

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Young Harris, GA
August 19, 2011

Present were Chairman Garland Thompson, Commission Members Carl Brack, Dennis Brown, and David Hays. Also attending were former Commission Board member Steve Singletary and Flint River District Supervisor Hal Haddock, Jr. Participating from Commission staff were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Executive Director Dave Eigenberg, Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur, Procurement and Services Officer Karen Parson, E&SC Technical Specialist Ben Ruzowicz, and Regional Representative John Loughridge. Representing NRCS was James Tillman.

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

At this time, Mr. Dykes administered the oath of office to newly appointed Commission Board member Hal Haddock, Jr. (see attached). Mr. Haddock thanked the Board and everyone in attendance. Mr. Dykes then presented outgoing Board member Mr. Singletary with a plaque commemorating his eight years of service to the Commission Board.

On a motion by Carl Brack and second by David Hays the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 19, 2011 Board Meeting.

On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board approved the resignation of Ocmulgee River District Supervisor Donald Free, Jr. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the board approved the nominees put forth for re-appointment in the August Appointment Report, as attached, with two exceptions. The Board tabled action and requested further information on the reappointment of Mr. James Neely and Mr. Victor Aldridge.

Mr. Dykes presented the Board with a list of applicants submitted by districts to fill vacancies left from the 2010 District Supervisor elections. Mr. Dykes explained that these and any additional applications would be forwarded to the Governor's office to await his actions as called for by O.C. GA 2-6-31.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began by presenting the Commission Personnel Report. He reported that the Commission hired one new employee, Ms. Leigh Rush, who works out of the Region I office as a Project Coordinator. Also, Susan Castle, who has been working reviewing plans for the Commission in Newton County, is now based out of the Region III office to fill the vacancy left by Melissa Echevarria' resignation.

Mr. Dykes updated the board on the recent NACD Southeast Meeting, which was held in Orange Beach, Alabama, at the beginning of August. Catoosa County District Supervisor and former Commission Board member Mr. Bob Plemons was inducted into the NACD Southeast Hall of Fame at the meeting. Mr. Plemons currently works with the Department of Corrections, and Mr. Dykes reminded the Board of Mr. Plemons' instrumental help in acting as liaison between the GSWCC and DOC work crews conducting watershed maintenance work. Chairman Thompson informed the Board that Mr. Plemons will be retiring from DOC after the next General Assembly session, and that his help has been invaluable to the Commission.

Mr. Dykes next updated the Board on the Watershed Program. Currently, the Commission has completed work on three watershed dams in Northeast Georgia. Also, work on one additional dam will be completed within one month. Mr. Dykes thanked Mr. Tillman for all of the assistance that NRCS has provided, and commended Mr. Bob Fulmer and Andy Dyar for all of their hard work on behalf of the watershed program and the Commission. The Commission and the State Properties Commission are still negotiating with the landowners regarding Sandy Creek Watershed Dam #23 in Madison County. The State Properties Commission has voted to condemn the additional 4/10 acre needed to complete the necessary rehabilitation. Mr. Dykes explained that the Commission and current landowners are facing two liabilities in regards to this particular structure and the associated property: first, the possibility that floodwater will impact the landowners' barn due to the barn's proximity to the auxiliary spillway; and second, the possibility that the location of the barn will create backwater against the dam and increase stress on the earthen dam. Mr. Brown asked how much money had been allocated for this particular watershed rehabilitation. Mr. Dykes responded that approximately \$2 million had been allocated for Sandy Creek #23, the largest amount of any of the Commission's current watershed rehabilitation projects to-date.

Mr. Dykes next reported on the Commission's Federal Funding. For FY2012, the Commission is expecting to receive \$135,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, approximately \$70,000 from USDA-NRCS Technical Assistance, and \$126,000 from the EPA/EPD 319 Non-Point Source Control Program. In regards to State budgets, Mr. Dykes explained that the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has asked for the Commission and other agencies to submit proposals for 2% cuts to both the amended FY2012 and FY2013 budgets by August 31, 2011. Mr. Dykes presented the Board with the Commission staff's budget proposals. For both AFY12 and FY13, staff propose a cut to the operating expenses for the E&SC program based on a 50% reduction in the number of certifications issued in FY11 compared to FY10. Also, the Commission is proposing to cut funds from the Mobile Irrigation Lab project, and looking to offset those cuts with alternative funding from NRCS Technical Assistance. Commission staff assigned to the MIL program will continue to work on the Metering program as needed. Additionally, the Commission is requesting

\$6,000,000 as part of the FY13 state bond request, with this funding going toward watershed rehabilitation projects in North Georgia counties. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board approved this budget reduction plan.

