

**Alapaha Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
Annual Plan of Work – FY 2014  
7/1/13– 6/30/14**

**District Identity:**

The Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District was constituted as an agency of State Government by the authority and under provision of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Law of 1937 on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1943. The District comprises Berrien, Clinch, Cook, Echols, Lanier, and Lowndes Counties. Two District Supervisors, one elected and one appointed from each county, serve on a twelve-member Board. The Board is made up of farmers, landowners, and land-users who are dedicated to the conservation, development, and protection of Georgia's natural resources.

District meetings are held at the Lowndes County Extension Office in Valdosta on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. Demonstrations, tours, and special meeting are periodically held with location and proper notification given.

**Major Objectives:**

The Annual Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District for Fiscal Year 2014. The following objectives will be planned, developed, and implemented under partnership with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**1. Natural Resources Conservation**

Promote conservation of soil, water, and timber resources as well as wildlife habitat and other related resources. 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.

**2. Conservation Education**

Educate the general public on the need for and the importance of conservation. Work with groups in planning, developing, and implementing seminars, programs, contests, etc. that are used for the purpose of conservation education.

**3. Public Relations and Information**

Create public awareness of District conservation programs, objectives, and activities through the news media and to foster this awareness by keeping the general public informed on conservation issues and concerns.

## **Action Item**

### **Natural Resources Conservation**

- Assume leadership role in setting priorities, ranking applications, and awarding funds for federal and state funded conservation programs.
- 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 and compliance with best management practices. Seek outside financial sources, if necessary, to hold these events.
- Educate developers, contractors, architects and landowners to best management practices for land-disturbing activities that will provide conservation benefits to soil, water, wildlife, etc.
- Provide technical assistance to local government to evaluate soil and water resources for proposed public facility sites.
- Work closely with the local issuing authorities in implementing their erosion and sediment control ordinance by providing technical assistance and education.
- Coordinate information from Georgia Environmental Protection Agency with the Local issuing Authorities within the district boundaries.
- Review and approve Erosion & Sediment Control Plans within the jurisdiction of local issuing authorities as deemed necessary under the *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law* of Georgia.
- Assist any interested issuing authority in obtaining a Memorandum of Agreement between themselves and the District, and, to review issuing authorities' erosion and sediment control ordinances for land-disturbance permits in the District.

## **Action Item**

### **Conservation Education**

- Sponsor at least one student from each county to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop. Tuition will be paid by the District or from outside sources.
- Assist school curriculum advisors by providing natural resources conservation books, booklets, curriculum guides, and instructional seminars.
- Utilize slide presentations with specific information on soil and water conservation for presentations to schools, civic clubs, churches, etc.
- Purchase and distribute *Soil and Water Stewardship Week* material to educate the public of the need to manage and protect soil and water resources.

- Manage and expend funds made available through private, local, state, and federal sources in such a way as to promote natural resources conservation and conservation education.
- Promote erosion and sediment control workshops to educate issuing authorities to their responsibilities under the *Erosion and Sedimentation Law of Georgia*.
- Hold Level 1A, IB, and Level II Certification Classes to meet requirements of the Erosion and Sedimentation Act.
- Promote a District wide *Soil and Water Stewardship Week* poster contest for local elementary school students. Award District and county winners with District funds.

## **Action Item**

### **Public Relations and Information**

- Pay dues and take an active roll in the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors and the National Association of Conservation Districts. Assist in sponsoring individual Supervisors to attend activities by these organizations. Maintain membership (pay dues if necessary) in other professional organizations (Seven Rivers Resources Conservation & Development Council) that promote goals similar to those of the District.
- Work closely with other agencies and organizations (Seven Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Council, Farm Service Agency, Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, Department of Natural Resources, Upper Suwannee River Watershed Initiative and other related groups) to coordinate conservation program activities in the District. Encourage each agency or organization to inform the District of available conservation programs and to attend District meetings.
- Keep the general public informed of conservation programs that are available through local, state, and federal agencies. Sponsor and conduct meetings to inform groups and individuals of particular conservation needs.
- Develop and distribute an Annual Report of the District's accomplishments at the end of the fiscal year.
- Develop an District annual income and expense report detailing all sources of income and expenses
- Prepare and distribute news articles of District programs and activities.
- Invite elected officials (local, state, and federal) to all District functions in order to make them aware of conservation concerns, programs, and accomplishments.
- Seek outside sources of income to strengthen and support District activities and programs.
- Manage financial and material resources to meet the District's goals in an efficient and productive manner and, as prescribed by state guidelines.