

**OHOOPPEE RIVER SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

FY 2022

THE DISTRICT’S IDENTITY:

The Oohoopee River Soil and Water Conservation District is an agency of the State Government established March 26, 1937. It is a legally constituted, administrative agency of the State of Georgia. The Oohoopee River District Board of Supervisors is charged with the responsibility of making conservation programs available for 1,112,000 acres of land in the District.

THE DISTRICT SUPERVISORS ARE:

Vacant (elected)	Emanuel
F. Bennett Whitfield (appointed)	Emanuel
Samuel Baker (elected)	Montgomery
Howard Morris (appointed)	Montgomery
Marshall Mosley (elected)	Toombs
Chris Hopkins (appointed)	Toombs
LaVerne W. Davis (elected)	Treutlen
Bill Barrett (appointed)	Treutlen
Lynn Johnson (appointed)	Wheeler
Mike Hayes (elected)	Wheeler

District Partner Representatives:

- Robert Amos- Conservation Manager- GSWCC
- Vontice Jackson-District Conservationist, NRCS
- Steven Powell-Treutlen/UGA County Agent-ANR
- Rahn Milligan -Pine Country RC&D
- Michelle Boone- Southeast Georgia Regional Program Manager, GACD

MEETINGS:

Meetings are normally held on the last Tuesday of each month, 3:00 p.m. at the Pine Country RC&D Office, Soperton. During times of pandemic, the district meets virtually via Zoom. Demonstrations, tours and special meetings may be held as part of District meetings. Meeting notices will be posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

A. MAJOR OBJECTIVES

1. SOIL RESOURCES

- a. Sponsor and conduct demonstrations, tours, and field days to acquaint farmers and land-users with methods for protecting soil and water resources and promote greater participation.
- b. Encourage participation in the Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance.
- c. Promote land maintenance contracts between landowners and renters to maintain conservation practice.

2. LAND USE

- a. Continue to educate land users on benefits of applying and maintaining conservation structures.
- b. Encourage the transfer of marginal cropland to pines, pastures or managed wildlife habitat.
- c. Promote landowners to secure updated Conservation Farm Plans.

3. FORESTRY & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- a. Promote the Georgia Forestry Commission's Stewardship Incentive Program.
- b. Promote the use of other programs that will help the landowner plant more trees etc. WRE, CSP, CRP, EQIP, WLFW, ACEP, BWQI AND LLPI.
- c. Improve practices and current trends.
- d. Provide game management recommendations to landowners requesting assistance.
- e. Help interested parties secure bird boxes (ducks, bluebird and bat).

4. CONSERVATION EDUCATION

- a. Sponsor high school students (2 per county) to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop in 2022.**
- b. The SWCD may pay 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.
- c. Promote conservation education programs in schools by purchasing and providing resources conservation books, booklets, curriculum guides or give instructional talks to students.

5. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

- a. Work closely with other agencies (FSA, Cooperative Extension Service, GFC and DNR) to coordinate conservation program activities in the District.
- b. Purchase and distribute material for Soil & Water Stewardship Week for upcoming year, not able to do anything for 2020 due to Corona-Virus-Pandemic.

- c. Prepare news articles on district programs and activities such as Soil and Water Stewardship Week, tours and demonstrations in 2021.

6. **GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

- a. Work with city, county, state and national governmental officials on conservation problems and opportunities.
- b. Sponsor E&S Certification and Re-certification Courses.
- c. Continue to assist local governments in maintaining existing watershed structures within the District.
- d. Work with Conservation Partners to ensure staff is aware of opportunities and District Activities.

7. **LOCAL WORK GROUP**

- a. Have Supervisors actively involved in the Local Work Group to assist in determining resource concerns within the District.
- b. Provide input on high priority practices that will facilitate successful implementation of conservation practices within the District.
- c. Promote collaboration with other stakeholders within the District to ensure specific resource concerns are addressed to meet the overall goal of conservation.

8. **RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOP COUNCIL**

- a. Support Pine Country RC&D Council with carrying out its Plan of Operation.
- b. Purchase and manage the use of equipment that will demonstrate methods for implementing soil and water conservation practices as needed.
- c. Partner to host High tunnel education workshop.

9. **FINANCIAL**

- a. Manage district financial and material resources to meet district goals in an efficient and productive manner and as prescribed by state guidelines.
- b. Maintain membership in professional organizations and associations that promulgate and promote goals that are similar to those of the district.
- c. Manage and expand funds made available through private, local, state and federal sources in such a way as to promote soil and water conservation and conservation education.
- d. Seek outside sources of income to strengthen and support district activities and programs.