

## **MEETING NOTICE**

The next Board meeting of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission State Office, 4310 Lexington Road, Athens, Georgia.  
Phone: 706-552-4470.

Contact information:  
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# STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

8:00 a.m.

Athens, GA

1. Call to order – Garland Thompson, Chairman
2. Invocation – Brent Dykes, Executive Director
3. Approve Minutes of January 5, 2016 Board Meeting, as previously provided
4. Act on Supervisor Appointments & Resignations
5. Executive Director's Report – Brent Dykes
  - a) Personnel Report
  - b) 2016 Legislative Session
  - c) Statewide Ag BMP 319 Grant
  - d) Update on Ag Metering Program
6. Financial Update – Cynthia Wilbur
7. Urban Program Update – Ben Ruzowicz
  - a) Dekalb County MOA
  - b) Third Party Trainers
8. NRCS Update
9. GACD Update
10. Public Comments
11. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday – June 7, 2016
12. Upcoming Dates: SE NACD Meeting ( July 31<sup>st</sup> – August , 2016)

**DRAFT**  
**GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**

UGA Center for Continuing Education  
January 5, 2016

Participating were Chairman Garland Thompson, Vice-Chairman Harold Fallin, and Board members Drew Echols and Bob Martin. Participating from the Commission were Executive Director Brent Dykes, Deputy Executive Director Dave Eigenberg, Regional Representatives John Loughridge, Robert Amos, and Luke Crosson. Also present from the Commission were Urban Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz, E&SC Technical Specialist Brady Hart, Resource Specialist Jessica Bee, 319 Project Coordinator Will Laing, Administrative Assistants Lance Wyant and Annie Howell, and Administrative Operations Manager Cynthia Wilbur. Present from NRCS was Tansel Hudson. Participating on behalf of GACD was President Dan Bennett. Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order and asked Executive Director Dykes to give an invocation.

At this time, the Board called for discussion on past meeting minutes. On a motion by Bob Martin and second by Harold Fallin, the Board approved the minutes for the November 3, 2015, meeting.

On a motion by Harold Fallin and second by Drew Echols, the Board unanimously approved the nominees put forth in the January Appointment Report (see attached). On a motion by Harold Fallin and second by Bob Martin, the board regretfully accepted the resignations of Clayton County district supervisor Brecca Johnson, Middle South Georgia supervisor Carrol Fort, Alapaha supervisor Mike Coggins, and Warren County supervisor Joseph Batrous.

The Board next called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. He began with the Personnel Report. Mr. Dykes reported that the Commission had recently hired Paul Phillips as the new Resource Specialist in the Statesboro office, and that the open Region II Administrative Assistant position had been advertised. Also, as of November 2015, Dustin Rushing has been promoted to Regional Representative in the Statesboro office. Additionally, Kim Chapman left Commission employment at the end of December 2015.

Mr. Dykes next presented the Board with an update on the upcoming 2016 General Assembly Session that is set to start on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Commission met all requests and intents of the 2015 legislation passed in regards to the administrative attachment to the Department of Agriculture. Agencies were asked to submit flat budget requests for both the amended FY2016 and the FY2017 budgets. For FY17, the Commission also submitted a \$10 million bond funding request that would allow rehabilitation of several watershed structures.

Next, Mr. Dykes reported on the implementation of the 2016 manual for Erosion and Sediment Control. The Overview Council met to make final edits and then approved the new finalized manual.

The new official version of the manual is now public and there will be a six-month transition period until July 1, 2016. Commission staff is holding information meetings throughout the state to update the public and to explain the edits made to the new edition. Mr. Dykes explained that due to high demand and increased printing costs, the Commission will not be printing manuals; however, the new edition is available on the main agency website for public download.

Lastly, Mr. Dykes drew the Board's attention to reports from each regional office that outlined district activities and expenditure plans for the additional FY2016 district state funds allotments.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dave Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg reported that NRCS had recently updated the Mobile Irrigation Lab Technical Assistance Program with a new three-year contract for \$70,000.

The Board next called on Cynthia Wilbur to give a brief Overview of Agency Funding. Ms. Wilbur reiterated that the Commission had made a flat budget request for the FY2017 budget, as instructed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. The FY2017 request is \$2,670,085 in total state funding, which is the same as current FY2016 state funding levels. Current federal and grant funding levels include the new MILTA funding as well as funding for three 319 grant projects—the Nutrient Management Planning Initiative, Cedar-Folsom Creek (both already in progress) and the just –awarded new Statewide Ag BMP.

Mr. Ruzowicz was next called on to present three Memorandums of Agreement to the Board. The MOA's were from Carroll County, Douglas County, and the City of Douglasville. On a motion by Harold Fallin and second by Bob Martin, the Board approved the three MOA's as presented.

Next, Mr. Tansel Hudson was asked to give the NRCS Update. Mr. Hudson reported on several ongoing NRCS programs, and also updated the Board on the partnership effort between NRCS and the Commission to complete watershed dam assessments and plans, as well as the ongoing joint funding project regarding the removal of the Sallacoa #77 watershed structure.

The Board next called on Mr. Dan Bennett for the GACD Update. Mr. Bennett reported that preparations for the upcoming GACD Annual Meeting, to be held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center February 26-27, are going well, and he encouraged everyone to attend. He thanked the Board and Commission staff for their support of GACD and for their help in planning the meeting.

Mr. Dykes reminded the Board of the Supervisor Training scheduled to coincide with the Annual Meeting, also at Jekyll Island, on February 25-26. Due to the absence of Board Member Jason Winters, the Board decided to postpone setting a date for their next Board Meeting.

At this time, Chairman Thompson opened the floor for public comments.

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There being no further business, on a motion by Harold Fallin and second by Bob Martin, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

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GSWCC Chairman Date

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GSWCC Executive Director Date