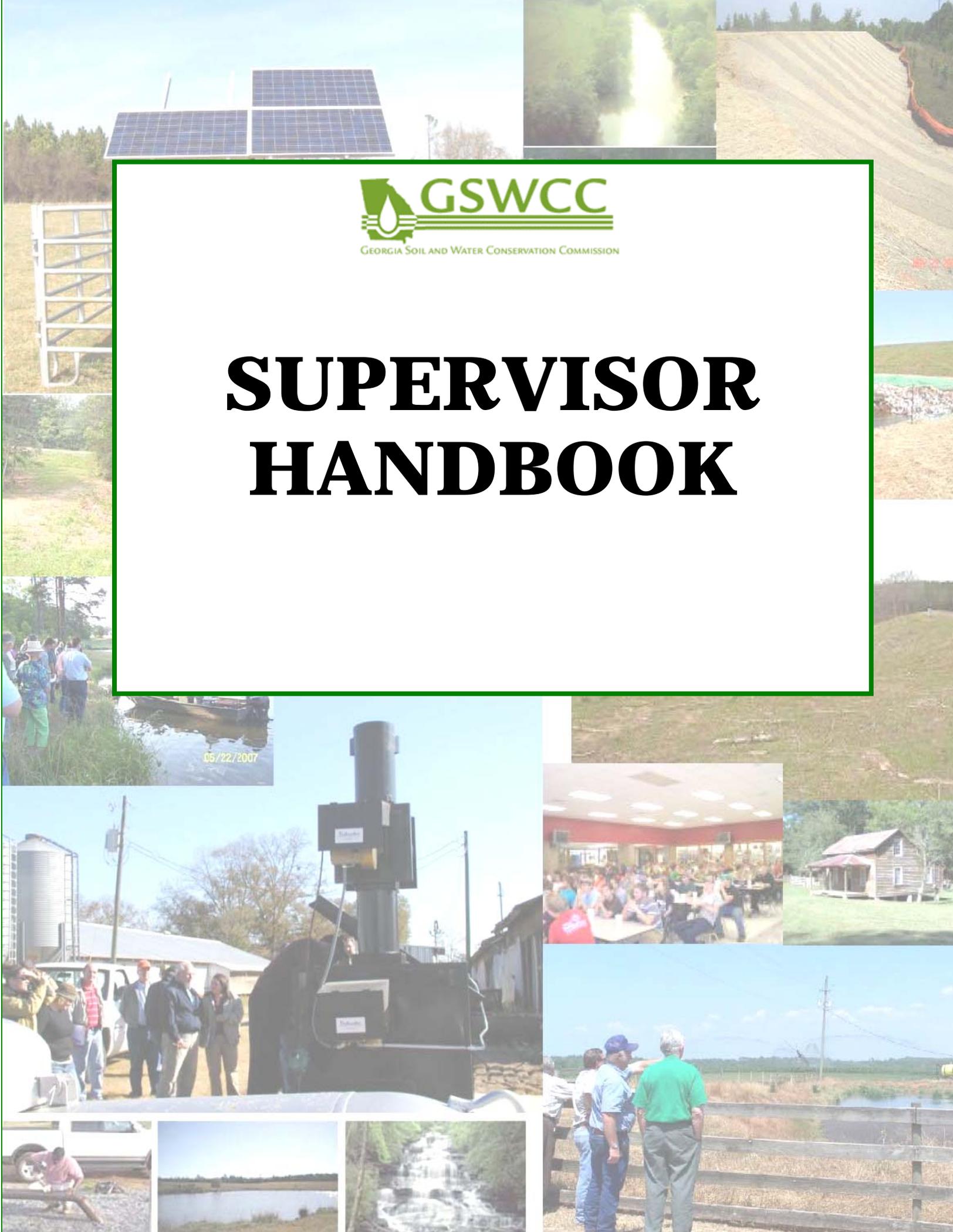




SUPERVISOR HANDBOOK



GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Agricultural Water Conservation and Metering Program



Program Description: To assist agricultural water users in quantifying water use, conserving existing water use through irrigation audits, and reducing dependence on groundwater and surface water supplies through agricultural water catchments.

Conservation of Agricultural Water Supplies

Purpose – To increase the uniformity and efficiency of ag water irrigation systems, to obtain and manage quality data on agricultural water use for state policy makers, and to construct/renovate agricultural water catchments for irrigation of cropland in South Georgia using federal funds.

Pond Program

- GSWCC accepts applications to construct new or renovate existing surface water structures.
- Currently, GSWCC is unable to fully fund all of the applications.
- Man-made ponds increase on-farm surface water capacity.
- Pond construction is completed by an exemption from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- NRCS provides technical assistance in the design of these ponds to ensure that ponds meet acceptable standards and specifications.
- Cost share rates are at 75%, not to exceed \$50,000.

Irrigation Application Uniformity Improvement - Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL)

- GSWCC accepts applications to provide free in field irrigation system uniformity test and visual inspection.
- Currently, GSWCC is unable to fully fund all of the applications received.
- Eligibility determined audit tests results using the Christiansen's uniformity coefficient and end-gun shut-off acreage
- Field verified application chart, system uniformity graph and visual observation report provided as deliverables
- Cost share rates are at 75%, not to exceed \$5,000 for nozzle package, \$3,000 for end-gun shut-off.

Irrigation Scheduling

- In cooperation with the USDA/ARS National Peanut Research Laboratory, GSWCC works to promote the use of *Irrigator Pro*.
- Scheduling irrigation should utilize real time information from fields to determine application amounts, matching crop water needs with available soil moisture.

- *Irrigator Pro* allows producers to plan irrigation events as to influence economic returns with the ultimate goal of reducing costs and conserving water.

Measuring Agricultural Water Use

Purpose- To obtain accurate and timely information on the patterns and amounts of agriculture water use by EPD permits. This information is essential to proper management of water resources by the state and useful to farmers for improving the efficiency of their use of water.

- Measurement of agricultural water-use is a necessary component of assisting farmers to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in the utilization of a valuable resource.
- The Commission will locate and evaluate pumping sites, purchase meters and cause meters to be installed on all EPD permitted sites issued before July 1, 2003.
- The Commission certifies proper installation for farmers installed meters as a condition of EPD permits issued after July 1, 2003.
- The Commission will maintain meters and collected water use data for all EPD permitted sites.
- Permit holders will be mailed a yearly report showing the water-use recorded for each permit, in units of acre-inches pumped.
- Agricultural water-use data will be managed in a manner that provides for access by State policy decision makers and, at the same time, insures privacy rights of landowners involved.
- Only summaries of water-use by the eight digit USGS hydrologic code will be made available to the general public. Water-use of any individual irrigator will be kept confidential and information gathered from the meters will not be used by any State agency and/or individual for purposes not intended by the law.

For more information, please visit the GSWCC program page online at:

http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,28110777_29155103,00.html

Rural Water Resources Program

Bob Fulmer, Program Manager

Carrie Lynn Fowler, Nonpoint Source Program Specialist



Within GSWCC, the Rural Water Resources Program is a multifaceted program including an agricultural financial incentive program, a flood control reservoir program and also agricultural complaint response and resolution. GSWCC maintains a financial incentive program made possible through agreements with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) funding. GSWCC pursues projects in targeted watersheds that work to improve and protect water quality through the installation of best management practices on agricultural operations. These are typically 60 percent cost-share agreements with a 10 year maintenance requirement. Additional Section 319(h) funding is utilized for various nonpoint source educational programs as well as to support the Erosion and Sediment Control Education and Certification Program. Through this funding, the *Best Management Practices for Georgia Agriculture* manual has been developed.

In the Small Watershed Program, GSWCC provides technical assistance in the operation and maintenance of over 350 soil and water conservation district owned flood control reservoirs that were constructed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) primarily in the 1960s and 70s. Districts have signed agreements to operate and maintain these dams. GSWCC seeks funds to provide financial assistance to districts to help meet these maintenance requirements. Due to the urban location of many of these dams they now protect houses, roads and other improvements downstream that represent significant hazards, should dams fail. These dams are being re-classified as Category 1 high hazard structures according to the GAEPD Safe Dams Program. Districts now own over 150 dams that are out of compliance with Georgia Safe Dams requirements. This program works with districts to secure funding to upgrade these Category 1 dams and bring them into compliance with state requirements, either with state funding or existing NRCS programs.

GSWCC is also responsible for receiving and providing technical assistance for agricultural complaints throughout the state. GSWCC personnel work in close cooperation with GAEPD and NRCS to address complaints in a timely and professional manner.

For more information, please visit the GSWCC Program page at:

http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,28110777_29155103,00.html

Urban Lands and Education/Certification

Lauren Zdunczyk, Program Manager



Urban Lands

The purpose of the Urban Lands Program is to improve and protect Georgia's urban soil and water resources through the use of best management practices (BMP's) as called for in the soil and water conservation districts law and delivered through soil and water conservation districts. The goal is to reduce soil erosion on urban lands and educate land disturbers, local governments, and erosion and sediment control professionals on urban BMP's.

The Education and Certification Program

In 2003, House Bill 285 created the Education and Certification Program for individuals involved in land disturbing activities. The Conservation Commission was charged with managing and administering the program. The Education and Certification Program consists of the following courses and certifications:

Subcontractor Awareness Seminar (Certified Subcontractor) is a two hour seminar with no exam that is designed for individuals working in a subcontractor capacity.

Level IA Fundamentals Seminar (Certified Person/Personnel) is a one day course designed to train individuals that are the Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Permittee, as defined by the state general permit.

Level IB Advanced Fundamentals Seminar (Certified Inspector) is a two day course designed to train regulatory inspectors and non-regulatory personnel contracted to do regulatory.

Eligibility Requirements for Inspectors

- Must have completed 60 days work experience in the field of erosion and sediment control.
- In lieu of 60 days work experience, you may obtain a Level IA Certification.

Level II Introduction to Design (Certified Plan Reviewer/Certified Design Professional) two day course for both plan reviewers and design professionals.

Eligibility Requirements for Design Professionals

- Proof of licensure in the State of Georgia in the field of engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, forestry, geology, land surveying or CPESC.

Eligibility Requirements for Plan Reviewers

- Have at least 6 months work experience in the field of erosion and sediment control
- In lieu of 6 months work experience, an individual may obtain a Level IB certification

All certification courses, with the exception of the Subcontractor Awareness Seminar, have a 50 question, one hour timed exam at the end of the course. Individuals must obtain a passing score of 70% to receive certification. All certifications are valid for three years and four hours of GSWCC approved continuing education hours are required to renew certifications. For more information visit the Education and Certification page at www.gaswcc.georgia.gov.

Plan Reviews and Technical Assistance for Urban Erosion and Sedimentation Control Issues

In addition to the Education and Certification Program, Urban Lands provide technical assistance involving erosion and sedimentation control issues around the State. The Commission's Erosion and Sediment Control Specialists provide technical plan reviews on behalf of the Districts in the Metro Atlanta area as well as provide technical support to all plan reviewers throughout the State.

Program staff has extensive knowledge and experience with the State and Federal laws governing erosion and sediment control and with the *Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia*.

