

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Athens, GA
March 15, 2012

Present were Chairman Garland Thompson, 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, Operations Manager Niki Strain, Rural Water Resources Program Manager Bob Fulmer, and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Wilbur. Guests included Mr. Ed Martin with the USGS. 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 Carl Brack, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 6, 2012, Board meeting.

The Board's next moved on to district supervisor resignations, appointments, and elections. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Hal Haddock, the Board unanimously approved the resignation of Broad River Supervisor Michael Bruce. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board unanimously approved the nominees put forth in the March Appointment Report (as attached). Mr. Dykes and Ms. Wilbur also updated the Board briefly on the upcoming District Supervisor elections. Mr. Dykes stated that the Commission would actively promote the elections. Mr. Hays stated that all Regional Representatives should really stress the importance of the elections in their districts.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began by presenting the Board with the Personnel Report. Both Kelli Coleman, the Resource Specialist in Region II, and Jonathon Hall, 319 Project Coordinator, left the Commission on February 29, 2012. Additionally, one Mobile Irrigation Lab staff member has seen a reduction in hours, based on budgeting.

Mr. Dykes continued his report with an update on the upcoming 2012 Washington DC trip. The trip is being coordinated to coincide with the NACD Farm-Bill Fly-In on March 19-21, 2012. Mr. Dykes presented the Board with a draft informational brochure that will be given to all Georgia congressional offices, as well as NRCS leadership. On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by David Hays, the Board approved Mr. Dykes' request for out-of-state travel to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Dykes continued his report by presenting preliminary plans to hold an Employee Conference for all Commission staff. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of holding the conference in conjunction with the next regularly-scheduled Commission Board meeting. A recent survey sent out to all Commission staff regarding employee availability indicated that the majority would prefer to hold the conference before the end of June. Details regarding possible locations as well as topics and speakers will be forthcoming as more staff input is received.

At this time, Mr. Dykes directed the Board's attention to several key pieces of proposed legislation being sponsored during the current General Assembly Session. Of particular interest to the Board were HB397, regarding a revision to the Open Meeting and Records law; HB642, which would consolidate several state agencies to create the Georgia Services Administration; HB863, which would

impact certain state purchasing rules; SB176, which would allow state entities to hold official open meetings via teleconference; and SB223, which creates the Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee.

Next, Mr. Dykes updated the Board on the annual district Plans of Work. Mr. Dykes explained that he would like to send a letter to all district chairmen outlining what is expected in the annual district Work Plans and explaining that all proposed plans will be compared to each district's Annual Report of Accomplishments. Additionally, several issues related to supervisor per diem were discussed, including the restriction on districts paying per diem as opposed to actual supervisor travel, and the ability of the Commission to set a higher per diem rate for special meetings.

Lastly, Mr. Dykes discussed the possibility of contracting with the University of Georgia's Continuing Education Center to offer a formal Supervisor Training curriculum. This curriculum would be mandatory for supervisors and would be offered on a rotating two-year schedule. Staff will continue to work with UGA officials to pursue this opportunity.

The Board next called on Mr. Dave Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg began by updating the Board on the Metering Program. All meters have been read, and the data collected has been shared with EPD, the USGS, and the House and Senate Ag Committees. In the future, the Commission hopes to consolidate the data and send multiple-permit holders a single letter listing all of their permit information. The current year's letters will be mailed by the end of the month. The EPD counts the current number of new permit applications at over 1,000. Mr. Eigenberg explained that this high number was potentially due to a push for permitting on small wells being used to supplement existing water sources. Mr. Hays asked about the typical time involved in the permitting process. Mr. Eigenberg replied that most permit requests took from six months to one-year to process. Mr. Eigenberg finished by reporting on the MIL-NRCS Agreement. The FY12 sign-up will start soon, and the Commission will use the funds received for irrigation tech positions.

At this time, the Board called on Ms. Niki Strain to give the Commission's Budget Update. Ms. Strain reported that the Commission is still on-track with the FY12 budget. The 2% cut proposed in the amended FY12 budget was not taken, and an additional \$30,000 was added to the budget to compensate toward the employers' cost for health insurance. Currently, there are no cuts proposed for the FY13 budget, which has been approved by the House and is awaiting Senate approval. Ms. Strain further explained that the Financial Department has been in the process of auditing the Commission's landowner contracts, and also has been working with NRCS to track Stimulus funds received for ARRA watershed projects.

