

FY-2024

Annual Plan of Work

Stephens County Soil and Water Conservation District

Soil and Water Conservation District

1630 Clary Connector, Eastanollee, GA 30538

2024 Annual Plan of Work

SOIL RESOURCES

1. Promote conservation tillage on all cropland.
2. Develop conservation plans with emphasis on erosion control, water quality, and highly erodible cropland.
3. Assist landowners in the application of high-quality conservation practices.
4. The district will support NRCS in conservation of all soil resources.
5. Promote animal waste management systems and stackhouses.
6. Develop and promote alternative agriculture practices.
7. Follow most recent criteria in most recent Farm Bill.
8. The district will collaborate with elementary schools to incorporate soil conservation presentations into classroom lessons

WATER RESOURCES

1. Encourage landowners to be aware of the potential of surface and ground water contamination
2. 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.
3. Request assistance from NRCS and GSWCC in rehabilitating and upgrading watershed structures.
4. The district will collaborate with schools to deliver water-focused presentations

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

1. Support NRCS in conservation of wildlife resources through their WINGS program
2. Sponsor a feral swine workshop

FORESTRY

1. Invite Georgia Forestry Commission representative to attend at least one board meeting and give update on forestry resources.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1. Support local Governments in their efforts to promote soil and water conservation, recycling, and education.
 2. Identify other needs by community as they relate to the location of problems.
 3. Continue operation of the Kimsey Environmental Center to demonstrate:
 - a. Educational Purposes
 - b. Wetland Preservation
 - c. Use of straw to preserve timber
 - d. Energy Saving
 - e. Water Quality Monitoring
 - f. Public Relations
 4. Support RC&D by having representative attend all RC&D meetings.
 5. Support All RC&D programs.
 6. Support all efforts to restore and create RC&D state and federal funding in our budget.
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YOUTH AND EDUCATION

1. Sponsor students to the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop to introduce them at an early age to the concepts of soil and water conservation. Tuition will be paid from district funds or from outside sources.
2. Sponsor students to compete in the Georgia Envirothon.
3. Assist school system with conservation-related activities and programs.
3. Encourage teachers to emphasize natural resources conservation.
4. Invite Vo-Ag teacher to a meeting during the year to gain support for the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop.
5. Continue strong emphasis on the proposed educational benefits of the Environmental Study Area (Kimsey Environmental Center).
6. Continue to support the Local Envirothon Team.

UNITS OF GOVERNMENT

1. Provide a progress report annually to Stephens County and City of Toccoa on activities of the district.
4. Assist the City with review of erosion and sediment control plans.
4. Continue inspection of watershed dams for county as requested.
5. Encourage County Board of Commissioners to attend district meetings.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM

1. Keep public informed of district activities and monthly meetings.
2. News media will be invited to attend all district meetings.
3. Partner with GACD conservation programs.
4. Promote Soil and Water Stewardship Week.
5. Promote wise use of water resources through public information programs and news articles.
6. Provide conservation education programs upon request to civic clubs and organizations.
7. Sponsor and conduct meetings and seminars to inform groups and individuals of particular conservation needs.
8. Utilize current resource inventories.
9. Attend GACD Supervisors training.
10. Review progress on annual plan of work at least once a year.
11. Provide use of the conference/meeting area to organizations for use in promoting conservation education at the Kimsey Environmental Center.
12. Encourage NRCS to report projects to the media.

FINANCES

1. Seek outside sources of income to strengthen and support district activities and programs.
2. Manage district financial and material resources to meet district goals in an efficient and productive manner and as prescribed by state guidelines.
3. Budget funds per approved annual budget from State Conservation Commission.
4. Maintain membership in professional organizations and associations that promulgate and promote goals that are similar to those of the districts.
5. Pay dues to GACD and RC&D.
6. 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.
7. Seek and procure grants to fund agriculture products and for marketing of products.

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTIVES

1. Support training of district staff by NRCS.
2. Increase participation of outside organizations in formulating district plans and assisting district operations.
3. Appoint Committees:

Membership: Stephens County Soil & Water
Conservation District Board

Soil and Water Stewardship: All Supervisors
Annual Banquet: Lakie Meeks

Government Liaison: Roger Sheppard

Annual Plan of Work: Stephens County Soil & Water
Conservation District Board

Kimsey Environmental Center: Roger Sheppard, Chairman of the
Stephens County Soil & Water District Board

District Supervisors

Roger D. Sheppard – Chairman

Evan B. Hellenga – Treasurer/Vice-Chairman

Lakie Meeks - Member

Russell Biggers - Member