GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Athens, Georgia
August 8, 2014

Participating 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, Executive Manager for Water Policy Bob Hanner, Communications Specialist Mike Wald, Interim Urban Water Resources Program Manager Ben Ruzowicz, Rural Water Resource Program Manager Bob Fulmer, Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist Brady Hart, Ag Water Quality Specialist Jessica Bee, Regional Representatives; John Loughridge, Robert Amos, Keegan Malone, Rahn Milligan, Luke Crosson and Administrative Assistant Kimberly McCollum. Guests included GACDS President Danny Hogan, NRCS State Conservationist Mr. Terrance Rudolph, GA EPD NE District AJ McAllister, Britt Faucette, Roger Singleton and local soil and water conservation district supervisors.

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

On a motion by Dennis Brown and second by Carl Brack, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 19, 2014, Board Meeting.

On a motion by David Hays and second by Hal Haddock, the Board approved the nominees presented in the August Appointment Report (please see attached.)

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Dykes to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Dykes began with the Commission Personnel Report. He began by reporting that Heather Dickey has been hired for the Region 4 Milledgeville office Administrative Assistant and she started work July 21st. The Ag Water Irrigation Specialist and Ag Meter Technician positions located in the Dawson office have been advertised. The Urban Program Manager position has been advertised internally. Lauren Zdunczyk, Urban Program Manager, vacated her position at the end of July with Ben Ruzowicz being named Interim Urban Program Manager. Cynthia Wilbur moved to become the Administrative Operations Manager and Kim McCollum moved to become the Administrative Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director at the beginning of July. Dustin Rushing moved into a full time grant funded position with the Commission working out of the Region 3, Statesboro office.

Next, Mr. Dykes reported on the feedback from the Chairpersons and Treasurers regarding Conservation District Financial Guidance and Chart of Accounts. Central Georgia had questions about hiring a CPA to implement the policy, Henry County appreciated having something in writing to be of guidance, Limestone Valley responded with a letter (please see attached) and Walton County had questions about how to administer scholarships. Several districts did not meet during the month of July so hopefully the districts will continue to send in their responses.

Next, Mr. Dykes discussed the FY16 Budget and Bond Request; the proposed budget has no reductions and the proposal is for a flat budget of $2,620,072. The FY16 Bond Request would be $3,000,000 for Palmetto Creek Watershed Structure #1 Rehabilitation in Harris County. On a motion by Carl Brack and a second by Dennis Brown, the Board approved the budget for AFY15 and FY16 and the FY16 Bond Request of $3,000,000.

Next, Mr. Dykes discussed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposals. The proposal that the Commission partnered with DNR regarding Bob White Quail was not successful in getting to the proposal phase. In the Southwest part of the state the Flint River SWCD was successful in the first step and has been requested to turn in a full proposal. GSWCC is coordinating with the district on this project.

Next, Mr. Dykes reported on The Flint River Conservation District request from the June meeting. The Georgia Department of Law sent a letter (please see attached) to the Federal Aviation Administrative (FAA) on July 2nd in response to the District's request to use an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) as a public aircraft under FAA rules.

Next Mr. Dykes discussed the handouts (please see attached) regarding the Waters of the US. The first handout is regarding the American Farm Bureau response to the EPA input. The second handout is offering some clarifying remarks from the EPA. Farm groups are opposing the rule and there is legislative opposition to the rule also.

At this time, the Board called on Mr. Eigenberg to give the Deputy Executive Director's Report. Mr. Eigenberg gave a brief update of the metering program. Pre and post irrigation testing have been done on center pivots and the data is showing improvements. The remaining pond funding is going to help update equipment that is over 9 years old to the latest technology.

Next Mr. Eigenberg next reported on the rule making for the Flint River Drought Protection Act, (SB 213).This is in the early stages of the process and it should help with the efficiency of center pivots irrigation.

