

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Athens, GA
April 17, 2014

Participating were Vice-Chairman Dennis Brown, Commission Members Carl Brack, Hal Haddock, and David Hays. Participating from Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Executive Director Dave Eigenberg, and Executive Manager for Water Policy Bob Hanner. Also present from Commission staff were Urban Water Resources Program Manager Lauren Zdunczyk and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur. Mr. Tansel Hudson represented NRCS. Guests included Mr. Devon Dartnell from the Georgia Forestry Commission and Mr. Matthew Smith from the Georgia Farm Bureau. Vice-Chairman Brown called the meeting to order and asked Executive Director Dykes to give an invocation.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 24, 2014, and the February 21, 2014, Board Meetings.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays, the Board approved the nominees presented in the April Appointment Report (please see attached.) The Board also requested that a letter be sent to those nominees with less than 50% attendance. The letter should state that improved attendance during the next term of office is needed if a future re-appointment is to be considered. On a motion by Hal Haddock and second by Carl Brack, the Board agreed to table the re-appointment of Satilla River district supervisor Daniel Good pending receipt of an attendance letter at the next Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Brown called for an update on the District Supervisor Elections. Mrs. Wilbur reported that all participating counties had reported their qualifying candidate results, and stressed that additional candidates could still qualify using the write-in candidate process. To-date, 11 of the 110 counties have contested races.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began with the Commission Personnel Report. The Commission has recently hired Mr. Brady Hart as the Region I E&SC Specialist and Ms. Jessica Bee as the Region I 319 Coordinator (a position previously held by Ms. Leigh Rush.) Both Ms. Bee and Mr. Hart will be working out of the Region I office in Calhoun. Ms. Lancia Wyant was also hired on a full-time basis as the Region V/Metering Program administrative assistant in the Dawson Office. Ms. Paula Dillard recently retired as the Region IV Administrative Assistant, and interviews are currently being conducted to find a replacement for that position. Mr. Dykes also reported that cross-training is still taking place in the State office in response to upcoming personnel changes. Additionally, the Commission anticipates that the state's job classification changes will take place on July 1st with the beginning of the new fiscal year, and staff have been working with the Department of Administrative Services to facilitate this process as well as a plan to implement the 1% merit raises included in the FY15 state appropriations bill.

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Next, Mr. Dykes discussed pertinent legislation from the 2014 General Assembly Session. The legislation that would have placed the Commission under the Georgia Department of Agriculture, SB351, died in Session, and thus the Commission will remain a stand-alone agency. The conference committee version of the FY15 budget restored all but \$50,000 of current AFY14 level-funding. At this time, Mr. Hays took the opportunity to personally thank Vice-Chairman Brown for his support on behalf of the Commission during the Assembly Session. All those in attendance unanimously concurred. Mr. Dykes also reported on SB299, which regulates buffer widths for reservoirs, and SB213, which deals with drought protection along the Flint River basin. Bob Hanner thanked the Georgia Farm Bureau and the Georgia Agribusiness Council for their help during the Session. Discussion also included legislation dealing with timber theft, the Department of Agriculture's GATE program, and solar energy and conservation usage.

Next, Mr. Dykes reported on the recent Natural Resources team trip to Washington D.C. The team, consisting of Mr. Dykes, Mr. Eigenberg, Mr. Brown, GACDS President Mr. Danny Hogan, and NRCS Acting State Conservationist Greg Kist, were in Washington March 24th-26th, and met with all congressional offices (except for Congressman Paul Broun) as well as both Senators to discuss the Farm Bill, conservation funding, and the importance of Local Work Groups. The Board agreed that the Local Work Group process should be publicized through local conservation districts.

Discussion turned to the upcoming Supervisor Training, and the work that the Commission has been doing with the Carl Vinson Institute at UGA to update the courses and curriculum offered. A Focus Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29th at the CVIOG office in Athens to discuss the curriculum for the first training, tentatively planned for August 8-9th at the UGA Center for Continuing Education. Mr. Dykes reported that the focus group will consist of personnel from the Commission and CVIOG, as well as Blue Ridge Mountain district supervisor Dr. John Kay, Flint River Supervisor Steve Singletary, and Walton County district supervisor Sonny Turner.

At this time, Mr. Dykes presented the Board with a brief update on the Watershed Maintenance and Rehabilitation program, as well as a request for a \$600,000 bond sale for watershed rehabilitation. On a motion by David Hays and second by Hal Haddock, the Board approved the sale as outlined (please see attached.) On a motion by Hal Haddock and second by Carl Brack, the Board approved the recommendation that the Commission send a letter to NRCS supporting continued partnership on watershed rehabilitation. On a motion by Hal Haddock and second by David Hays, the Board approved Mr. Dykes' request for out-of-state travel to Washington, D.C. to attend the NASCA/National Watershed Coalition Legislative Effort scheduled for May 19th-22nd.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg gave a brief update of the Metering Program, and presented the Board with the proposed 2014 Ag Water Metering Program Budget request for the OneGeorgia Authority. The proposed budget totals \$1,061,381 (in addition to \$128,801 rolled over from FY14 funding), and includes funding for multiple

replacement meters, one additional meter technician, the purchase of two new vehicles, and funding for several new and expanded contracts. On a motion by Hal Haddock and second by David Hays, the Board approved the proposed budget as presented.

At this time, the Board called on Mrs. Lauren Zdunczyk to give the Urban Program Update. She called the Board's attention to a memo sent out to regional representatives at the end of January outlining E&SC plan review policies for districts and reiterating the district's ability to set written policies governing these reviews. Mrs. Zdunczyk also presented the Board with a M.O.A. regarding erosion control plan reviews between the Limestone Valley district, Whitfield County, and the cities of Tunnel Hill and Varnell. On a motion by David Hays and second by Carl Brack, the Board approved the M.O.A. as presented. Next, Mrs. Zdunczyk presented the Board with a list of potential trainers. On a motion by Hal Haddock and second by David Hays, the Board approved the list of Trainers submitted for approval (please see attached.) Mrs. Zdunczyk ended her report with a brief discussion regarding the re-opening of the E&SC Manual. Applications for the expanded Technical Advisory Committee are due May 9th, and candidates will be presented at the Board's next meeting. Once new T.A.C. members are named, the T.A.C. board will review the current edition of the E&SC manual and make their recommendations.

At this time, Mr. Hudson gave the NRCS Report. The State Conservationist position, formerly held by Mr. James Tillman, is in the process of being filled, along with several other open field positions around the state. Mr. Hudson also reminded the Board that the State Technical Committee Meeting has been re-scheduled, and that the CIG grant will be listed online until May 9th.

Mr. Dykes reminded the Board that their next meeting was scheduled for June. The recommendation was made to see whether a meeting concurrent with the Group IV Summer meeting scheduled for June 19th would be feasible.

At this time, on a motion by David Hays and second by Hal Haddock, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. On a motion by Hal Haddock and second by David Hays the Board voted to exit the Executive Session, with no formal actions being taken.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

 6-23-14

GSWCC Vice-Chairman Date

 6-23-14

GSWCC Executive Director Date

AFFIDAVIT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared Vice-Chairman Dennis Brown, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

- (1) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.
- (2) Pursuant to my duties as Vice-Chairman, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission held on the 17th day of April, 2014. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.
- (3) It is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

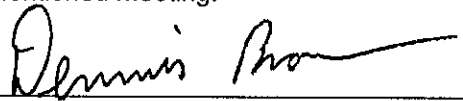
When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting, or, if the agency's policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

- (4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows:

A meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).

This affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) and is to be filed with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 19th day of June, 2014.



Affiant



Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 19th day of June, 2014.