For additional information please visit the Urban Lands page at www.gaswcc.georgia.gov.

1976-1977	Amon Corn Herbert Hawkins Frank Murrah Austin Rheney H. Crawford Hewell
*1977-1980	Amon Corn (Resigned 10-22-79) Frank Crawford (Resigned 4-18-79) H. Crawford Hewell Frank Murrah Garland Thompson
1980-1985	H. Crawford Hewell (Resigned 1-1-84) Frank Murrah Garland Thompson J.M. "Bob" Plemons Jimmy S. Johnson
1985-1989	Frank Murrah Garland Thompson J.M. "Bob" Plemons Jimmy S. Johnson Roy J. Chappell
1989-1991	Garland Thompson J.M. "Bob" Plemons Jimmy S. Johnson Roy J. Chappell J. Joe Nichols
1991-2000	Garland Thompson J.M. "Bob" Plemons (Resigned 7-13-00) Jimmy S. Johnson Roy J. Chappell A. B. C. "Brad" Dorminy
2000-2003	Garland Thompson Roy J. Chappell (Deceased 1-31-03) Mable Brown (Oath taken on 5-29-02) Barbarianne Gauding-Russell (Oath taken on 5-29-02)
*2003-2008 (Official oath given 11-13-03)	Garland Thompson Carl E. Brack (Oath signed 11-12-03) Dennis T. Brown (Oath signed 11-12-03) David T. Hays (Oath signed 9-18-03) Steve Singletary (Oath signed 9-18-03)

*Begins five year staggered term

STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION DUTIES AND POWERS

The State Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the agency of State Government charged with responsibility for carrying out provisions of the Soil Conservation Law approved March 26, 1937, and amended March 6, 1945, February 23, 1955, March 17, 1960, February 27, 1962, April 17, 1973, and July 1, 1988.

The Commission shall have responsibility:

To provide for the conservation of the soil, water and all other related natural resources in Georgia.

To provide the mechanics for maintaining the organization of the Soil and Water conservation Districts of Georgia.

To coordinate the programs of the several districts and to formulate programs which will strengthen the work of conserving our soil, water and related sources.

To secure the assistance of the U.S. government and any of its agencies, and the agencies of state and county governments, in carrying our district soil and water conservation work.

To disseminate information throughout the State concerning the activities of the districts.

To furnish an exchange of advice and experience between the various districts that will promote and advance the conservation of these vital resources.

To perform the duties necessary to implement the administration of the Federal Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act. (Small Watershed Program.)

To receive appropriations from the State for the operation of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the State Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The State Soil and Water Conservation Commission constitutes an operating program by performing the functions described in the foregoing description.

Following are illustrations of Commission activities:

1. The general administration of the commission and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
2. Conduct educational and information programs to acquaint the public with district activities and resource conservation needs of State.
3. Provide statewide program leadership in soil and water conservation.
4. Maintaining liaison with governmental agencies and private groups having an interest in the use and conservation of natural resources.
5. Review watershed programs and assist in establishing priorities for development.
6. Providing state leadership to local units of government in developing and conducting erosion and sediment control programs under the provisions of Act 599.
7. Serving as a central source of information and guidance for other state agency activities relating to soil and water conversation.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS

Specific responsibilities in district affairs include keeping district boards informed about conservation concerns, issues, programs, and legislative affairs at the state and national levels. The representative should assist the boards in preparing and maintaining long-range Plans of Work, Annual Plans of Work, budgets, announcements, resolutions, publications, requisitions and special reports. The representative will serve in an advisory capacity with GACDS Committees and work to implement objectives they identify.

The Regional Representatives will assist districts with proper procedures in supervisor appointments and elections. The representatives will make it a point to visit prospective supervisors and explain duties of the office and familiarize them with the work, history, and philosophy of districts. Afterward, visiting each supervisor outside of the district meetings at least once a year is helpful, with meetings as often as necessary with a level of high interest and ability.

The Regional Representative will give high priority to attending each and every district meeting and be prepared to work with the Chairman in preparing the agenda. At the meetings, the representative should offer to take minutes and handle their disbursement. Another duty is encouraging the district board to deal with problems of attendance or failure to accept the responsibilities as a supervisor. When requested by the district, the regional representative will assume responsibility for the district supplies and other operations activities.

In the area of informational activities, he will assist the district with stories and photos for the news media. This work shall be closely coordinated with the state office. Further, assisting with district affiliate member and “Man of the Year” programs will be necessary. The representative must also maintain communications and a close working relationship with state and federal agencies and other groups working with and through districts and keep them informed of district programs and objectives. This will include watershed associations and RC&D Councils.

The Regional Representative should check with the NRCS Area Conservationist and Designated District Conservationist on a regular basis as necessary on activities and plans relating to districts. The representative will then present programs to civic clubs and organized groups on the work of districts and help GACDS with its programs and activities. This includes annual meetings, summer groups meetings and other Associations meetings.

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
DATE OF FORMATION

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>CHARTER ISSUED</u>
Coosa River.....	9-13-37
Broad River.....	10-21-37
Upper Chattahoochee River.....	1-12-38
Ocmulgee River.....	2-10-38
Piedmont.....	4-28-38
Oconee River.....	6-07-38
Upper Ocmulgee River.....	6-24-38
West Georgia.....	7-13-38
Brier Creek.....	11-07-38
Little River (no longer exists—See below).....	11-07-38
Middle South Georgia.....	3-16-39
Limestone Valley.....	5-12-39
Lower Chattahoochee River.....	7-17-39
Pine Mountain.....	7-17-39
Flint River.....	8-12-39
Ohoopee River.....	8-12-39
Central Georgia.....	2-17-40
Towaliga.....	6-11-40
Ogeechee River.....	7-12-40
Satilla River.....	5-12-42
Alapaha.....	11-10-43
Atlanta (no longer exists—See below).....	2-05-45
Altamaha.....	2-08-05
Coastal.....	2-14-45
Lincoln County.....	12-22-48
Catoosa County.....	10-03-51
Blue Ridge Mountain.....	10-19-51
Walton County.....	8-12-77
*Columbia County.....	10-31-79
*McDuffie County.....	10-31-79
*Warren County.....	10-31-79
Roosevelt.....	1-23-80
**Cobb County.....	5-09-80
**DeKalb County.....	5-09-80
**Fulton County.....	5-09-80
Gwinnett County.....	8-15-80
Lamar County.....	3-06-81
Henry County.....	9-11-81
Rockdale County.....	9-11-81
Clayton County.....	12-21-81
Stephens County.....	4-19-82 Hall
County.....	3-18-83

*Comprised the former Little River District 1938-1979.

** Comprised the former Atlanta District 1945-1980.

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*** Current through the 2008 Regular Session ***

TITLE 2. AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 6. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
ARTICLE 2. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

O.C.G.A. § 2-6-22 (2008)

§ 2-6-22. Definitions

As used in this article, the term:

(1) "Commission" or "State Soil and Water Conservation Commission" means the agency created in Code Section 2-6-23.

(2) "District" or "soil and water conservation district" means an agency of this state organized in accordance with this article for the purposes, with the powers, and subject to the restrictions set forth in this article.

(3) "Due notice" means notice published at least twice, with an interval of at least seven days between the two publication dates, in a newspaper or other publication of general circulation within the appropriate area or, if no such publication of general circulation is available, notice given by posting at a reasonable number of conspicuous places within the appropriate area, including, where possible, public places where it is customary to post notices concerning county or municipal affairs generally. At any hearing held pursuant to such notice, at the time and place designated in such notice, adjournment may be made from time to time without the necessity of renewing such notice for such adjourned dates.

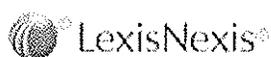
(4) "Land occupier" or "occupier of land" means any person, firm, or corporation, other than the owner, who is in possession of any lands lying within a soil and water conservation district, whether as lessee, renter, tenant, or otherwise.

(5) "Landowner" or "owner of land" means any person, firm, or corporation who holds legal or equitable title to any lands lying within a soil and water conservation district.

(6) "Qualified elector" means any person qualified to vote in elections by the people under the Constitution of this state.

(7) "Supervisor" means one of the members of the governing body of a soil and water conservation district, elected or appointed in accordance with this article.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 3; Ga. L. 1962, p. 116, §§ 2, 3; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 1.



O.C.G.A. § 2-6-23

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*** Current through the 2008 Regular Session ***

TITLE 2. AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 6. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
ARTICLE 2. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

O.C.G.A. § 2-6-23 (2008)

§ 2-6-23. State Soil and Water Conservation Commission -- Established; composition; terms of office; ex officio advisers; seal; rules and regulations

(a) There is established, to serve as an agency of the state and to perform the functions conferred upon it in this article, the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

(b) Five district soil and water conservation supervisors, who shall be appointed by the Governor as provided in this Code section, shall serve as members of the commission. Commencing with appointments for the year 1977, the Governor shall appoint to the commission one supervisor from each of the five Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors' groups. Such initial appointments were for terms of office of one, two, three, four, and five years, respectively. Thereafter, successors shall be appointed for terms of office of five years and until their successors are duly appointed.

(c) The following persons shall serve ex officio in an advisory capacity to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission:

(1) The director of the Cooperative Extension Service;

(2) The commissioner of natural resources;

(3) The director of experiment stations of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia;

(4) The executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service;

(5) The Georgia state director of the Farmer's Home Administration;

(6) The director of the Southern Piedmont Conservation Research Center;

(7) The president of the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors;

(8) The director of the State Forestry Commission;

(9) The Georgia supervisor of national forests of the U.S. Forestry Service;

(10) The state conservationist of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service;

(11) The dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia;

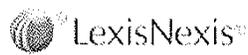
(12) The state supervisor of agricultural education in this state;

(13) The Commissioner of Agriculture; and

(14) Such other representatives of state or federal agencies as the commission deems desirable.