The Board next called on Mr. Ed Martin, with the USGS, to give a brief presentation on Ag water Data Analysis. Mr. Martin is the Director of the USGS Water Science Center, which is currently involved in a cooperative agreement with the Commission's Metering Program to analyze metering data.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Bob Fulmer to give the Watershed Update. Mr. Fulmer reported that the Commission has finished rehab work on four of the watershed dams: Marbury #22, Little Sandy Trail #1, Sandy Creek #15, and South River #4. The funding for Sandy Creek #23 is being de-obligated (pending outcome on contractor liability) due to unsuccessful negotiations. The maintenance contracts on two dams in Madison County—Sandy Creek #8 and South Fork Broad River #19—are in

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 15, 2012

Page 3

progress. Additionally, future rehab work will soon begin on an additional structure in Gilmer County, with design bids due in August, and a contract to be awarded after September. Mr. Fulmer further reported that the Commission will not be receiving further watershed rehab and maintenance funds from NRCS, and that future work will utilize state bond funds only.

At this time, the Board considered approval of an Memorandum of Approval for erosion control plan reviews as submitted by the City of Newnan. On a motion by Carl Brack and second by Hal Haddock, the Board approved the M.O.A. for the City of Newnan, as submitted (see attached).

Mr. Dennis Brown presented the Board members with a letter from Mr. Larry Nix regarding GACDS funding.

At this time, Mr. Dykes reminded the Board that their next meeting was scheduled for May 17. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of holding an all-employee conference and training event to coincide with the May Board meeting. Mr. Dykes stated that more information would be available after polling Commission staff members regarding availability, training requests, and possible locations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Wilbur

Approved by:

 5-17-12

GSWCC Chairman Date

 5-17-12

GSWCC Executive Director Date

January 19, 2012

Garland Thompson
Chairman
Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
P O Box 2703
Douglas GA 31534

Dear Chairman Thompson:

Effective immediately I respectfully resign my position as a district supervisor of the Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District.

I wish you and all the other supervisors success in the future.

Sincerely,

Michael Bruce

Michael Bruce
Broad River District Supervisor

**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	Catoosa County	Catoosa	1. Marshall Taylor	Ringgold	72%	10/09/13
			2. James Ramey			
			3. Sam Ward			
	Limestone Valley	Pickens	1. Dorothy Brown	Jasper	75%	11/13/13
			2. Richie Hancock			
			3. Debra Hunt			
		Murray	1. Linda Loughridge	Chatsworth	96%	11/24/13
			2. Mike Davis			
			3. Charles Campbell			
	Whitfield	1. Mark Edward	Dalton	NEW	04/13/13	
		2. Arvil Westmoreland				
		3. Virginia Crow				
II	Broad River	Elbert	1. Laura Bass	Bowman	*46	09/20/13
			2. Virginia Thomas			
			3. Casey Freeman			
	Upper Chatt River	White	1. Edsel Nix	Cleveland	100%	09/20/13
			2. J. R. Kanady			
			3. Voyce B. Hunt			
III	Gwinnett County	Gwinnett	1. Louis Dean Young, Jr.	Lilburn	NEW	01/08/13
			2. Carla Carraway			
			3. John Gramigna			
IV	Lamar County	Lamar	1. Andy Battle Bush	Barnesville	95%	09/20/13
			2. Brain Abernathy			
			3. Mary Jo Hardin			
	Piedmont	Baldwin	1. Robert David Blizzard	Milledgeville	69%	10/30/13
			2. W. R. Blizzard			
			3. B. H. Archer			
		Greene	1. Larry Eley	White Plains	96%	03/11/14
			2. Thurmond Jarrard			
			3. Charles Crumbley			
		Putnam	1. Grady Calvert	Eatonton	91%	10/30/13
			2. Mike Rainey			
			3. Clayborn McMichael			
		Morgan	1. Patrick Hardy	Madison	86%	03/11/14
			2. S.J. Saffold			
			3. Amos Jones			
	Towaliga	Butts	1. Arthur Presley	Jackson	86%	10/30/13
			2. Harold McMichaels			
			3. Mark Cook			
		Spalding	1. Walter Clifford Futral, Jr.	Griffin	63%	12/04/13
			2. Ronnie Robinson			
			3. Phil Ogletree			
V	Alapaha	Echols	1. James Michael Coggins	Lake Park	*47%	10/30/13
			2. Stanley Corbett			
			3. Felton Coggins			