At this time, the Board called upon Mr. Ben Ruzowicz to give the Urban Program Update. Mr. Ruzowicz presented the proposed TAC members list for the Board's approval. (please see attached) Mr. Dykes discussed that the proposed list was a recommendation from the committee that the Board formed at the June 19th board meeting. The committee members consisted of Ben Ruzowicz, Dennis Brown, Dave Eigenberg, Lauren Zdunczyk and himself. On a motion by David Hays and a second by Hal Haddock the board agreed to remove Larry Booth from the list and replace him with Britt Faucette. On a motion by Carl Brack and a second by David Hays the board approved the amended list of TAC members, those members are: Thomas Brown, Britt Faucette, Kirby Hamil, Betty Jean Jordan, Bob Moran, Adena Fullard, Brian Watson, Reece Parker and Josh Escue. At this time Roger Singleton requested to read a letter that he had written to the Board members about moving forward. Mr. Singleton referred to his letter as "What's in the Bag / Consumers Bills of Rights" (Please see attached letter) Mr. Singleton spoke in favor of consumers knowing the performance level of BMP's. Mr. Singleton asked the Board to make a decision today. Mr. Ruzowicz commented that there is a

need to honor the open comment period. Board member David Hays noted that GSWCC would move forward through this process with expediency.

At this time, Bob Fulmer, gave the Watershed Dam update (see attached report). He reported that maintenance plans are in progress and that contracts should take place in early fall for Etowah 26 in Lumpkin County and Pumpkinvine #26 in Paulding County. NRCS Georgia received $1.2 million through the Farm Bill and it will be used to prepare assessments for 63 high hazard structures. Mr. Fulmer is working with Eric Harris of NRCS to develop a project agreement to allocate this funding.

At this time, Mr. Terrance Rudolph gave the NRCS Report. Mr. Rudolph wants to continue the partnership and add to it as well. NRCS is short staffed and without the partnership they could not handle the workload. The RCPP is a first year program and it had an overwhelming national response with partnership across the country. 6 pre-proposals were turned in from Georgia and 2 went to the next stage. Georgia NRCS is working to ensure existing agreements are implemented.

At this time, Mr. Danny Hogan, President of GACDS gave his report. Mr. Hogan reported that the Annual Meeting will be held in Columbus on January 23rd and 24th. He reported that the GACDS Board had met the night before and the board had voted to go to a two day event. He also reported that the raffle will be the fundraiser again this year. The raffle will have a few changes this year; first being that the tickets will go out earlier to the districts and next the tickets will be turned in prior to the meeting.

At this time the meeting was opened for public comment. GA EPD NE District staff member AJ McAllister wanted clarification on which edition of the Green Book everyone should be using. Ben Ruzowicz commented that the 6th Edition of the Green Book is open for public comment and the 5th and 6th Edition can now both be used. The 6th Edition has been reopened and there is no approved products list other than the DOT QPL list. Roger Singleton commented that the Georgia DOT is self-regulating and without this Green Book, the DOT is in control. Singleton stated that the 6th Edition would let the Soil and Water Commission back in charge to monitor water quality in the state of Georgia. Singleton requested that a decision be made on a path forward and it needs to have a timeline on the comment period. Ellis Lamme, Gwinnett County Supervisor, suggested a 90 day time period. Mr. Lindsey Holiday, Bibb County supervisor, spoke of storm water concerns and the need to have stricter control to have clean water. After hearing the public comments on the Green Book on a motion by David Hays and a second by Carl Brack the Board voted to close out the public comment period on December 18th. Mr. Dennis Brown expressed appreciation for those serving on the first TAC team and expressed his desire to see this process move forward and get resolved.

At this time Mr. Hal Haddock handed out a summary (please see attached) of a timeline regarding Grant funds in the Flint River District. On a motion by Hal Haddock and a second by David Hays, the Board instructed Executive Director Brent Dykes to contact the USDA Office of Inspector General to request an audit of the Flint District's handling of the grant in question.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16th. On a motion by David Hays and second by Dennis Brown, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kimberly McCollum

Approved by:

GSWCC Chairman Date

GSWCC Executive Director Date 11-7-14