

**GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Unicoi State Park
Helen, Georgia
November 6, 2014

Participating were Chairman Garland Thompson, Commission Members Carl Brack and David Hays. Participating from Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Urban Water Resources Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz, and Administrative Assistant Kimberly McCollum. Guests included Tansel Hudson from NRCS, Kelli Davis from DDD Erosion Control, Inc., Britt Faucette from Filtrexx, Roger Singleton from Silt Saver Inc., Jan Sammons from Georgia EPD, Kelly Campbell and Dan Hargett from GeoHay and Richard Belcher from WSBTV.

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order and asked Executive Director Dykes to give an invocation.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Carl Brack, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 8, 2014, Board Meeting.

On a motion by Carl Brack and a second by David Hays, the Board accepted the resignations of Lynn Gray Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD; Chad Brooks Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD; Faye Lyons-Gary DeKalb County SWCD; and Larry Danese DeKalb County SWCD.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays, the Board approved the nominees presented in the November Appointment Report (please see attached.)

At this time, Mr. Dykes discussed the Supervisor Training. He stated that the Training in August received good ratings and that the second part of the training will be held in conjunction with the 2015 Annual Meeting in Columbus. The training would start at 8:30AM Friday morning and end at lunchtime on Friday and then be continued during the breakout times on Saturday morning. Steve Bailey and Glen Gosa are the supervisors that met with the Carl Vinson Institute to help develop the agenda (Please see attached). At this time, Mr. Dykes proposed to the Board setting the per diem rate for the Training and the Annual Meeting as follows: If a supervisor has overnight travel on Thursday so that he/she can attend the supervisor training starting Friday morning, that they receive \$80 for Thursday. The per diem for the Training/Annual Meeting for Friday and Saturday would be \$120 per day. On a motion by David Hays and a second by Carl Brack the board voted to approve the per diem as recommended by Mr. Dykes.

Mr. Dykes discussed a change that needs to be made in the employee handbook. He discussed that the change is to the benefit of the employees. The wording in the handbook needs to read: "The maximum accrued annual leave for a full time temporary or other funded employee is 360 hours. Full time temporary or other funded employees can save up to 360 hours of annual leave." On a motion by Carl Brack and a second by David Hays, the board voted to make the changes in the handbook.

Mr. Dykes reported that all Soil and Water Conservation Districts had submitted their FY2015 District Plans of Work. He discussed that they met the necessary requirements and asked that the board approve as submitted. On a motion by Carl Brack and a second by David Hays, the board voted to accept the FY15 Districts Plan of Work.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began with the Commission Personnel Report. He began by reporting that one new employee had started in the Dawson office, Mr. Ted Barton. The advertising for the Regional Rep position in the Milledgeville Office has closed and the first rounds of interviews have taken place but no decision has been made at this time. David Hall and Guerry Thomas are currently covering the Region 4 Districts. The advertising for the AG Water Irrigation Specialist position in Dawson has closed and the first round of interviews has been completed and soon will be holding the second round. Both positions that are currently open will be wrapped up by the next Commission Board meeting in December. Keegan Malone resigned from the Region Rep position in the Milledgeville office and accepted a position in the NRCS Cochran Office. His last day with the Commission was September 10th. Ben Ruzowicz was promoted to the Urban Water Resources Program Manager on September 15.

Next, Mr. Dykes reviewed the first quarter expenditure report. Ms. Wilbur is doing a good job in her new position. Andy and Karen are also doing a great job in the financial department.

Next Mr. Dykes reported on the FY14 Annual Financial Audit Results and he was happy to report that the audit that was conducted in October was all clear. Mr. Thompson, Chair of the Commission Board, congratulated Mr. Dykes on another great year.

Next Mr. Dykes closed out his Executive Director's report with letting the board know that the Commission had received NRCS funding totaling \$1.2 million for watershed assessments over the next 3 years.

At this time, the Board called upon Mr. Ben Ruzowicz to give the Urban Program Update. Mr. David Hays stated that there were several inaccurate statements from Director Dykes concerning the TAC recommendations. Mr. Hays requested the last TAC meeting minutes from October 28th, which Mr. Dykes reported were not available yet from the court reporter and that it would take up to two weeks to receive them.

Ben Ruzowicz, Urban Program Manager, began his report by discussing that the new TAC Committee has met 3 times and in the board booklets there is a handout with recommendations from that committee. Discussion then occurred on the Manual. At this time, Roger Singleton asked the Commission Board not to stop the progress that has been made on performance testing of BMP's. He asked the board to adopt the 6th edition now and move forward. Roger Singleton requested to read a letter to the board (please see attached). Mr. Dykes reminded the board that on their August 8th meeting they had set the date of December 18th as a close out for public comments and that the TAC was formed to receive public comments and provide recommendations. Mr. Dykes also expressed reservations regarding the BMP tests that were conducted and suggested a third party review of the test results. Dan Hargett from GeoHay discussed that all southern states have their eyes on Georgia and that he would be very disappointed to see it go back to the original plans. Mr.

Britt Faucette, commented that he felt that the 6th edition was a clear consistent path and that there is a small group that is slowing down the process. Kelli Davis with DDD Erosion Control, Inc. stated that she didn't think that the testing was fair or unbiased. Mr. Hays suggested that the TAC and the GSWCC Board have a work session prior to the December 18th board meeting. There was board consensus to move forward with setting up a work session.

At this time Mr. Tansel Hudson gave the NRCS update. He reported that they had several folks that are planning to retire at the end of the year; Mr. Sidney Lanier, Mr. Steve Lawrence and Mr. Chuck McCraine. Local Work Groups have been meeting across the state and setting priorities for the areas.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18th in Athens. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kimberly McCollum

Approved by:

GSWCC Chairman Date

GSWCC Executive Director Date