(d) The commission shall adopt a seal, which shall be judicially noticed. It may perform such acts, hold such public hearings, and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the execution of its functions under this article.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 4; Ga. L. 1945, p. 190, § 2; Ga. L. 1949, p. 584, § 1; Ga. L. 1962, p. 116, § 2; Ga. L. 1973, p. 929, § 1; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 2; Ga. L. 1995, p. 10, § 2.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-24

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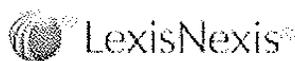
TITLE 2. AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 6. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
ARTICLE 2. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

O.C.G.A. § 2-6-24 (2008)

§ 2-6-24. State Soil and Water Conservation Commission -- Chairperson; quorum; compensation; surety bonds; records; audits

The commission shall designate one of its members as chairperson and may, from time to time, change such designation. A member of the commission shall hold office so long as he or she retains the office by virtue of which he or she is serving on the commission. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of a majority shall be required for the determination of any matter within its duties. The members of the commission shall receive for each day of actual attendance of meetings of the commission a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 and shall be entitled to expenses, including traveling expenses, necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties on the commission. The commission shall provide for the execution of surety bonds for all employees and officers who are entrusted with funds or property. It shall provide for the keeping of a full and accurate record of all proceedings and of all resolutions, regulations, and orders issued or adopted and shall provide for an annual audit of the accounts of receipts and disbursements.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 4; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 3; Ga. L. 2002, p. 951, § 1.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-25 (2008)

§ 2-6-25. State Soil and Water Conservation Commission -- Employment of administrative officer, experts, agents, and employees; legal services; delegation of powers and duties; furnishing of information; agency cooperation

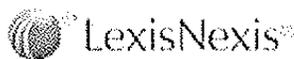
The commission may employ an administrative officer and such technical experts and other agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as it may require. It shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation. The commission may call upon the Attorney General of this state for such legal services as it may require. It shall have authority to delegate, to one or more of its members or to one or more agents or employees, such powers and duties as it may deem proper. The commission is authorized to furnish information and to call upon any or all state or local agencies for cooperation in carrying out this article.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 4; Ga. L. 1975, p. 724, § 1; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 4.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-26 (2008)

§ 2-6-26. State Soil and Water Conservation Commission -- Merit and retirement systems for employees

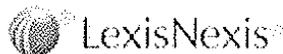
All employees of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, not including members of the commission, shall be subject to a merit system of employment as promulgated by the commission, under which all such employees shall be selected on a basis of merit, fitness, and efficiency, according to law. All such employees are authorized to become and be members of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, as established by Chapter 2 of Title 47. There shall be paid from the funds appropriated for the operation of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission all employer contributions required by Chapter 2 of Title 47 creating the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia. All rights, credits, and funds in such retirement system which were possessed by persons at the time of their employment by the commission are continued and preserved, it being the intention of the General Assembly that such persons shall not lose any rights, credits, or funds to which they may be entitled prior to becoming employees of the commission.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1973, p. 908, § 1; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 5.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-27 (2008)

§ 2-6-27. State Soil and Water Conservation Commission -- Additional duties and powers

In addition to the duties and powers otherwise conferred upon the commission, it shall have the following duties and powers:

(1) To offer such assistance as may be appropriate to the supervisors of the soil and water conservation districts in the carrying out of any of their powers and programs;

(2) To keep the supervisors of each of the districts informed of the activities and experiences of all the other districts and to facilitate an interchange of advice, experience, and cooperation between such districts;

(3) To coordinate the programs of the districts so far as this may be done by advice and consultation;

(4) To secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States and any of its agencies and of the agencies and counties of this state in the work of such districts;

(5) To disseminate information throughout this state concerning the activities and programs of the districts and to encourage the formation of such districts in areas where their organization is desirable;

(6) To receive gifts, appropriations, materials, equipment, land, and facilities and to manage, operate, and disperse the same;

(7) To formulate such rules and regulations, to exercise such powers, and to perform such duties as are necessary to implement the administration of the federal Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act;

(7.1) To formulate such rules and regulations in consultation with the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, to exercise such powers, and to perform such duties as are necessary to implement the administration of the education and training program established under Code Section 12-7-19;

(7.2) To formulate such rules and regulations and to exercise such powers as are necessary to perform its duties under subsection (m.1) of Code Section 12-5-31 and subsection (b.1) of Code Section 12-5-105;

(8) To enter into contracts and agreements with the districts, municipalities, and counties of this state, other agencies of this state, the United States and any agencies thereof, any association, any landowner or land occupier, or any person in order to carry out the purposes

of this article; and

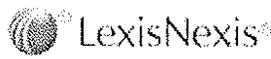
(9) To receive grants from any agency of the United States government or any agency of this state, and to make grants to districts, municipalities, or counties in this state, or other state agencies in order to:

(A) Fund up to 20 percent of the cost of obtaining permits for and constructing improvements to any dam that was originally constructed or financially assisted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture;

(B) Fund up to 40 percent of the cost of obtaining a permit under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. Section 1344, for the construction of any new public water supply reservoir. In awarding any grants under this subparagraph, the commission shall consider regional effects and water supply yield of the proposed reservoir, anticipated population growth, and local government funding commitment; or

(C) Carry out other purposes of this article.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 4; Ga. L. 1949, p. 584, § 2; Ga. L. 1955, p. 257, § 1; Ga. L. 1962, p. 116, § 3; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 6; Ga. L. 1988, p. 1336, § 1; Ga. L. 2003, p. 224, § 1; Ga. L. 2003, p. 813, § 1; Ga. L. 2008, p. 644, § 1-2/SB 342.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-28 (2008)

§ 2-6-28. (For effective date, see note.) Number and boundaries of soil and water conservation districts; alteration of existing districts or formation of new districts

(a) The number and geographical boundaries of the several soil and water conservation districts shall remain as they existed on July 1, 1973, unless changed as provided in this Code section.

(b) (For effective date, see note.) If two-thirds of the supervisors within each of the affected districts, each of the governing authorities of each county within any affected district, and the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission agree to the alteration of any district or the formation of any new district, the alteration or formation may be effected if all such approvals are filed with the commission along with the description of the altered boundaries or the boundaries of the new districts. The alteration of existing districts or formation of new districts may not be effected so that the boundaries of any such district will traverse the boundaries of any regional commission within the district or districts. All of the property and assets of any altered district shall be distributed among the affected districts in accordance to the same ratio used in the distribution of state appropriated funds to the affected districts.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 5; Ga. L. 1973, p. 929, § 2; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 7; Ga. L. 1989, p. 1317, § 6.1; Ga. L. 2008, p. 181, § 11/HB 1216.



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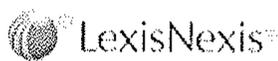
O.C.G.A. § 2-6-29 (2008)

§ 2-6-29. District supervisors -- Number; appointment, qualifications, and terms of appointive supervisors; county basis of election of elected supervisors

(a) The governing body of each district shall consist of not less than five supervisors. Two supervisors shall be appointed by the commission, provided that in those districts which contain three or more counties or portions of three or more counties, the commission shall appoint one supervisor for each county in the district. Appointments by the commission shall be made from a list submitted to the commission by the elected supervisors of the district, containing three nominees for each appointive position. The supervisors appointed by the commission shall be persons who are qualified by training and experience to perform the specialized, skilled services which will be required of them in the performance of their duties under this article. Appointed supervisors shall serve for terms of office of two years and until their successors are appointed.

(b) Elected supervisors shall be elected upon a county basis, as provided in Code Section 2-6-30. Not more than one elected supervisor shall be elected from each county within a district, except in districts consisting of less than three counties.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 7; Ga. L. 1949, p. 584, § 5; Ga. L. 1973, p. 929, § 3; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 8.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-30 (2008)

§ 2-6-30. District supervisors -- Election procedure for elected supervisors

(a) Within 30 days after the date of issuance by the Secretary of State of a certificate of organization for a soil and water conservation district, nominating petitions may be filed with the commission to nominate candidates for supervisors of such district. The commission shall have authority to extend the time within which nominating petitions may be filed. No such nominating petition shall be accepted by the commission unless it is subscribed by 25 or more qualified electors of the county in which the nominee resides. Qualified electors may sign more than one such nominating petition to nominate more than one candidate for supervisor.

(b) The commission shall be required to give due notice of an election only in the particular county in which an election is to be held. The ballot for each county shall contain only the names of the nominees from that county and the electors of each county shall be eligible to vote only for the nominees of their particular county. The names of all nominees within the county on behalf of whom nominating petitions have been filed within the time designated shall appear upon the ballots arranged in the alphabetical order of their surnames, with a square before each name and a direction to insert an "X" in the square appearing before the name of the person for whom the elector desires to vote. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the duly elected district supervisor from that county.

(c) The commission shall pay all the expenses of such election, shall supervise the conduct thereof, shall prescribe regulations governing the conduct of such election and the determination of the eligibility of voters therein, and shall publish the results thereof.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 6; Ga. L. 1949, p. 584, § 6; Ga. L. 1950, p. 293, § 1; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 9.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-31 (2008)

§ 2-6-31. District supervisors -- Chairman; terms of office of elected supervisors; filling vacancies; quorum; compensation and expenses

(a) The supervisors shall designate a chairman and from time to time may change such designation.

(b) (1) The term of office of each elected supervisor shall be four years, except as otherwise provided by paragraph (2) of this subsection. An elected supervisor shall hold office until his or her successor has been elected and has qualified. Successors to elected supervisors shall be elected at the general election immediately preceding the expiration of terms and shall take office the first day of January immediately following that election.

(2) (A) The terms of those persons elected as supervisors in 2003 and whose terms have not expired as of the date that implementation of this paragraph is permissible under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, shall expire on December 31, 2008.

(B) The terms of those persons elected as supervisors in 2004 and whose terms have not expired as of the date that implementation of this paragraph is permissible under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, shall expire on December 31, 2008.

(C) The terms of those persons elected as supervisors in 2005 shall expire on December 31, 2010.

(D) The terms of those persons elected as supervisors in 2006 shall expire on December 31, 2010.

(E) If any persons were elected as supervisors on or after January 1, 2007, but prior to the date that implementation of this paragraph is permissible under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, then the terms of such persons shall expire on December 31, 2012.

(c) (1) Any vacancy in the office an appointed supervisor shall be filled for the unexpired term. The selection of any person to fill an unexpired term of an appointed supervisor shall be made in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(2) Any vacancy occurring in the office of an elected supervisor shall be filled as follows:

(A) If the vacancy occurs more than 90 days prior to the date of a general election preceding the general election at which a successor will be elected to a new full term of office, then such vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term of office at a special election to be held on the same date as said general election preceding the general election at which a successor will be elected to a new full term of office; and in such case the Governor shall

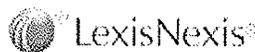
select a qualified person from among two persons nominated by the remaining supervisors of the district to fill the vacancy until the person elected at such special election takes office; and

(B) If the vacancy does not occur more than 90 days prior to the date of a general election preceding the general election at which a successor will be elected to a new full term of office, then the Governor shall select a qualified person from among two persons nominated by the remaining supervisors of the district to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

(d) A majority of the supervisors shall constitute a quorum; and the concurrence of a majority of the supervisors in any matter within their duties shall be required for its determination.

(e) The commission is authorized to fix a per diem payment for supervisors; in addition thereto, such supervisors shall be entitled to the regular mileage allowances provided for state employees if such supervisors travel by private conveyance and to their actual travel expenses if they travel by public conveyance.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 7; Ga. L. 1951, p. 695, § 1; Ga. L. 1973, p. 929, § 3; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 10; Ga. L. 2007, p. 276, § 1/SB 263.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-32 (2008)

§ 2-6-32. District supervisors -- Services of county agricultural agents; employees and agents; copies of rules, orders, and other documents; surety bonds; removal of supervisor; consultation

(a) The supervisors of a district may utilize the services of the county agricultural agents and the facilities of the county agricultural agents' offices insofar as practicable and feasible. With the approval of the commission they may employ additional employees and agents, permanent and temporary, as they may require and may determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation. The supervisors may delegate to their chairman, to one or more supervisors, or to one or more agents or employees such powers and duties as they may deem proper.

