item**

1. Develop and distribute annual report on the District's accomplishments.
2. Provide for oversight of District funds by the annual review of expenditures and income, and prepare a detailed financial report at the end of each fiscal year.
3. Work closely with other agencies (FSA, RD, UGA Extension, Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Farm Bureau, 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.
4. Prepare news articles on the District's program and activities.
5. Keep locally elected officials fully informed about conservation issues and of on-going conservation programs and District accomplishments.
6. Maintain the district website and Facebook page to highlight District activities and objectives.
7. Hold officer elections every 2 years in December of even-numbered years to elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a Treasurer.
8. Maintain an affiliate member program. Membership is set at \$35 per individual and \$100 for business members. Mail letters early in the year.
9. Hold a fall banquet to honor District Conservationist of the Year with a sign and a certificate. Invite affiliate members, provide them with a plan of work for the year so that they can see the district's activities throughout the year.

### **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. Provide technical assistance to evaluate soil and water resources for proposed development projects.
3. Promote soil and water conservation through the GSWCC Erosion and Sedimentation Certification Program.
4. Provide LIA's with technical assistance for their erosion and sedimentation control program and assist with interpretation of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act.

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.

**General District Budget for FY-2025**

**District Funds:** \$20,040.28 in Bank OZK as of 6/2024

**GSWCC Funds:** \$7,220.00