

**THE STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
FULTON COUNTY**

FY 2013

ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Approved by the District Board of Supervisors:

**The State Soil and Water Conservation District - Fulton County
Board of Supervisors**

Alan O. Toney, Chairman

John M. Spotts, Vice Chairman

Preston Mason

Walter S. Rekuc, Jr.

Sally Mills

FY 2013 Annual Work Plan

Objective 1

Operations – Conduct the day-to-day operations of the District with Supervisors working closely with the local units of government, developers, builders and conservation entities to fully implement the Erosion and Sediment Control Act and all other regulations that protect natural resources as well as watershed flood control dams.

Action:

1. Operate the District Resource Center, expanding its capabilities and public services and staffing when circumstances allow and/or demand requires.
2. Periodically review the Memorandum of Agreement for each Local Issuing Authority (LIA) relative to known performance.

Assist EPD through a MOU that gives the District a stronger role in assisting LIAs which face possible decertification to make improvements in how they review plans, inspect projects and enforce erosion and storm water regulations as well as how they make state waters determinations.

Support the state certified education requirements in whatever ways are deemed most appropriate to help local governments and the development community to do a better job of erosion control and pollution prevention.

Determine the adequacy of compliance with E&S plans, take appropriate measures such as District Assessment Team reviews and tours of construction sites. Involve the LIA staff and inspectors. Pursue limitations or withdrawal of the District's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) where unacceptable performance warrants; request EPD to decertify where evidence justifies.

Assist the LIAs in improving the local E&S program in the areas of record-keeping, plan reviews, inspections/ compliance and staff training. Work with the LIA to identify and to deal strongly with developers who have received three or more citations.

Review monthly reports from the county and those municipalities that have an executed MOA. Review plans from local municipalities in accordance with the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act. Maintain a file of photos and written documentation concerning E&S issues within any municipality in the District.

3. At monthly District meetings, and according to the approved process and the support of EPD, continue to hear project presentations that require a variance into the state's protected stream buffer within Fulton County. Allow for public comment in the process.
4. In cooperation with NRCS and EPD, inspect the watershed dams in the District; receive reports of maintenance deficiencies; and, follow up with responsible parties to ensure compliance.

Continue to obtain maintenance agreements signed by property

owners or local governments, using the Office of the Attorney General documents. Seek to transfer easement ownership to property owners using OAG quit claim documents.

Organize and maintain a central file of all documents related to the watershed dams in the District.

Support a revised Safe Dams Program in Georgia and seek greater financial support of maintenance of the watershed dams at the state/federal levels. Continue to be a leader in advocacy of Watershed Dams being included in local Emergency Action Plans.

Continue education about watershed dam and development impacts and share with others around the state.

Continue to work with the Office of the Attorney General to resolve legal issues relative to watershed dams, including agreements.

5. Actively seek outside sources of funding to support and/or sustain District activities and programs.

Seek the financial or in-kind support from various sources, including grants.

Efficiently and productively manage District financial and material resources as prescribed by State guidelines in order to meet District goals.

6. At the District Board Meeting in June of each year, approve an Annual Work Plan and Budget that clearly establishes objectives and actions connected to a line item budget.
7. By the August Board Meeting, approve an Annual Report of the District to distribute publicly. Seek a professional sponsor to assist with this. Supervisors will submit a monthly report for their time spent on District business as well as how that time was spent to aid in the production of the Annual Report.

Objective 2

Education – Present a broad range of educational opportunities and resources to influence better natural resources protection and management.

Action:

1. Advance erosion, storm water management, state waters/stream buffers, pollution prevention and watershed dam education and training with local governments and with the development community in order to improve the development practices that protect natural resources.
2. Subject to the availability of District funds or outside funding sources, sponsor one or more student(s) to attend the annual Natural Resources Conservation Workshop.
3. Purchase and distribute NACD and NRCS Stewardship Week materials to inform the public of the need to manage and protect soil and water resources.
4. Develop the Board's knowledge and skills in dealing with soil, water and air problems. Encourage New Board members to attend available E&S training offered through the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and others. Seek leadership development and other courses to improve Supervisor skills that can be used in advancing conservation in more effective or new ways.
5. Purchase or develop and distribute educational materials to inform the public of the need to manage and protect soil and water resources. Obtain and distribute available collateral resources from partner groups that support conservation education, pollution prevention and management or other topics important to being good stewards of the soil, water, air and biological resources.
6. Locate and apply for grants to assist in the funding of District education programs and other activities.
7. Promote District activities and resources available.
8. Create opportunities to keep state and federal legislators educated about key issues.

Objective 3

Legislative – Develop a social and political climate that supports conservation and wise use of soil, water and other natural resources.

Action:

1. Stay informed of local, regional, and statewide issues and make contacts with state and federal elected officials to make them aware of the District's work relative to the issues.

Build understanding among elected officials that urban and rural areas have common issues.

2. Serve on local, state and federal committees that further District's mission and goals of conservation of natural resources.

Objective 4

Partnerships – Encourage the involvement of Local, State and Federal agencies or divisions as well as other conservation organizations to facilitate support for mutually beneficial resource conservation goals.

Action:

1. Invite representatives from the District partnerships to monthly meetings or to special meetings to explore needs and concerns facing Fulton County and Georgia. Develop cooperative work plans with clear goals that aid the funding of mutual activities.
2. Maintain membership in professional organizations and associations that have goals that are similar to those of the District. Serve on committees that do the same.
3. As a means of better resource management, support environmental protection efforts similar to the District mission by cities, counties as well as those of public and private organizations.
4. Promote paper recycling as a District fund-raiser via use of recycling bins located at office parks, shopping centers or other locations.
5. Continue to support positive relationships with all LIAs in the District and invite their representatives to District monthly meetings to introduce their field staff and to give comprehensive reports that include how the District can be of help to them.
6. Encourage LIAs to build a certificate program that recognizes outstanding conservation work of builders, developers and associations. Take an active role if asked by the LIA.
6. Annually review the Memorandum and Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding between the District, NRCS and other agencies. Revise agreements where appropriate.
7. Assist LIAs in creating local ordinances and development policies that will strengthen resource management and protection.
8. Actively participate in GACDS and NACD.
9. Form a District “Conservation Ambassadors” group to utilize the skills and expertise of interested retiring District Board Supervisors to further the goals and objectives of the District and to engage other community volunteers. The duties of such a group may be as follows:
 - a. Is a “supervisor emeritus” who acts in the interests of the District at the Board’s direction, but as a non-voting Supervisor.
 - b. Is identified by a badge and a business card with the language, “SSWCD-Fulton County Conservation Ambassador”.
 - c. Manages the District’s Resource Center and obtains Board approval for the purchase of necessary office supplies and other resources and reimbursable items before taking action.

- d. Maintains all records related to the Fulton County Watershed Dams in the District Resource Center and acts as a spokesperson in the coordination of actions affecting the dams.
- e. Interacts with the various sectors of the community to educate about the District's work and to build appropriate volunteer bases to help achieve that work.
- f. With Board assistance, writes grants and seeks contributions to support District programs not prescribed by law.
- g. Develops opportunities for District sponsorship of public education programs that support the Board's mission.
- h. Assumes other responsibilities that are mutually agreed upon by Board Resolution and the Ambassadors, such as duties of the Treasurer.