(b) The supervisors shall furnish to the commission, upon request, copies of such rules, regulations, orders, contracts, forms, and other documents as they shall adopt or employ and such other information concerning their activities as the commission may require in the performance of its duties under this article.

(c) The supervisors shall provide for the execution of surety bonds for all employees and officers who are entrusted with funds or property. They shall provide for the keeping of a full and accurate record of all proceedings and of all resolutions, regulations, and orders issued or adopted and shall provide to the commission summary financial data listing cash receipts and disbursements for each state fiscal year.

(d) Any supervisor may be removed by the commission, upon notice and hearing, for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason.

(e) The supervisors of a district may invite the legislative body of any municipality or county located near the territory comprised within the district to designate a representative to advise and consult with the supervisors on all questions of program and policy which may affect the property, water supply, or other interests of such municipality or county.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 7; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 11; Ga. L. 1998, p. 206, § 1.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-33 (2008)

§ 2-6-33. Powers of districts and supervisors; prerequisites to exercise

A soil and water conservation district shall be an agency of this state. Such district and the supervisors thereof shall have, in addition to other powers granted in this article, the following powers; provided, however, that before the supervisors shall have the authority to exercise any of the powers conferred in this Code section, they shall formulate and submit to the commission for its approval a program or programs of projects and operations, proposed changes in which may be submitted for the approval of the commission from time to time, and shall not undertake any of such work until after such program or programs shall have been approved in writing by the commission; and provided, further, that no provision with respect to the acquisition, operation, or disposition of property by public bodies of this state shall be applicable to a district unless the General Assembly shall specifically so state:

(1) To conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the character of soil erosion and the preventive and control measures needed; to publish the results of such surveys, investigations, or research; and to disseminate information concerning such preventive and control measures, provided that in order to avoid duplication of research activities, no district shall initiate any research program except in cooperation with the government of this state or any of its agencies or with the government of the United States or any of its agencies;

(2) To conduct demonstrational projects within the district on lands owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on any other lands within the district, upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupiers of such lands or the necessary rights or interests in such lands, in order to demonstrate by example the means, methods, and measures by which soil and soil resources may be conserved and soil erosion in the form of soil blowing and soil washing may be prevented and controlled;

(3) To carry out preventive and control measures within the district, including, but not limited to, engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, changes in the use of land, and the measures listed in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 2-6-21, on lands owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on any other lands within the district, upon obtaining the consent of the owner and the occupiers of such lands or the necessary rights or interests in such lands;

(4) To cooperate and enter into agreements with and, within the limits of appropriations duly made available to the district by law, to furnish financial or other aid to any agency, governmental or otherwise, or any owner or occupier of lands within the district, in the carrying on of erosion control or prevention operations within the district, subject to such

O.C.G.A. § 2-6-34

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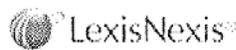
O.C.G.A. § 2-6-34 (2008)

§ 2-6-34. Conditions to extending benefits or performing work

As a condition to the extending of any benefits under this article to or the performance of any work upon any lands not owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, the supervisors of a district may require contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise to any operations conferring such benefits and may require landowners and occupiers of land to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion thereon.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 8.

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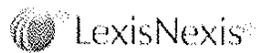
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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-35 (2008)

§ 2-6-35. Land use regulations -- Adoption authorized; public hearings

The supervisors of each district shall have authority to formulate regulations governing the use of lands within the district, in the interest of conserving soil and soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. The supervisors may conduct such public meetings and public hearings upon proposed regulations as may be necessary to assist them in this work.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 9.



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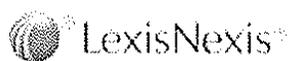
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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-36 (2008)

§ 2-6-36. Land use regulations -- Referendum

(a) The supervisors shall not have the authority to adopt land use regulations until after they shall have caused due notice to be given of their intention to conduct a referendum for submission of such regulations to the owners of lands lying within the boundaries of the district, for their indication of approval or disapproval of such proposed regulations, and until after the supervisors have considered the result of such referendum. No proposed regulations shall be submitted in a referendum until after they have been submitted to and approved in writing by the commission. Copies of such proposed regulations shall be available for the inspection of all eligible voters during the period between the publication of the notice and the date of the referendum. The notice of the referendum shall recite the contents of the proposed regulations or shall state where copies of such proposed regulations may be examined.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 9; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 13.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-37 (2008)

§ 2-6-37. Land use regulations -- Provisions authorized; uniformity required; availability of copies

(a) The regulations to be adopted by the supervisors under this article may include:

(1) Provisions requiring the carrying out of necessary engineering operations, including the construction of terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, dikes, ponds, ditches, and other necessary structures, having due regard to the legislative findings set forth in Code Section 2-6-21;

(2) Provisions requiring the observance of particular methods of cultivation, including: contour cultivating; contour furrowing; lister furrowing; sowing; planting; strip cropping, changes in cropping systems, seeding, and planting of lands to water-conserving and erosion-preventing plants, trees, and grasses; forestation; and reforestation; having due regard to the legislative findings set forth in Code Section 2-6-21; and

(3) Provisions requiring the retirement from cultivation of highly erosive areas or of areas on which erosion may not be adequately controlled if cultivation is carried on, having due regard to the legislative findings set forth in Code Section 2-6-21.

(b) The regulations shall be uniform throughout the territory within the district, provided that the supervisors may classify the lands within the district with reference to such factors as soil type, degree of slope, degree of erosion threatened or existing, cropping and tillage practices in use, and other relevant factors and may provide regulations varying with the type or class of land affected but uniform as to all lands within each class or type.

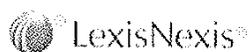
(c) Copies of land use regulations adopted under this article shall be printed and made available to all owners and occupiers of lands lying within the district.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 9.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-38 (2008)

§ 2-6-38. Land use regulations -- Binding effect

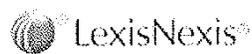
Land use regulations adopted pursuant to Code Sections 2-6-35 and 2-6-36 by the supervisors of any district shall be binding and obligatory upon all owners and occupiers of land within such districts.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 9.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-39

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*** Current through the 2008 Regular Session ***

TITLE 2. AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 6. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
ARTICLE 2. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

O.C.G.A. § 2-6-39 (2008)

§ 2-6-39. Land use regulations -- Inspections to determine observance; petition; judicial proceedings; costs and expenses

(a) The supervisors shall have authority to go upon any lands within the district to determine whether land use regulations adopted under this article are being observed.

(b) Where the supervisors of any district find that any of the provisions of land use regulations adopted in accordance with this article are not being observed on particular lands and that such nonobservance tends to increase erosion on such lands and is interfering with the prevention or control of erosion on other lands within the district, the supervisors may present a petition to the superior court of the county or counties within which the lands of the defendant lie. The petition shall set forth the adoption of the land use regulations, the failure of the defendant landowner or occupier of the land to observe such regulations and to perform particular work, operations, or avoidances as required thereby, and that such nonobservance tends to increase erosion on such lands and is interfering with the prevention or control of erosion on other lands within the district. It shall ask the court to require the defendant to perform the work, operations, or avoidances within a reasonable time and to order that if the defendant fails to do so, the supervisors may go on the land, perform the work or other operations or otherwise bring the condition of the land into conformity with the requirements of such regulations, and recover the costs and expenses thereof, with interest, from the owner or occupier of such land.

(c) Upon the presentation of the petition, the court shall cause process to be issued against the defendant and shall hear the case. If it appears to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, it may take evidence or appoint a referee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same to the court with his findings of fact and conclusions of law, which report shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court shall be made. The court may dismiss the petition or it may require the defendant to perform the work, operations, or avoidances and may provide that upon the failure of the defendant to initiate such performance within the time specified in the order of the court and to prosecute the same to completion with reasonable diligence, the supervisors may enter upon the land involved, perform the work or operations or otherwise bring the conditions of the land into conformity with the requirements of the regulations, and recover the costs and expenses thereof, with interest at the rate of 5 percent per annum, from the owner or occupier of such land.

(d) The court shall retain jurisdiction of the case until after the work has been completed. Upon completion of the work by the supervisors pursuant to the order of the court, the supervisors may file a petition with the court, a copy of which shall be served upon the defendant in the case, stating the costs and expenses sustained by them in the performance of the work and seeking judgment therefor with interest. The court shall have jurisdiction to

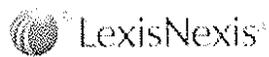
enter judgment for the amount of such costs and expenses, with interest at the rate of 5 percent per annum until paid, together with the costs of the action, including a reasonable attorney's fee to be fixed by the court.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 10.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-40 (2008)

§ 2-6-40. Land use regulations -- Amendment or repeal

(a) Any owner of land within a district may at any time file a petition with the supervisors asking that any or all of the land use regulations adopted by the supervisors under Code Sections 2-6-35 and 2-6-36 be amended, supplemented, or repealed.

(b) Such land use regulations shall not be amended, supplemented, or repealed except in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Code Section 2-6-36 for adoption of land use regulations.

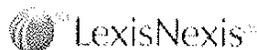
(c) Referenda on adoption, amendment, supplementation, or repeal of land use regulations shall not be held more often than once in six months.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 9.

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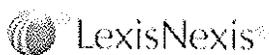
O.C.G.A. § 2-6-41 (2008)

§ 2-6-41. Right of eminent domain for small watershed project; conditions precedent; procedure

(a) When a small watershed project is instituted under the sponsorship of a duly constituted district alone or under cosponsorship with any political subdivision of this state and is approved by the state and federal governments for construction thereof, and when, as a condition precedent to the exercise of the rights conferred in this Code section, 90 percent or more of the separate property owners have gratuitously given in writing and delivered to such district the necessary easements and land rights, for the purpose of the small watershed project, and when the governing board of the district finds that it cannot acquire by voluntary contract the remaining necessary easements and land rights, the sponsoring district, upon such showing incorporated in a condemnation proceeding, is granted the right of eminent domain for the purpose of acquiring the remaining necessary easements and land rights to enable it to accomplish the completion of the small watershed project.

(b) Upon compliance with the conditions precedent set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section, a district may proceed to condemn such land in accordance with the procedure set forth by Code Sections 22-2-130 through 22-2-142 and other pertinent eminent domain statutes to acquire the remaining easements and land rights necessary. In any such proceeding, the condemnor shall be required to condemn the fee simple title to all land not otherwise acquired which will be covered by permanent ponding or permanent flooding. The condemnor shall tender to the condemnee the full sum awarded in the condemnation proceedings or shall pay the same into court, in the event of the refusal of the condemnee to accept the same, before entering upon, occupying, or subjecting to its use, by flooding or otherwise, any part of the lands or rights in land sought to be condemned.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1960, p. 973, §§ 1, 2.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-42 (2008)

§ 2-6-42. Cooperation between districts

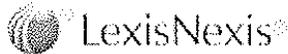
The supervisors of any two or more districts may cooperate with one another in the exercise of any or all powers conferred in this article.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 11.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-43 (2008)

§ 2-6-43. State agencies to cooperate with districts and observe land use regulations

Agencies of this state which have jurisdiction over or are charged with the administration of any state-owned lands lying within the boundaries of any district and agencies of any county or other governmental subdivision of the state which have jurisdiction over or are charged with the administration of any county-owned or other publicly owned lands lying within the boundaries of any such district shall cooperate to the fullest extent with the supervisors of such districts in the effectuation of programs and operations undertaken by the supervisors under this article. The supervisors of such districts shall be given free access to enter and perform work upon such publicly owned lands. The provisions of land use regulations adopted pursuant to Code Sections 2-6-35 through 2-6-38 shall be in all respects observed by the agencies administering such publicly owned lands.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 12.



