

**GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**
Athens, GA
October 20, 2011

Present were Chairman Garland Thompson, Commission Members Carl Brack, Hal Haddock, Dennis Brown, and David Hays. Participating from Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Executive Director Dave Eigenberg, Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur, Administrative Operations Manager Niki Strain, and Urban Program Manager Lauren Zdunczyk. Representing NRCS was James Tillman.

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 Dennis Brown, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 19, 2011, Board meeting.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays, the Board unanimously approved the resignation of Piedmont Supervisor David M. Pitts. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board unanimously approved the nominees put forth for appointment in the October Appointment Report, as attached.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began by informing the Board that John Segars, the Commission's GIS Specialist, had resigned from the Commission as of October 19th. Bryan Johnson in the Region V office will be assuming those duties in the short term.

Mr. Dykes next updated the Board on the Gubernatorial Appointments recently made to fill vacant elected supervisor positions in Regions V and VI. The Governor appointed three new supervisors—Richard Thomas in the Flint River district, James Reid, Jr., in the Lower Chattahoochee River district, and Johnny Stevens in the Brier Creek district. These appointees will serve out interim terms, and their positions will be included in the upcoming 2012 district supervisor election.

At this time, Mr. Dykes asked the Board to consider the Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Plans of Work submitted by each of the forty soil and water conservation districts. On a motion by Dennis Brown, and second by Carl Brack, the Board approved the plans as submitted.

Mr. Dykes discussed a request from the Middle South Georgia district regarding a change in the calculations used to pay supervisor per diem. He presented a letter from the district requesting that each supervisor be able to individually choose which ten meetings to attend throughout the year to qualify for their per diem. Mr. Dykes explained to the board that a response letter had been sent outlining the method currently used for calculating annual per diem payment for all districts, based on a projected average attendance rate for all supervisors in all districts. Mr. Dykes further explained that by allowing each supervisor to pick-

and-choose which meetings they wished to attend, the state-allotted annual per diem budget could be exceeded. Chairman Thompson inquired whether the Commission currently requires all districts to submit a proposed meeting schedule at the beginning of the fiscal year. Mr. Dykes responded that heretofore, the Commission has not required an annual meeting schedule; instead, the Commission simply pays per diem on the districts' first ten submitted meetings. Mr. Tillman responded that NRCS appreciates districts meeting on a consistent schedule to help with NRCS programming. The Board expressed satisfaction with the current system.

Mr. Dykes next updated the Board on the Commission's Watershed Program. Construction is finished on all four of the major dams, and vegetation is now being installed. The Commission continues to work with the landowners and the State Properties Commission to resolve issues regarding the fifth structure located in Madison County, Sandy Creek #23. Mr. Dykes stressed that time was of utmost importance relative to funding, as upgrade construction will last at least nine months. Mr. Tillman interjected that the current watershed funding designated for Sandy Creek #23 will have to be released back to NRCS if the Commission cannot complete the project in the time allotted. Mr. Dykes also stated that the Commission has State Bond funds that can be used to cover rehabilitation costs should NRCS funding be lost. The Commission has also started the planning process on upgrading two additional dams, and the homeowners involved are informed and in general agreement with the process.

Lastly, Mr. Dykes updated the Board on plans for the upcoming 2012 GACDS Annual Meeting. Former GACDS Executive Director Crista Carrell is in the process of transferring all non-financial information over to Commission personnel, who will be taking over daily GACDS operations in the interim. Mr. Dykes explained that the Commission is currently in the process of booking speakers for the Annual Meeting, and that meeting planning will be finalized, as well the GACDS audit findings discussed, at the upcoming GACDS Board Meeting in November.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dave Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg began by updating the Board on the Commission's recent Performance Measures submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. He explained that these measures tie in with the agency's strategic plan, and helps give a good outline of where all agency funding is utilized. All program managers and regional representatives were asked to submit measures through FY12 and FY13, to better project future budget needs.

Mr. Eigenberg next updated the Board on the Metering Program. To-date, over 10,000 meters have been installed. Maintenance is being conducted on one-quarter of the meters; the Georgia Forestry Commission has been contracted to oversee data-collection on 7,500 meters, and Commission staff are in charge of the remaining 2,500. For FY12, the targeted area will be in the southwest part of the state, which will mean a reduction in travel cost and time for the metering staff. The Commission has found an additional money-saving measure by requesting that the satellite uplink relaying metering data from the 198 telemetry sites be discontinued during the inactive winter months. The uplink will be reactivated on March 1, 2012. Mr. Eigenberg finished his report by explaining that the data gathered by the metering

program has been in high demand, and that the U.S. Geological Survey has created a summary report using the telemetry data. The report will soon be available for download on the USGS and GSWCC website.