Mr. Dykes next updated the Board on the M.O.A. for the City of Johns Creek in Fulton County. At the previous Board meeting in May 2011, the Board had approved the M.O.A. for Johns Creek giving the city the authority to review plans 5-acres and less, with anything larger being co-reviewed by the Fulton County district. Mr. Ruzowicz explained his recent meetings and plan review training with Johns Creek staff. Since May 2011, city staff have shown the capabilities to review large-scale plans and the district is confident that the city can begin reviewing plans larger than 5 acres without district co-review. The district has approved a new amended M.O.A. to this effect, with an automatic 60 months renewal provided a satisfactory staff overview is performed within that timeframe. On a motion by David Hays and second by Hal Haddock, the Board voted to approved the Johns Creek full M.O.A.

Lastly, Mr. Dykes informed the Board that the district FY12 Plans of Work were complete, and that the Board could take action on those at their next meeting, pending Board member review.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg first thanked the Board for their recent kind thoughts during his family loss. He then began by updating the Board on a recent trip to the NACD Legislative Conference that took place in Washington D.C. in mid-July. Mr. Eigenberg reported that work on the new Farm Bill will begin moving forward, and that the legislative staffers in Washington thought that the process would move too quickly for the Commission and GACDS to organize a Georgia Legislative Farm Tour for next year. Instead, the staffers requested that the Commission return to Washington in fall or early winter of 2011 to present a prioritized list of items regarding the future Farm Bill. Mr. Eigenberg, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Tillman reported that they met with the new NACD Executive Officer, and are looking forward to working with him on future conservation projects.

Next, Mr. Eigenberg updated the Board on the Pond program. Due to new Federal reporting guidelines, all pond program participants need to apply for a DUNS number and report on the federal contracting registry. Mr. Dykes explained that these requirements are a result of federal reporting requirements. Mr. Eigenberg also presented a list of all 2010 Pond program applicants offered contracts for both the Southeast and Flint River priority areas.

Mr. Eigenberg ended his report by updating the Board on the recent USGS publication on the Commission's metering data. Mr. Eigenberg explained that this publication is available for download on the USGS website. Also, Mr. Eigenberg thanked Middle South Georgia district supervisor Brian Ponder for the use of his farm and his time for a farm tour organized for staffers with Congressman Austin Scott's office.

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

August 19, 2011

Page 4

Mr. Dykes next updated the Board on GACDS. Mr. Eigenberg has been working with outgoing GACDS Executive Director Crista Carrell to ensure that all grants will be handled appropriately during the transition. Mr. Dykes said that GACDS was expecting 60 district supervisors at Supervisor Training, including 20 new supervisors, and the training would include sessions on district fundraising and financing. Chairman Thompson asked about GACDS' plans for future events after Ms. Carrell's departure, and Mr. Dykes assured the Board that Commission staff would be able to assume the role of coordinating upcoming GACDS events such as the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Tillman gave the NRCS Report. He updated the Board on several NRCS programs, and reported that the Georgia NRCS office in Athens would be transitioning staff out into field offices to help implement new programs focused on localizing services in light of reduced federal funding. He reiterated the speedy delivery of the new Farm Bill, and the need to re-assess and prioritize programs on a state level.

At this time, Chairman Thompson called for any public comments. Mr. Singletary thanked the Board and Commission staff for their support during his Board tenure, and the Board, Mr. Dykes, Mr. Eigenberg, and Mr. Tillman in turn thanked Mr. Singletary for his service.

Mr. Dykes reminded the Board of their next meetings in October and December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

 _____ 10-20-11

GSWCC Chairman

Date

 _____ 10-20-11

GSWCC Executive Director

Date

**OFFICIAL OATH OF
PUBLIC OFFICER**

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON

I, *William Henry Haddock, Jr.*, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will discharge all the duties lawfully required of me as a member of the *State Soil and Water Conservation Commission* to the best of my ability and understanding.

I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this State, or any political subdivision or authority thereof; that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state which I am prohibited from holding by the laws of the State of Georgia; and that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office, according to the Constitution of the United States and laws of Georgia, and that I will support the Constitutions of the United States and of this State.

So Help Me God!

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the)
19th day of *August*, 2011.....)
Karen O. Parson)

Hal Haddock)
Signature

NOTARY PUBLIC, BANKS COUNTY, GEORGIA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

DIRECTIONS

NOTE: If the Act creating this office specifies any form of oath, insert it on the dotted lines above. If elected by any circuit or district, swear that he has been a resident thereof for the time required by the Constitution and laws of this state. (O.C.G.A. 45-3-1(7)).

The loyalty oath required by Code Sections 45-3-11 through 45-3-15 shall apply to all elected officers of this state, including the Governor, constitutional officers, elected officials of any political subdivision of the government of Georgia, and local school board officials. (O.C.G.A. 45-3-12).



Ocmulgee River Soil and Water Conservation District

Comprising Bibb, Crawford, Dooly, Houston, Macon, Peach,
Pulaski, Taylor and Wilcox Counties

4344 Albany Highway • Dawson, GA • (229) 995-6001

Mr. Garland Thompson
Board Chairman
Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission
4810 Lexington Rd.
Athens, GA 30608

I, Donald E. Free, Jr., wish to resign
my position as the elected Supervisor of Houston County, GA for the
Ocmulgee River Soil & Water Conservation District. Please accept my
resignation and best wishes to the Ocmulgee River Soil & Water
Conservation District.