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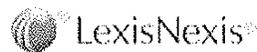
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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-44 (2008)

§ 2-6-44. Exemption from taxation

The property and property rights of every kind and nature acquired in the name of the State of Georgia by any district shall be exempt from state, county, and other taxation.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 8.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-45 (2008)

§ 2-6-45. Discontinuance of district -- Petition of landowners; hearings

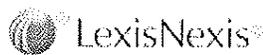
Following the expiration of five years from the organization of a district, any 25 owners of land lying within the boundaries of such district may file a petition with the commission seeking to have the operations of the district terminated and the existence of the district discontinued. The commission may conduct such public meetings and public hearings upon the petition as may be necessary to assist it in the consideration thereof.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 13; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 14.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-46 (2008)

§ 2-6-46. Discontinuance of district -- Referendum

(a) Within 60 days after a petition has been received by the commission, it shall hold a referendum on the issue. The commission shall give due notice of the holding of the referendum, shall supervise such referendum, and shall issue appropriate regulations governing the conduct thereof. The question shall be submitted by ballots, upon which the words:

YES Shall the existence of the (name of
 NO district) be terminated?"

shall appear, with directions that all persons desiring to vote for termination of the district shall vote "Yes" and all persons desiring to vote against termination of the district shall vote "No."

(b) All owners of lands lying within the boundaries of the district, and only such landowners, shall be eligible to vote in the referendum.

(c) No informalities in the conduct of the referendum or in any matters relating thereto shall invalidate the referendum or the result thereof, if notice thereof was given substantially as provided in this Code section and if the referendum was conducted fairly.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 13; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 15.



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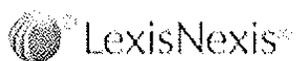
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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-47 (2008)

§ 2-6-47. Discontinuance of district -- Publication of referendum results; determination of feasibility of continuance

The commission shall publish the result of the referendum. It shall consider and determine whether the continued operation of the district within the defined boundaries is administratively practicable and feasible. If the commission determines that the continued operation of such district is administratively practicable and feasible, it shall record such determination and deny the petition; provided, however, that the commission shall not have the authority to determine that the continued operation of the district is administratively practicable and feasible unless at least a majority of the votes cast in the referendum were cast in favor of the continuance of such district. If the commission determines that the continued operation of such district is not administratively practicable and feasible, it shall record such determination and shall certify such determination to the supervisors of the district. In making its determination, the commission shall give due regard and weight to the attitudes of the owners and occupiers of lands lying within the district, the number of landowners eligible to vote in such referendum who voted, the proportion of the votes cast in such referendum in favor of the discontinuance of the district to the total number of votes cast, the approximate wealth and income of the landowners and occupiers of land of the district, the probable expense of carrying on erosion control operations within such district, and such other economic and social factors as may be relevant to such determination, having due regard to the legislative findings set forth in Code Section 2-6-21.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 13; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 16.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-48 (2008)

§ 2-6-48. Discontinuance of district -- Certification from committee; termination of affairs; application for dissolution; certificate of dissolution

(a) Upon receipt from the commission of a certification that the commission has determined that the continued operation of the district is not administratively practicable and feasible, the supervisors shall proceed forthwith to terminate the affairs of the district. The supervisors shall dispose of all property belonging to the district at public auction and shall pay the proceeds of such sale into the state treasury.

(b) The supervisors shall thereupon file an application, duly verified, with the Secretary of State for the discontinuance of such district and shall transmit with such application the certificate of the commission setting forth the determination of the commission that the continued operation of such district is not administratively practicable and feasible. The application shall recite that the property of the district has been disposed of and that the proceeds were paid as provided in this Code section and shall set forth a full accounting of such properties and of the proceeds of the sale.

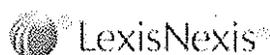
(c) The Secretary of State shall issue a certificate of dissolution to the supervisors and shall record such certificate in an appropriate book of record in his office.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 13; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 17.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-49 (2008)

§ 2-6-49. Discontinuance of district -- Effect of dissolution

(a) Upon issuance of a certificate of dissolution under Code Section 2-6-48, all land use regulations theretofore adopted by a district and in force therein shall be of no further force and effect.

(b) All contracts entered into prior to the dissolution of a district, to which the district or supervisors are parties, shall remain in force and effect for the period provided in such contracts. The commission shall be substituted for the district or supervisors as party to such contracts. The commission shall be entitled to all benefits and subject to all liabilities under such contracts and shall have the same rights and liability to perform, to require performance, and to modify or terminate such contracts by mutual consent or otherwise as the supervisors of the district would have had.

(c) Such dissolution shall not affect the lien of any judgment entered under Code Section 2-6-39 nor the pendency of any action instituted under such Code section. The commission shall succeed to all the rights and obligations of the district or supervisors as to such liens and actions.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 13; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 18.

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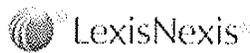
O.C.G.A. § 2-6-50 (2008)

§ 2-6-50. Discontinuance of district -- Frequency of discontinuance attempts

The commission shall not be required to entertain petitions for the discontinuance of any district, to conduct referenda upon such petitions, or to make determinations pursuant to such petitions more often than once in five years.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 377, § 13; Ga. L. 1988, p. 269, § 19.

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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-51 (2008)

§ 2-6-51. District not liable for loss, damage, injury, or death

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no district shall have any liability for loss, damage, injury, or death resulting from the location of structures or dwellings on state owned or controlled property in violation of properly recorded easements when all legal recourse to remove such structures or dwellings has been exhausted and property rights in favor of the person infringing upon the easement have been upheld on a final judgment with no appeal or review pending. The provisions of this section shall only apply to soil and water conservation districts and their easements.

HISTORY: Code 1981, § 2-6-51, enacted by Ga. L. 2000, p. 420, § 1.



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O.C.G.A. § 2-6-52 (2008)

§ 2-6-52. Creation of Agricultural Water Conservation Incentive Program; purpose; participation; funding

(a) There is created the Agricultural Water Conservation Incentive Program. The program shall be developed, implemented, and supervised by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

(b) The purpose of the program shall be to provide incentives to agricultural producers to foster water conservation and enhance water quality.

(c) Participation in the program shall be voluntary.

(d) The program shall include all 159 counties and 40 soil and water conservation districts.

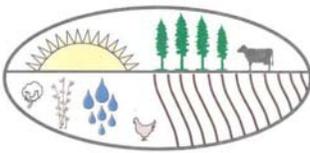
(e) Priority designations for inclusion in the program shall be under the authority of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

(f) Areas shall be included in the program as the funds are appropriated and the technical assistance becomes available from the local soil and water conservation district or the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

(g) Funding may be provided to assist practices including but not limited to diversions, filter strips, fencing along streams, field borders, alternative watering systems, critical area plantings, grassed waterways, terraces, surface-water retention structures, heavy-use areas, closures of farm animal manure lagoons, riparian buffers or equivalent controls, animal manure waste systems and application, manure stack houses and other manure-holding structures, irrigation system enhancements, and other projects that foster water conservation and enhance water quality.

(h) Priority designation for inclusion in this program for state funding shall be given to projects that foster water conservation and enhance water quality. To be eligible for cost share funds under this Code section, a project shall be evaluated before funding is awarded and after the project is completed to determine the impact on water quality.

HISTORY: Code 1981, § 2-6-52, enacted by Ga. L. 2004, p. 341, § 1.



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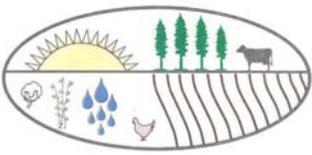
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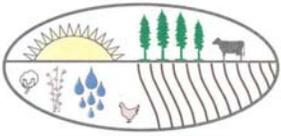
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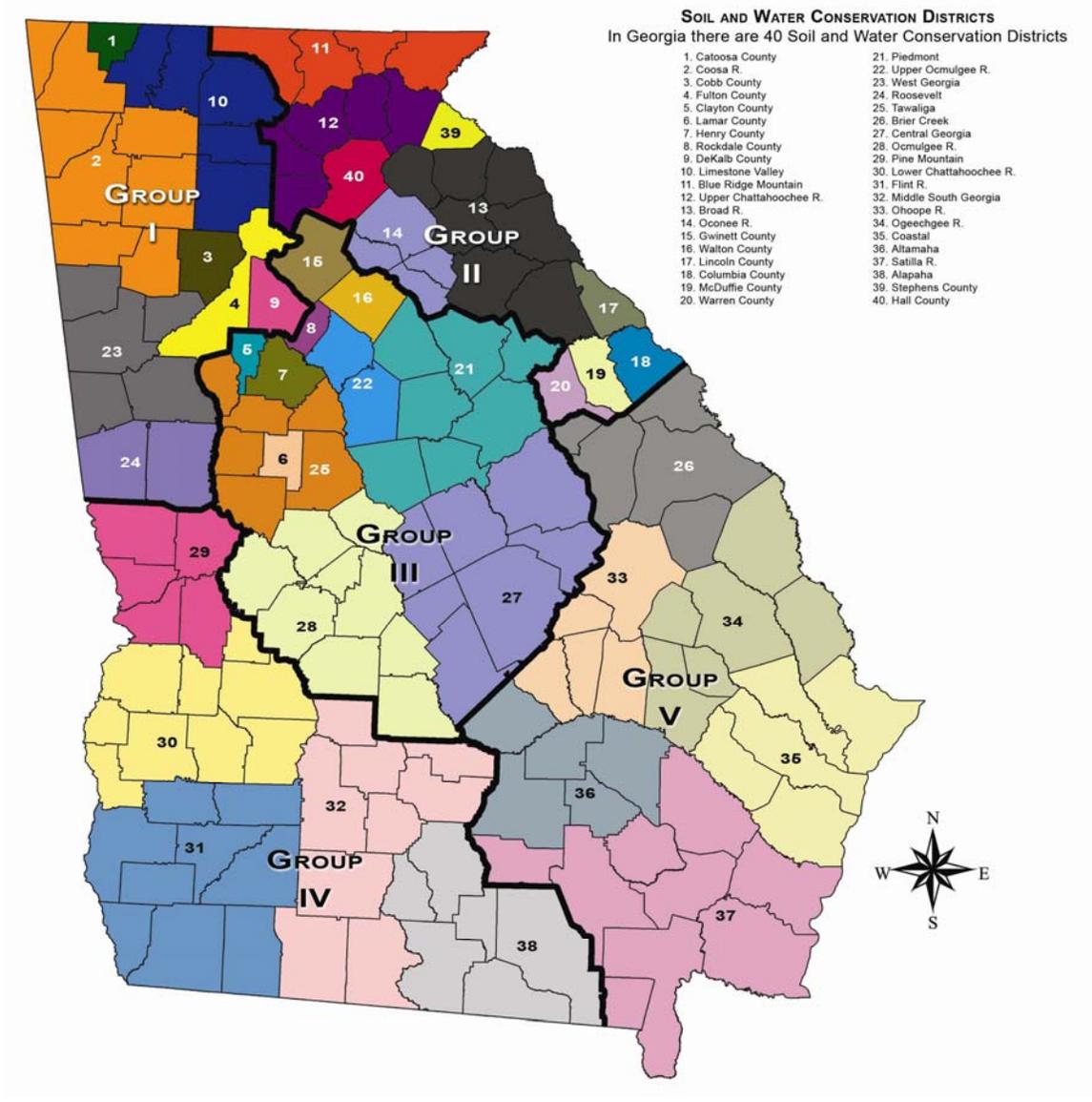
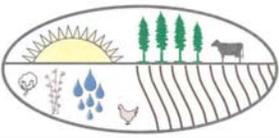
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2008 Annual Report

Working Together *for a* Better Tomorrow

National Association of Conservation Districts



conserving
natural resources
for our future



Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Conservationists,

As I complete my single-year term as NACD President, I would like to reflect on our accomplishments. The last twelve months have been a whirlwind of activity. NACD has improved as an organization and continued our efforts to make every dollar count.