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

	Flint River	Grady	1. Jeffrey Brinson 2. Suasn Hancock 3. April Reckford	Whigham	*50%	01/14/14
	Lower Chattahoochee	Webster	1. Andy Payne 2. Gordon Alston 3. Phillip Jones	Preston	43%	11/25/13
	Middle South Georgia	Ben Hill	1. Joseph Kyle Phillips 2. Jimmy Reeves 3. Glenn Stokes	Fitzgerald	90%	11/25/13
		Brooks	1. Van Murphy 2. Johnny Hagan 3. Johnny Jackson	Quitman	60%	01/24/14
		Crisp	1. James Farrow Baker 2. Randy Coffee 3. Randy Ellis	Cordele	81%	11/25/13
		Irwin	1. Donald McWhorter 2. Bob Martin 3. Tim Lott	Fitzgerald	60%	11/25/13
		Thomas	1. Carrol Fort, Sr. 2. Russell Smith 3. Paul Sherod	Pavo	91%	11/25/13
		Tift	1. Grady Thompson, Jr. 2. Chris Goodman 3. Gerald Branch	Tifton	69%	10/12/13
	Pine Mountain	Talbot	1. Frank Jordan, Jr. 2. Josh Buckner 3. Jeff Ingram	Talbotton	*36%	10/30/13
VI	Altamaha	Coffee	1. Garland Thompson 2. John L. Meeks 3. Keith Harrell	Douglas	90%	05/09/14
		Jeff Davis	1. Brazle H. Claxton 2. Bobby Kirkland 3. Charles Pace	Hazelhurst	85%	02/27/14
	Coastal	Long	1. Thomas D. Houston 2. Eddie Dasher 3. Manuel Sneed	Ludowici	75%	03/11/14
		Wayne	1. Jonathan M. Harris 2. Franklin Griffis 3. J. H. Wynn	Screven	70%	12/31/14
	Ohoopsee River	Emanuel	1. F. Bennett Whitfield 2. Jerrell Whitfield 3. Bill Carmichael	Twin City	67%	04/09/14
		Wheeler	1. Lynn Johnson 2. Frank Thomas 3. Martin Wilcher	Alamo	90%	01/24/14



March 12, 2012

Garland Thomson
Chairman
Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Board
4310 Lexington Road
Athens GA 30603

Dear Chairman Thomson:

Due to unforeseen situations that have come up on the farm I have been unable to make the required minimum number of meetings for an appointed supervisor. Through my work on the local workgroup, and in the community I believe I have promoted conservation efforts throughout Elbert County and assisted in promoting the overall efforts of the Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District.

I respectfully request the Conservation Commission Board allow me to continue serving on the Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District board representing the citizens of Elbert County.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Laura Bass

Laura Bass
District Supervisor
Broad River Soil & Water Conservation District



Alapaha Soil & Water Conservation District

HEADQUARTERS:
4344 ALBANY HIGHWAY • DAWSON, GA 39842 • (229) 995-6001

BERRIEN COUNTY
CLINCH COUNTY
COOK COUNTY
ECHOLS COUNTY
LANIER COUNTY
LOWNDES COUNTY

"OUR SOIL IS OUR NATION'S GREATEST RESOURCE - PROTECT IT"

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board
P.O. Box 8024
Athens, GA 30603

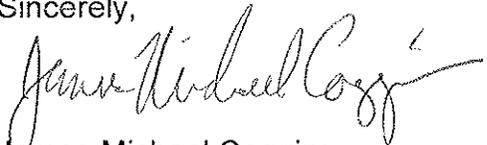
January 11, 2012

Re: Supervisor Attendance

Dear Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board,

I currently serve as a Supervisor for the Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District. I have recently experienced a decrease in attendance for the Alapaha SWCD meetings. My lack of attendance was due to several contributing factors: the weather (drought), and the amount of time I have been putting into my farm. I do apologize for the decrease in attendance and plan on attending future meetings. Please take this letter into consideration for my reappointment of the Echols County Supervisor Position for the Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District.