Signature: Donald E. Free, Jr.

Effective Date: 6-15-11

Date: 6-15-11

JUN 29 2011

**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
I	Blue Ridge	Rabun	*1. James Neely	Tiger	*50%	07/09/13
			2. Beverly Mason			TABLED
			3. Robert Mitchen			
						*Oath Jan 2010
II	Broad River	Banks	1. Carol Hodgkins	Commerce	95%	11/01/12
			2. David Sullivan			
			3. Charles Sullivan			
		Madison	1. Frank Fleming	Comer	91%	2/10/212
			2. Bill Lewis			
			3. Dudley Hartel			
	Columbia County	Columbia	1. John C. Shearhouse	Grovetown	71%	03/13/12
			2. David Byrd			
3. Gloria Hamilton						
III	Cobb County	Cobb	1. James W. Lanier, II	Marietta	96%	07/09/13
			2. David Meyer			
			3. Julia Schiebel			
	Dekalb County	Dekalb	1. Faye Lyons - Gary	Decatur	NEW	09/25/12
			2. Alex Powers			
			3. Fern Garber			
	Henry County	Henry	1. Hugh M. Simpson	McDonough	96%	09/20/13
			2. Larry Allen			
			3. Warren Holder			
	Rockdale County	Rockdale	1. Ed Shirey	Conyers	NEW	09/20/13
2. Eliane Nash						
3. Gil Pallen						
IV	Towaliga	Upson	1. Harold D. Fallin	Thomaston	100%	04/13/13
			2. Mike Greene			
			3. Ray Corley			
V	Ocmulgee River	Dooly	1. James D. Warbington	Vienna	82%	04/13/13
			2. Daniel Simmons			
			3. Robert Akin			
		Macon	1. Gary Slaton	Oglethorpe	86%	04/13/13
			2. Ted J. Robinson			
			3. W.D. Hobbs, Jr.			

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

	Pine Mountain	Harris	*1. Keith Edwards	Hamilton	*41%	07/09/13
			2. Gilbert Edwards			
			3. Morgan Marlowe			
				*Prior Service 75%		
VI	Altamaha	Appling	1. Jeffrey L. Deen	Baxley	65%	11/13/13
			2. Eddie Miles			
			3. Tom Craven			
			1. Travis Cook	McRae	82%	11/13/13
			2. Ralph Matthew			
			3. Alvin Stanley			
	Brier Creek	Burke	1. Art Rider	Wayne	95%	10/12/13
			2. Tommy Edenfield			
			3. H. C. Hopkins, III			
		Glascocock	1. Robert L. Snider	Gibson	67%	10/12/13
			2. Hollis Chalker			
			3. Melvin Todd			
		Jefferson	1. P. Austin Rheney	Wadley	90%	10/12/12
			2. Steve Newberry			
			3. William Raburn			
		Jenkins	1. Lamar Black	Millen	95%	10/12/13
			2. Anthony Cowart			
			3. Danny Daughtry			
		Richmond	1. Tom Mims	Hephzibah	80%	10/12/13
			2. Robert W. Brown			
			3. Charles Dillard			
	Satilla River	Brantley	1. Walter Christopher Thomas	Hoboken	67%	10/30/13
			2. Andrew Jackson Hickox, Jr.			
			3. Edmond Jacobs			
		Camden	1. William R. Alexander	Woodbine	79%	11/25/13
			2. Dwight McCullough			
			3. Kenneth Gay			
		Glynn	1. Paul M. Nobles, Sr.	Brunswick	55%	10/30/13
			2. Glenn Mikell			
			3. Jesse W. Stepp			
		Pierce	1. Jim Waters	Blackshear	63%	10/30/11
			2. K. Neal Bennett			
			3. Wesley Walker			
		Ware	*1. Victor Aldridge	Waresboro	*31%	01/24/12
			2. Thomas Gill, Jr.			TABLED
			3. Bradley Jordan			
				*Oath Oct 2009		
			* Letter provided			

GSWCC STAFF PROPOSAL TO BOARD

PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS	AFY12		FY13
	2% cut 51,708		2% cut 51,708
1 Reduce funds for operating expenses related to Erosion & Sediment Control Education & Certification Program	25,854	1	25,854
2 Reduce funds for operating expenses related to the Mobile Irrigation Lab project	25,854	2	25,854
TOTAL CUTS:	51,708		51,708
Remaining State Funds:	2,533,713		2,533,713
Federal Funds:	5,935,855		5,935,855
Other Funds:	1,337,802		1,337,802
Total Funds:	9,807,370		9,807,370
FY13 Bond Request:	6,000,000		