We gave our communication tools a needed boost, launching a new print publication titled *The Resource*, publishing a new brochure, and redesigning *eNotes*, *Forestry Notes* and our traveling display. We expanded our reach through strengthened media relations and an exciting partnership with the Smithsonian and the Soil Science Society of America on the *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* exhibit.

Continuing our renewed emphasis on member services, NACD provided new and updated capacity building materials, expanded the NACD marketplace and developed partnerships resulting in increased opportunities for conservation districts.

On the policy front, after three years of hard work, the 111th Congress passed the Farm Bill in June. It was a victory for conservation, providing a \$4 billion increase in funds for conservation programs for the next five years. The NACD Board also adopted policy on climate change and program administration, among other issues.

Another major accomplishment of 2008 was the NACD headquarters renovation in Washington, D.C. The renovations were completed in September, and we have raised just over half of the funds to pay for the project through the 509 Capitol Court Campaign and Renovation Ride.

It has been a successful year. As we look ahead, it is appropriate to remember the reason conservation leaders founded NACD more than sixty years ago. Our predecessors had the wisdom to know that to make a difference nationwide, conservation districts had to come together, focus their efforts and speak with one voice.

Without support of our members, NACD could not accomplish all that we do. We must continue to look ahead and stay true to our mission. There is still much to be done, and our job will never be complete. As we continue to tackle our nation's natural resource challenges, remember that when we work together toward a common goal, our results are much stronger.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your president.

Sincerely,

John Redding
2008 NACD President

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Letter from the CEO

Dear friends and members,

2008...what a year in the life of NACD. It was filled with many mixed emotions ranging from deep sorrow for the loss of our leader and friend Olin Sims to relief in finishing the Farm Bill to pure excitement from renovating our headquarters building.

The year brought changes and improvements that make the Association stronger and more viable. NACD made significant improvements to our board structure by establishing five Foundation Committees that serve as the sounding board for input and discussion on major issues impacting the association. This change allows for more involvement and investment in decisions by the Board of Directors and for more opportunities for leadership development.

Another accomplishment I am especially proud of is NACD's newly-launched communication tool, *The Resource*. The publication presents a dynamic and attractive view of the Association's work and activities of our member districts.

Through all of the decisions, challenges and emotions, NACD remains steady and constant because of the strength and power of conservation districts. The work that is accomplished at the local level provides the foundation and direction for NACD, no matter the issue, problem or opportunity.

NACD was established to help conservation districts work collectively to accomplish what they could not as individual districts. I believe the results of 2008 prove that original objective is still very much a reality today.

Sincerely,

Krysta Harden
NACD Chief Executive Officer

NACD Overview

For more than 60 years, conservation district leaders have shared the philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level by local people who have the best understanding of the area's natural resource needs. In order to shape the national view and policies regarding natural resource conservation, conservation district leaders founded the National Association of Conservation Districts to represent districts' interests on a national level and act as their voice in Washington, D.C.

NACD currently represents nearly 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 district officials that serve on their governing boards. Local leaders from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and major U.S. territories guide and govern the Association. NACD's member districts help local

communities protect and conserve America's land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. The locally-led work of conservation districts directly results in clean air, clean water, healthy habitat and productive soil.

For decades, NACD has diligently carried out its mission to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation. As a national voice for conservation districts, NACD supports a voluntary, incentive-driven natural resource conservation approach that benefits all citizens.

Working together, we achieve greater results than we could ever realize individually.

2008 NACD Activities and

Communications and Public Relations

Recognizing the importance of a clear and consistent message, NACD strived to improve outreach tools and expand its reach in 2008. Key efforts included:

- Launched a new content-packed, attractive quarterly publication titled *The Resource* to convey conservation news and district and NACD activities to our members and partners;
- Published new outreach tools, including a generic brochure; stand-alone, issue-specific pamphlets in every issue of *The Resource*; and an NACD display for expos and trade shows;
- Provided timely and relevant information to our member districts and partners through the NACD website, publications and numerous media releases;
- Redesigned *eNotes* and *Forestry Notes* newsletters, giving the publications a fresh new look and catering to audience needs;
- Expanded and strengthened relationships with members of the media, resulting in increased coverage of NACD priorities and activities; and
- Partnered with Smithsonian and the Soil Science Society of America on an exhibit themed *DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil* at the National Museum of Natural History and developed corresponding education materials.

Member Services

NACD continued to meet member needs in 2008, seeking and responding to member input through improved tools and opportunities. Highlights include:

- Provided new and updated capacity building materials for conservation district and state association use through presentations, publications and the NACD website;
- Continued participation with Conservation Partnership Information Technology Task Force to assist conservation districts with computer purchases, access to USDA secure information system and implementing security measures;
- Expanded NACD Marketplace (www.nacdstore.org) to include new education materials, awards, promotional items and Cabela's wearables;
- Organized Urban and Community Technical Team to work on broadening information for districts' work in urban areas;
- Facilitated an eight-state NACD Missouri River Team to represent districts in the River Basin and provide a voice in related federal initiatives;
- Established task force on District Employees Urban and Community Conservation Training/Certification to enhance district professionalism and recognition with nontraditional audiences;
- Produced and distributed a new NACD publication titled *Our Land, Our Water*, showcasing 25 district-led initiatives;
- Represented districts in the Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition and Green Infrastructure Community of Practice to increase members' visibility and resources in developing areas;
- Communicated directly with members through state conference calls to answer questions about NACD, learn members' needs and provide capacity building tools;
- Developed a partnership with Ensave, Inc., giving districts an opportunity to provide on-farm energy audits for cooperators and bring in additional revenue; and
- Coordinated efforts with the Private Landowners Network to increase public coverage of and access to conservation district information.



NACD staff members joined several state executive directors in Wyoming for the directors' annual conference in May.



In November, NACD CEO Krysta Harden met with Bureau of Land Management Director Jim Caswell in Washington, D.C., to renew NACD's longstanding partnership with BLM at the national, state and local level.



Five NACD staff members participated in the Renovation Ride in July to raise money for the 509 Capitol Court Campaign. NACD's officer team, staff and members welcomed the riders to Washington, D.C., concluding the five-day, 258-mile trip. (Below, left) Ohio's Ross Soil and Water Conservation District was one of many schools across the country that participated in NACD 2008 Stewardship Week themed "Water is Life."



NACD CEO Krysta Harden (right) and USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Teresa Lasseter (left) participate in a USDA ceremony celebrating the enrollment of the one millionth CRP acre.

Accomplishments

Grassroots Advocacy

NACD had a busy and successful year on the policy front, representing conservation districts' interests in Washington, D.C. This year, the Association:

- Met separately with U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson (D-MN) and Conservation Subcommittee Chairman Tim Holden (D-PA) to discuss conservation program administration and possible hearings;
- Adopted new program administration policy and drafted testimony with examples of program operations from across the country;
- Submitted economic stimulus proposal to Congress addressing "green jobs" and the importance of using conservation-related jobs such as watershed construction and rehabilitation, water quality improvement projects, forestry management and rangeland restoration to stimulate the economy;
- Submitted written comments to USDA regarding key conservation and forestry programs in the 2008 Farm Bill to assist with regulation development and Bill implementation and protect conservation districts' role in program delivery and technical assistance;
- Provided many written comments to federal agencies on issues such as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, air emissions from livestock operations, the Clean Water Act and endangered species;
- Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and National Association of State Foresters to improve forestry assistance delivery to private landowners;
- Adopted climate change policy in anticipation of Congressional debates to ensure conservation district involvement in policy development and in local carbon sequestration activities;
- Hosted a 2008 Farm Bill briefing in Washington, D.C. at which agency leaders provided implementation updates to conservation, wildlife, commodity, livestock and forestry representatives;
- Worked independently and through coalition efforts on Capitol Hill to represent district interests on issues such as wildland fire suppression funding, climate change legislation and water quality issues in the Great Lakes;
- Advocated for increased appropriations for NRCS Conservation Technical Assistance, U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs and EPA's 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program;
- Engaged grassroots advocates through conference calls with state executive directors and through Action Alerts on issues such as appropriations, farm bill votes, and the economic stimulus proposal;
- Hosted a Legislative Conference featuring speakers such as Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall, Congressional office visits and a Congressional Reception; and
- Renewed the long-standing Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management, setting the stage for continued cooperative conservation projects on both private and federal lands.



Olin Sims Living Legacy Tree Plantings

NACD members, partners and friends of 2007 NACD President Olin Sims commemorated his life and work by planting trees across the country as part of NACD's Olin Sims Living Legacy Program. Sims is remembered as a strong leader, loyal friend and champion of conservation. In the photo above, more than 40 friends, partners, and leaders planted an American Chestnut tree at the National Arboretum in Olin Sims' honor.



Attendees of the 2008 NACD Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., heard from the key partners, congressional leaders and agency heads, including Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer (center). The 2008 Officer Team (below) came to Washington D.C. in March to go over the NACD budget and attend key meetings with partners.



Over 1000 conservationists attended NACD's 2008 Annual Meeting. NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster (left) was one of many conservation leaders featured at the event.



NACD President John Redding spread the NACD message at the National Association of Farm Broadcaster's annual Trade Talk. In the photo above, Redding is interviewed by Farm Broadcaster Dave Russell.



NACD Foundation Committees

NACD's programs and services are planned and guided by five Foundation Committees: District Operations and Member Services; Communications; Legislative; Stewardship and Education; and Natural Resource Policy. Committees are made up of NACD Board Members, with each state being assigned to one of the five. Committees also establish special task forces and Resources Policy Groups on an as needed basis. Following is a summary of each committee's activities and accomplishments in 2008.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee provides guidance, input, direction and assistance to accomplish NACD's outreach and communication goals. Members of the committee work with NACD staff to strengthen both internal and external communications.