Sincerely,


James Michael Coggins
Alapaha SWCD District Supervisor

note:
I informed (mike) that he needs to mark his calendar on every second wednesday as a Swcd meeting & plan around them. Hope this will suffice.
O.C. Prunicki
Alapaha SWCD

OUR SOIL IS OUR GREATEST RESOURCE - PROTECT IT!



FLINT RIVER
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
"Conservation Is Wise Use and Protection of Our Natural Resources"
4344 ALBANY HIGHWAY • DAWSON, GA 39842 • (229) 995-6001

BAKER COUNTY
CALHOUN COUNTY
DECATUR COUNTY
DOUGHERTY COUNTY
EARLY COUNTY
GRADY COUNTY
MILLER COUNTY
MITCHELL COUNTY
SEMINOLE COUNTY

REC'D FEB 7 2012

Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission
4310 Lexington Road
Athens, Georgia 30603

February 2, 2012

Re; Supervisor Attendance

Dear Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission,

I currently serve as a Supervisor for the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation Commission (Grady County). I have recently experienced a decrease in attendance for the Flint River SWCD meeting. My lack of attendance has been due to my obligations in my current job as well as medical appointments that were previously scheduled in Tallahassee.

I do apologize for the decrease in my attendance. I have made arrangements with the District office to coordinate my schedule with future meetings and upcoming appointments. My obligations to the Flint River SWCD are important to me and I hope that you take this letter into consideration for my reappointment of the Grady County Supervisor Position for Flint River SWCD.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey Brinson
192 Harrell Ave.
Whigham, Georgia 39897



Lower Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District

4344 ALBANY HIGHWAY • DAWSON, GA 39842 • (229) 995-6001

CLAY COUNTY
LEE COUNTY
QUITMAN COUNTY
RANDOLPH COUNTY
SCHLEY COUNTY
STEWART COUNTY
SUMTER COUNTY
TERRELL COUNTY
WEBSTER COUNTY

Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission
4310 Lexington Road
Athens, Georgia 30603

February 2, 2012

Re: Supervisor Attendance

Dear Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission,

I currently serve as a Supervisor for the Lower Chattahoochee River Soil & Water Conservation District (Webster County). I have recently experienced a decrease in attendance for the Lower Chattahoochee SWCD meetings. My lack of attendance had been due to extreme drought conditions with my farm and cattle operations. I also have a young family that requires more of my time than usual. For these reason my schedule has been extremely demanding.

I do apologize for the decrease in attendance and plan on attending future meetings by keeping the lines of communications open with the District office and Board members. The farm industry is improving and my obligations to serve the District as Supervisor will improve. Please take this into consideration for my reappointment of the Webster County Supervisor Position for the Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andy Payne
1872 Payne Pond Road
Preston, Georgia 31832



PINE MOUNTAIN

Soil and Water Conservation District

MARION CHATTAHOOCHEE MUSCOGEE TALBOT HARRIS

Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission
4310 Lexington Road
Athens, Georgia 30603

February, 2, 2012

Re: Supervisor Attendance

Dear Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission Board,

I currently serve as a Supervisor for the Pine Mountain Soil & Water Conservation District (Talbot County). I have recently experienced a decrease in attendance for the Pine Mountain SWCD meetings. My Lack of attendance has been primarily due to my obligations as a Judge. I serve six surrounding counties every Thursday of the month thus making it difficult to schedule around my court obligations. I serve as President for the Two Rivers RC&D and attend all of these scheduled meetings on behalf of the Pine Mountain Soil & Water District as well as 4 additional meeting per year.