The Board next called on Ms. Niki Strain to give the Commission's Financial Report. Ms. Strain reported that the Commission had been recently audited by the State Auditor, and had received a satisfactory audit report. The Commission budget is on-track with state funds, and Ms. Strain presented the Quarterly Expenditure Report for Board review. She explained that in light of new state accounting guidelines, all district supervisors were being asked to provide information that would allow the Commission to direct-deposit per diem payments, starting with the FY2012 first quarter per diem, which should be processed the last week in October. Lastly, Ms. Strain reported that the Commission's Employee Handbook was in the process of being updated. Two of the prospective changes involved full adoption of the state's travel policy, specifically involving mileage reimbursement, and a proposed change in the way that grant-funded employees accrue leave. Ms. Strain stressed that this change would be to the employees' benefit. A draft of the changes will be available for the Board's review at an upcoming meeting

The Board next called on Ms. Lauren Zdunczyk to give the Urban Program Update. Ms. Zdunczyk reported that the Commission is currently in the second year of a three-year grant to update and revise the Green Book. She explained that one of the main goals of the project was to create testing benchmarks for BMP submission into the manual. A bid for testing facilities was announced on October 18th, and will close on November 4th; Ms. Zdunczyk further explained that the Commission hopes to begin testing as early as the beginning of December. She also stated that further updates would be made to the Certification and re-certification training, and that the UGA Center for Continuing Education would be involved in that process. Lastly, she presented the Board with a list of trainers for approval. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board approved the trainers as submitted (see attached).

At this time, Mr. Tillman was called on to give the NRCS update. Mr. Tillman stated that Jimmy Bramblett has left the Georgia NRCS office to accept a position at the national office in Washington, D.C. David Ferrell is now the Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Mr. Tillman also explained that the move to relocate more state office staff out to field offices is currently underway. NRCS has also streamlined their BMP cost list, with many programs allotting the same cost-share amount to Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida. Mr. Tillman also stated the GA NRCS will be working with GACDS via agreements on several programs in FY12 and FY13.

Mr. Dykes asked the Board for their thoughts on upcoming meeting dates. Due to the earlier schedule for the GACDS 2012 Annual Meeting, the Board suggested no further board meetings in November or December, unless necessary, and agreed to schedule their next meeting for Friday, January 6, 2012, concurrent with the first day of the Annual Meeting at Chateau Elan in Braselton.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

 _____ 1-6-12

GSWCC Chairman Date

 _____ 1-6-12

GSWCC Executive Director Date

Oct 6 2011

Denn Saw Board

I have enjoyed my many years
serving especially the education and
friendship. I have stayed longer
than I expected. It is time for
someone else to serve so I resign.

Sincerely

D. M. Pitts

**NOMINEES FOR THE POSITION OF DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
TO BE APPOINTED BY GEORGIA SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

REGION	DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CITY	%	FUTURE TERM WILL EXPIRE
III	Clayton County	Clayton	1. Beth Durmire	Hampton	80%	09/20/13
			2. Lonnie Philpot			
			3. Lamar Shields			
	DeKalb County	DeKalb	1. Jan Dunaway	Stone Mountain	67%	09/20/11
			2. Alex Powers			
			3. Fern Garber			
	Henry County	Henry	1. Butch Oliver	McDonough	92%	12/10/13
			2. Warren Holder			
			3. Larry Allen			
V	Lower Chatt River	Clay	1. Lynn A Gray	Bluffton	NEW	11/25/13
			2. Ben Hattaway			
			3. Rodney G. Isler			
		Lee	1. Julian C. Thaggard	Leesburg	NEW	11/25/13
			2. Wendell Arrington			
			3. Charles Usry, Jr.			
VI	Coastal	Bryan	1. Charles F. Warnell, Jr.	Richmond Hill	71%	10/30/13
			2. Gene Brodgon			
			3. Carlton Gill			
		Chatham	1. Edward H. Zipperer	Savannah	88%	10/30/13
			2. Dexter Shearhouse			
			3. Herbert Keller			
		McIntosh	1. Daniel R. Hawthorne	Darien	88%	10/30/13
			2. Alexander Simmons			
			3. Charles Hennen			
	Ogeechee River	Screven	1. A.W. Robinson III	Sylvania	92%	10/30/13
			2. Olin Boyd			
			3. Richard Boykin			
		Tattnall	1. Lavanda Lynn	Collins	80%	10/30/13
			2. L. H. Bland			
			3. Gary Banks			