Placing a high-priority on branding, aesthetics and consistency, the Committee undertook several major projects in 2008 in an effort to update NACD's existing outreach tools and methods. The Committee's work included a redesign of *eNotes*, NACD's weekly electronic newsletter; a redesign of the Association's primary print newsletter, newly named *The Resource*; an extended NACD Annual Report; an attractive new display for use at trade shows and meetings; and a new general brochure for general outreach purposes.

New distribution methods increase NACD's ability to understand reader behaviors and provide targeted, timely information.

The Committee continues to place a high priority on understanding and meeting audience needs and interests, expanding and improving outreach efforts and promoting the work of conservation districts across the country.

NACD's freshly redesigned publications include *The Resource* and *eNotes*. Sign up today at www.nacdnet.org/news/publications to receive both in your inbox for free!



Stewardship and Education Committee

The Stewardship and Education Committee assists in the promotion of conservation education and Stewardship Week. Members participate in stewardship topic and theme development, which results in education outreach materials that are used to promote the importance of natural resources.

The Committee developed a five-year rotation of stewardship topics, allowing for increased collaboration with other partners. Topics are as follows: 2009 – Soil; 2010 – Forestry; 2011 – Wildlife and Habitat; 2012 – Current Topic; 2013 – Water. The 2009 topic of soils resulted in a partnership with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian and the Soil Science Society of America. The partners collaborated to develop an exhibit themed *DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil* at the National Museum of Natural History and corresponding educational materials.

The 2010 topic of forestry is also providing an opportunity for collaboration with other partners on education materials that will be available in the fall of 2009.

NACD developed DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil education materials in collaboration with Smithsonian and the Soil Science Society of America. Use them today in your community!



District Operations and Member Services Committee

The District Operations and Member Services Committee works to improve connectivity between local districts, state associations and NACD by providing resources that assist in conservation districts' daily operations.

The Committee's work in 2008 focused on three main areas: Computer Management, Program Administration and a revised membership program. The Computer Management Task Force developed recommendations to USDA regarding computer management issues affecting conservation districts, such as computer purchases, information access and security measures. The Program Administration Task Force worked with the Legislative Committee to recommend and NACD policy position on USDA Program Administration. Finally, the Committee developed the new Friends of NACD Individual Membership program to provide additional support for NACD. The new program will be launched at NACD's Annual Meeting.

Committee work is also underway to determine interest in and demand for a limited access section of NACD's website to provide members access to sensitive information on a secure site.

NACD's new individual membership program, titled Friends of NACD, provides individuals an opportunity to show support for and make a personal investment in NACD



Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee guides and coordinates the development and implementation of legislative strategies in support of NACD's Board-approved policy and program objectives.

During 2008, the Committee reviewed the final Farm Bill legislative proposal and submitted comments to USDA regarding implementation after the Bill was enacted in June. The Committee also finalized appropriations recommendations, continuing a targeted approach to secure additional funds for the NRCS Conservation Technical Assistance account, the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Programs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program.

The leaders also developed and delivered a "green jobs" economic stimulus proposal to Capitol Hill, requesting additional funds for watershed rehabilitation and construction, EPA grants and forestry and rangeland health programs at the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

Finally, the Committee collaborated with NACD's District Operations Committee to address association policy and strategy regarding conservation program administration and with the Natural Resources Policy Committee to address the Clean Water Act.

NACD's Legislative Committee was very active in guiding the Association's efforts during the 2008 Farm Bill, which was enacted in July.



Natural Resource Policy Committee

The Natural Resource Policy Committee is responsible for coordinating activities and formulating policy recommendations in all areas, which include, but are not limited to, agricultural lands, water resources, forestry, urban, wildlife habitat and grazing lands. The wide array of issues that fall to this committee necessitated focusing efforts on issues that NACD was required to provide comment on or develop a policy position for during 2008. The Committee drafted and approved Climate Change Policy, established a joint task force with the Legislative Committee to review legislative changes to the Clean Water Act and provided comments to federal agencies regarding the Endangered Species Act, Sage Grouse, emergency withdrawal of lands, and water and air regulations impacting Animal Feeding Operations. Four Resource Policy Groups report to the full Natural Resource Policy Committee.

NACD's **Coastal Resource Policy Group** developed a survey to gain information on coastal priority issues as well as coastal resource opportunities for conservation districts. A Coastal Conservation Strategy will be developed using

survey results. The strategy will include recommendations for implementation and possible funding sources to accomplish the established goals.

The **Urban and Community Resource Policy Group** compiled a report on districts' urban and community activities, and used it to prioritize their services. Activities included working with NRCS to provide technical tools for districts; identifying assistance for small acreage conservation; and developing training and certification guidance for district employees. The RPG also plans to launch a new urban and community section of NACD's website in early 2009.

The **Great Lakes Resource Policy Group** met throughout 2008 via conference calls and meetings in Michigan and Ohio. Activities included identifying federal and state partners, and drafting an annual work plan to assist landowners and municipalities as they manage growth and promote district involvement in Great Lakes restoration and protection activities.

NACD's **Forestry Resource Policy Group** guided the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, state foresters and conservation districts to improve the delivery of technical assistance; is working on the mutual recognition of forest management plans; is developing templates for state-wide training for forestry assistance; and provided twelve issues of Forestry Notes to 4,700 subscribers.

NACD represents district interests on a broad range of natural resource policy issues. See a sampling of these issues in NACD's newly released publication, "Our Land, Our Water: Case Studies in Local Successes."



2008 NACD Foundation Committees

Legislative	District Operations & Member Services	Communications	Stewardship & Education	Natural Resource Policy
Steve Robinson Bob Cordova	Jack Majeres	Paul Leishman	Jim Lacy	Cliff Lundin
California Connecticut Illinois Iowa Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Oregon Rhode Island South Dakota Utah American Samoa	Delaware Georgia Hawaii Montana North Carolina North Dakota New Hampshire New Mexico Nevada Ohio Wisconsin Republic of Palau	Colorado District of Columbia Florida Idaho Massachusetts Minnesota Oklahoma Pennsylvania South Carolina Texas Virgin Islands Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	Alaska Michigan Virginia New Jersey Nebraska Puerto Rico Tennessee Vermont West Virginia Federated States of Micronesia	Alabama Arizona Indiana Kansas Maine Missouri New York Pacific Basin Mississippi Washington Wyoming Arkansas
<i>Keira Franz</i>	<i>Brad Ross</i>	<i>Lisa Lerwick</i>	<i>Susan Schultz</i>	<i>Keira Franz, Jeremy Peters</i>

KEY: Green = Committee Chair *Italics* = Staff Advisor(s)

Conservation District Contributors

Alabama

Alabama Assn. of CDS
 Autauga Co. SWCD
 Baldwin Co. SWCD
 Barbour Co. SWCD
 Bibb Co. SWCD
 Blount Co. SWCD
 Bullock Co. SWCD
 Butler Co. SWCD
 Calhoun Co. SWCD
 Chambers Co. SWCD
 Cherokee Co. SWCD
 Chilton Co. SWCD
 Choctaw Co. SWCD
 Clarke Co. SWCD
 Clay Co. SWCD
 Cleburne Co. SWCD
 Coffee Co. SWCD
 Colbert Co. SWCD
 Conecuh Co. SWCD
 Coosa Co. SWCD
 Covington Co. SWCD
 Crenshaw Co. SWCD
 Cullman Co. SWCD
 Dale Co. SWCD
 Dallas Co. SWCD
 Dekalb Co. SWCD
 Elmore Co. SWCD
 Escambia Co. SWCD
 Etowah Co. SWCD
 Fayette Co. SWCD
 Franklin Co. SWCD
 Geneva Co. SWCD
 Greene Co. SWCD
 Hale Co. SWCD
 Henry Co. SWCD
 Houston Co. SWCD
 Jackson Co. SWCD
 Jefferson Co. SWCD
 Lamar Co. SWCD
 Lauderdale Co. SWCD
 Lawrence Co. SWCD
 Lee Co. SWCD
 Limestone Co. SWCD
 Lowndes Co. SWCD
 Macon Co. SWCD
 Madison Co. SWCD
 Marengo Co. SWCD
 Marion Co. SWCD
 Marshall Co. SWCD
 Mobile Co. SWCD
 Monroe Co. SWCD
 Montgomery Co. SWCD
 Morgan Co. SWCD
 Perry Co. SWCD
 Pickens Co. SWCD
 Pike SWCD
 Randolph Co. SWCD
 Russell Co. SWCD
 Shelby Co. SWCD
 St. Clair Co. SWCD
 Sumter Co. SWCD
 Talladega Co. SWCD
 Tallapoosa Co. SWCD
 Tuscaloosa Co. SWCD
 Walker Co. SWCD
 Washington Co. SWCD
 Wilcox Co. SWCD
 Winston Co. SWCD

Alaska

Alaska Assn. of SWCDs
 Alaska SWCD
 Anchorage SWCD
 Fairbanks SWCD
 Homer SWCD
 Kenny Lake SWCD
 Kodiak SWCD
 Palmer SWCD
 Salcha-Delta SWCD
 Upper Susitna SWCD
 Wasilla SWCD

Arizona

Apache NRCDD
 Arizona Assn. of CDS
 Buckeye Valley NRCDD
 Chino Winds NRCDD
 East Maricopa NRCDD
 Eloy NRCDD
 Florence-Coolidge NRCDD
 Fredonia NRCDD
 Hereford NRCDD
 Laguna NRCDD
 Littlefield-Hurricane Valley NRCDD
 Navajo Co. NRCDD
 Pima NRCDD
 Redington NRCDD
 Tonto NRCDD
 Triangle NRCDD
 Wellton-Mohawk Valley NRCDD
 West Pinal NRCDD
 Whitewater Draw NRCDD
 Willcox-San Simon NRCDD
 Yuma NRCDD

Arkansas

Arkansas Assn. of CDS
 Arkansas Co. CD
 Ashley Co. CD
 Baxter Co. CD
 Benton Co. CD
 Boone Co. CD
 Buffalo Co. CD
 Calhoun Co. CD
 Carroll Co. CD
 Chicot Co. CD
 Clark Co. CD
 Clay Co. CD
 Cleburne Co. CD
 Cleveland Co. CD
 Columbia Co. CD
 Conway Co. CD
 Cossatot Co. CD
 Craighead Co. CD
 Crawford Co. CD
 Crittenden Co. CD
 Crooked Creek Co. CD
 Cross Co. CD
 Dallas Co. CD
 Desha Co. CD
 Drew Co. CD
 Faulkner Co. CD
 Franklin Co. CD
 Fulton Co. CD
 Garland Co. CD
 Grant Co. CD
 Greene Co. CD
 Hempstead Co. CD
 Hot Spring Co. CD
 Independence Co. CD
 Izzard Co. CD
 Jackson Co. CD
 Jefferson Co. CD
 Johnson Co. CD
 Lafayette Co. CD
 L'aigle Creek Co. CD
 Lawrence Co. CD
 Lee Co. CD
 Lincoln Co. CD
 Little River Co. CD
 Logan Co. CD
 Lonoke Co. CD
 Madison Co. CD
 Miller Co. CD
 Mine Creek Co. CD
 Mississippi Co. CD
 Monroe Co. CD
 Montgomery Co. CD
 Nevada Co. CD
 Newton Co. CD
 Ouachita Co. CD
 Perry Co. CD
 Phillips Co. CD
 Pike Co. CD
 Poinsett Co. CD

