

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

District Identity:

The Lower Chattahoochee River 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 July 17th, 1939. The Board is made up of farmers, landowners, and land-users that are dedicated to the conservation, development, and protection of our natural resources. The District comprises Clay, Lee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Terrell, and Webster Counties. Two Supervisors from each county, one elected and one appointed, serve on the eighteen-member Board.

Meetings are held at the Terrell County USDA Service Center in Dawson on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Demonstrations, tours, and special meetings are held periodically with proper notification given as to time and location.

Major Objectives:

This Annual Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Lower Chattahoochee River 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 Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1. **Natural Resources Conservation** – Promote conservation of natural resources including soil, water, 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 public on the importance of conservation. Work with conservation 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 and objectives through the news media and to foster this by keeping the public informed on conservation issues and concerns. Distribute promotional items to inform citizens about the Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD.

Action Items

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 of protecting soil and water resources.
- Arrange and conduct a ‘**Conservationist of the Year Banquet**’ to recognize those who have contributed to natural resources conservation.
- Assist land-users in applying best management practices that provide conservation benefits to soil, water, wildlife habitat, etc.
- Provide technical assistance to evaluate soil and water resources for proposed public facility sites.
- Provide soils information with interpretations to developers for their use in developing an Erosion & Sediment Control Plan.
- Work closely with local issuing authorities in implementing their erosion and sediment control ordinance by providing technical assistance and education.
- 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 ordinance and program for land-disturbance permits.

Action Items

Conservation Education

- Sponsor at least one student from the District to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at ABAC. Provide funds, if necessary, for transportation of students to the workshop.
- 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.
- Sponsor Erosion & Sediment Control Workshops to educate issuing authorities on their responsibilities under the **Erosion and Sedimentation Law** of Georgia.
- Seek location and funding for the development of an outdoor classroom to be utilized by local schools in the education of natural resources conservation and management.

Action Items

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 the activities of these organizations. Maintain membership (pay dues if necessary) in other professional organizations that promote goals similar to the District.

- Work closely with other agencies and organizations (Golden Triangle RC&D, Farm Service Agency, Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, Department of Natural Resources, and other related groups) to coordinate conservation program activities in the District. Encourage each agency or organization to attend Board meetings, and, to keep the District informed on available conservation programs.
- Keep the public informed of conservation programs that are available through the local, state, and federal agencies. Sponsor and conduct meetings to inform groups and individuals of particular conservation issues and needs.
- Develop and distribute an Annual Report on District accomplishments at the end of the fiscal year.
- Develop a District annual income and expense report detailing all sources of income and expenses
- Support water quality research and promote findings involving prevention practices in agriculture.
- Prepare and distribute news articles of District programs and activities.
- Invite elected officials (local, state, and federal) to 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 (request funding from counties within the District and/or revitalize affiliate membership program).
- Manage District financial and material resources to meet goals in an efficient and productive manner, and, as prescribed by state guidelines.
- Distribute promotional items to inform citizens about the Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD.
- Hold 3 Farmer Outreach Meetings throughout the District as laid out in grant agreement with NRCS.
- Establish Associate Membership program to raise funds for conservation projects in the District as well as to educate the public on District activities.