I do apologize for the decrease in attendance and plan to work my court schedule around any future monthly Pine Mountain SWCD meeting. I have also inquired about possible Video or Conference calls during any future meeting I may not be able to attend without expecting per diem payments. Please take this letter into consideration for my reappointment of the Talbot County Supervisor Position for the Pine Mountain SWCD.

Sincerely,

Judge Frank Jordan Jr.
P.O. Box 456
Talbotton, Georgia 31827

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE WEST GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AND
THE CITY OF NEWNAN, GEORGIA

This Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the West Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District, hereinafter referred to as the "District" and the City of Newnan, hereinafter referred to as the City.

WHEREAS, the City has adopted an erosion and sedimentation control ordinance governing land-disturbing activities, which ordinance meets or exceeds the standards, requirements and provisions of the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, Ga. Laws 1975, p. 994, as amended to date of execution of this agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City has been certified by the Director of the Environmental Protection Division as an issuing authority for purposes of the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City has demonstrated to the District its capabilities to review and approve erosion and sediment control plans and has requested an agreement with the District to conduct such review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the District enters into this agreement with the intent of allowing the City to conduct the review and approval of erosion and sediment control plans without referring the applications and plans to the District, in compliance with Section 7(d) of the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, as amended; and

WHEREAS, both parties to this agreement, the District and the City, understand that this Agreement cannot be effective until the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission gives its written concurrence hereto, as indicated by execution of this document;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this Agreement, the District and the City, based on the mutual considerations as set forth below, hereby agree as follows:

- I. 1. The City shall conduct technical review and approval of erosion and sediment control plans in accordance with standards set forth in the ordinance of the City. The City shall take appropriate steps to assure that approved plans are properly installed and maintained and that all measures and practices are in compliance with the City's erosion and sedimentation control ordinance.

2. The City shall submit to the District on a quarterly basis a report of the erosion and sediment control program. The report shall contain the number of plans reviewed and the overall program status. The report shall be submitted on a timely basis and of a form and content that is acceptable to the District and to the City.

3. The City shall keep the District informed of land-disturbing plans that might affect soil and water conservation.

4. The City shall maintain a system of records, plans, applications, etc., of all actions taken under this Agreement, and shall make such records available to the District or its representative upon request.

II. 1. The District will allow the City to conduct the review and approval of erosion and sediment control plans without the necessity of referring the application and plan to the District, so long as the City complies with the conditions specified in this Agreement.

2. The District will review and carefully consider the reports submitted by the City and shall make recommendations with regard to the adequacy of the program and its compliance with the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, as amended.

3. The District shall provide the City with expertise available through the District and through memoranda of agreement between the District and other agencies.

4. The District assures that erosion and sediment control assistance shall continue to be a priority item of the District program.

5. The District shall, upon request, provide or conduct informational and educational programs to train individuals charged with review of erosion and sediment control plans, manpower and funding permitting.

6. The District shall provide to the City an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of its erosion and sediment control program.

III. It is mutually understood and agreed as follows:

1. This memorandum shall not be amended without consent of both parties and concurrence of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

2. The City's files of erosion and sediment control plans and actions shall remain accessible to the District.

3. The District may secure additional review services before making recommendations on the adequacy of the program of the City.

4. This memorandum may be terminated at any time by either party, upon sixty (60) days written notice. It will terminate automatically and without written notice if the Environmental Protection Division revokes the certification of the City program pursuant to Section 8 (c) of the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, as amended.

5. This memorandum shall be effective on the date of the concurrence herewith by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 9 day of Feb, 2012

Della Hill
Notary Public

My commission expires: 8-27-13

City of Newnan

By: [Signature]

Title: Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 1 day of Feb, 2012

Joan Lam
Notary Public

My commission expires:

West Georgia Soil & Water Conservation District

By: [Signature]

Title: Chairman

Notary Public Floyd County Georgia

My Commission Expires
November 24, 2013

This memorandum is hereby concurred in by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission
this 15th day of March, 2012.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 15th day of March, 2012

Karen D. Parson
Notary Public

My commission expires:

State Soil and Water Conservation Commission

By: [Signature]

Title: Executive Director

NOTARY PUBLIC, BANKS COUNTY, GEORGIA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 3, 2012