Pope Co. CD
 Poteau River CD
 Prairie Co. CD
 Pulaski CD
 Randolph Co. CD
 Rich Mountain Co. CD
 Saline Co. CD
 Sebastian Co. CD
 Sharp Co. CD
 St. Francis Co. CD
 Stone Co. CD
 Union Co. CD
 Van Buren Co. CD
 Washington Co. CD
 White Co. CD
 Woodruff Co. CD
 Yell Co. CD

California

Alameda Co. RCD
 Antelope Valley RCD
 Central Modoc RCD
 Chowchilla-Red Top RCD
 Coachella Valley RCD
 Colusa Co. RCD
 Contra Costa RCD
 Dixon RCD
 East Merced RCD
 El Dorado Co. RCD
 Excelsior/Kings River RCD
 Georgetown-Divide RCD
 Gold Ridge RCD
 Honey Lake Valley RCD
 Imperial Irrigation District RCD? Inland Empire RCD
 Lava Beds-Butte Valley RCD
 Madera RCD
 Mendocino Co. RCD
 Napa Co. RCD
 Nevada Co. RCD
 North West Kern RCD
 Panoche RCD
 Pit RCD
 Placer Co. RCD
 RCD of Greater San Diego Co.
 San Joaquin Co. RCD
 Southern Sonoma Co. RCD
 Sutter Co. RCD
 Tahoe RCD
 Tehama Co. RCD
 Trinity Co. RCD
 Tulare Co. RCD
 Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD
 West Stanislaus RCD
 Western Shasta RCD
 Yolo Co. RCD
 Yuba Co. RCD

Colorado

Baca Co. CD
 Bent CD
 Bookcliff CD
 Boulder Valley CD
 Centennial CD
 Center CD
 Central Colorado CD
 Cheyenne CD
 Colorado Assn. of CDS
 Colorado First CD
 Costilla CD
 Debeque-Plateau Valley CD
 Delta CD
 Douglas Co. CD
 Douglas Creek CD
 East Otero CD
 El Paso Co. CD
 Flagler CD
 Fremont CD
 Jefferson CD
 La Plata CD
 Longmont CD
 Mesa CD

Middle Park CD
 Morgan CD
 North Park CD
 Olney Boone CD
 Pine River CD
 Platte Valley CD
 Prowers CD
 Rio Grande CD
 Routt Co. CD
 San Juan CD
 Shavano CD
 South Platte CD
 Southside CD
 Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River CD
 Teller-Park CD
 Upper Huerfano CD
 West Adams CD
 West Arapahoe CD
 West Greeley CD
 West Otero Timpas
 White River CD
 Yuma Co. CD
 Yuma Co. CD

Connecticut

Connecticut Assn. of SWCDs
 Eastern Connecticut CD
 North Central CD
 Southwest CD

Delaware

Delaware Assn. of CDS
 Kent CD
 New Castle CD
 Sussex CD

District of Columbia

District of Columbia SWCD

Florida

Assn. of Florida CDS
 Blackwater SWCD
 Broward SWCD
 Charlotte SWCD
 Choctawhatchee River SWCD
 Clay Co. SWCD
 Duval SWCD
 Flagler SWCD
 Gadsden SWCD
 Hardee SWCD
 Hendry SWCD
 Highlands SWCD
 Holmes Creek SWCD
 Indian River SWCD
 Jefferson SWCD
 Lake SWCD
 Levy SWCD
 Madison SWCD
 Manatee River SWCD
 Okeechobee SWCD
 Osceola SWCD
 Palm Beach SWCD
 Peace River SWCD
 Putnam SWCD
 Santa Fe SWCD
 Sarasota SWCD
 South Dade SWCD
 St. Johns SWCD
 St. Lucie SWCD
 Suwannee Co. CD

Georgia

Alapaha SWCD
 Altamaha SWCD
 Briar Creek SWCD
 Central Georgia SWCD
 Clayton Co. SWCD
 Coastal SWCD
 Cobb Co. SWCD
 Flint River SWCD
 Gwinnett Co. SWCD
 Hall Co. SWCD

Henry Co. SWCD
 Lincoln Co. SWCD
 Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD
 McDuffie Co. SWCD
 Middle South Georgia SWCD
 Ocmulgee River SWCD
 Oconee River SWCD
 Ogeechee River SWCD
 Ophoossee River SCD
 Piedmont SWCD
 Pine Mountain SWCD
 Rockdale Co. SWCD
 Satilla River SWCD
 Towaliga SWCD
 Upper Chattahoochee River SWCD
 West Adams CD
 Walton Co. SWCD
 West Georgia SWCD

Guam

Northern Guam SWCD
 Southern Guam SWCD

Hawaii

Hawaii Assn. of CDS

Idaho

Ada SWCD
 Adams SWCD
 Balanced Rock SCD
 Bear Lake SWCD
 Benewah SWCD
 Bonner SCD
 Boundary SCD
 Butte SCD
 Camas SCD
 Canyon SCD
 Caribou SCD
 Central Bingham SWCD
 Clark SWCD
 Custer SWCD
 East Cassia SCD
 East Side SWCD
 Gooding SCD
 Idaho Assn. of SCD
 Idaho SWCD
 Jefferson SCD
 Kootenai Shoshone SCD
 Latah SWCD
 Lemhi SCD
 Lewis SCD
 Madison SCD
 Minidoka SWCD
 Nez Perce SWCD
 North Side SWCD
 Payette SWCD
 Portneuf SWCD
 Power SCD
 Snake River SWCD
 Teton SCD
 Twin Falls SWCD
 Valley SWCD
 Weiser River SCD
 West Cassia SWCD
 West Side SWCD
 Wood River SWCD

Illinois

Adams Co. SWCD
 Assn. of Illinois SWCD
 Brown Co. SWCD
 Bureau Co. SWCD
 Calhoun Co. SWCD
 Carroll Co. SWCD
 Cass Co. SWCD
 Champaign Co. SWCD
 Clark Co. SWCD
 Clay Co. SWCD
 Clinton Co. SWCD
 Coles Co. SWCD
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 Cumberland Co. SWCD
 Dekalb Co. SWCD

Dewitt Co. SWCD
 Fayette Co. SWCD
 Ford Co. SWCD
 Franklin Co. SWCD
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 Hancock Co. SWCD
 Henry Co. SWCD
 Iroquois Co. SWCD
 Jackson Co. SWCD
 Jasper Co. SWCD
 Jefferson Co. SWCD
 Jersey Co. SWCD
 Jo Daviess Co. SWCD
 Kane-DuPage SWCD
 Kendall Co. SWCD
 La Salle Co. SWCD
 Lake Co. SWCD
 Lee Co. SWCD
 Livingston Co. SWCD
 Logan Co. SWCD
 Macoupin Co. SWCD
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 Sangamon Co. SWCD
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 St. Clair Co. SWCD
 Stark Co. SWCD
 Stephenson Co. SWCD
 Union Co. SWCD
 Vermilion Co. SWCD
 Wabash Co. SWCD
 Warren Co. SWCD
 Washington Co. SWCD
 Wayne Co. SWCD
 Whiteside Co. SWCD
 Will South Cook SWCD
 Williamson Co. SWCD
 Winnebago Co. SWCD

Indiana

Adams Co. SWCD
 Allen Co. SWCD
 Boone Co. SWCD
 Carroll Co. SWCD
 Cass Co. SWCD
 Clark Co. SWCD
 Clinton Co. SWCD
 Crawford Co. SWCD
 Daviess Co. SWCD
 Dearborn Co. SWCD
 Decatur Co. SWCD
 Delaware Co. SWCD
 Dubois Co. SWCD
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 Hamilton Co. SWCD
 Hancock Co. SWCD
 Clinton Co. SWCD
 Hendricks Co. SWCD
 Henry Co. SWCD
 Howard Co. SWCD
 Huntington Co. SWCD

Indiana Assn. of SWCD
 Jackson Co. SWCD
 Jasper Co. SWCD
 Jay Co. SWCD
 Jefferson Co. SWCD
 Jennings Co. SWCD
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 Kosciusko Co. SWCD
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 Scott Co. SWCD
 Shelby Co. SWCD
 St. Joseph Co. SWCD
 Steuben Co. SWCD
 Sullivan Co. SWCD
 Switzerland Co. SWCD
 Tippecanoe SWCD
 Tipton Co. SWCD
 Union Co. SWCD
 Vanderburgh Co. SWCD
 Vermillion Co. SWCD
 Vigo Co. SWCD
 Wabash Co. SWCD
 Warren Co. SWCD
 Warrick Co. SWCD
 Washington Co. SWCD
 Wayne Co. SWCD
 White Co. SWCD
 Wells Co. SWCD

Iowa

Allamakee Co. SWCD
 Appanoose Co. SWCD
 Audubon Co. SWCD
 Black Hawk SWCD
 Boone Co. SWCD
 Buchanan SWCD
 Buena Vista SWCD
 Butler Co. SWCD
 Calhoun Co. SWCD
 Carroll Co. SWCD
 Cass Co. SWCD
 Cerro Gordo Co. SWCD
 Chickasaw Co. SWCD
 Clarke Co. SWCD
 Clay Co. SWCD
 Clayton Co. SWCD
 CDS of Iowa
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 Dallas Co. SWCD
 Decatur Co. SWCD
 Delaware Co. SWCD
 Des Moines Co. SWCD
 Dickinson Co. SWCD
 East Pottawattamie Co. SWCD
 Emmet Co. SWCD
 Fayette Co. SWCD
 Floyd Co. SWCD
 Fremont Co. SWCD
 Greene Co. SWCD
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Van Buren SWCD
Warren Co. SWCD
Wayne Co. SWCD
Webster Co. SWCD
Winnebago SWCD
Winneshiek SWCD
Woodbury Co. SWCD
Wright Co. SWCD

Kansas

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Barber Co. CD
Barton Co. CD
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Brown Co. CD
Butler Co. CD
Chase Co. CD
Cherokee Co. CD
Cheyenne Co. CD
Clark Co. CD
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Cowley Co. CD
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Franklin Co. CD
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Meade Co. CD
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Morton Co. CD
Nemaha Co. CD
Neosho Co. CD
Ness Co. CD
Osage Co. CD
Osborne Co. CD
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Phillips Co. CD
Pottawatomie Co. CD
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Reno Co. CD
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Trego Co. CD
Wabaunsee Co. CD
Wallace Co. CD
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Ballard CD
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Bourbon Co. CD
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Bracken Co. SCD
Breathitt Co. CD
Breckinridge Co. SCD
Butler Co. CD
Caldwell Co. CD
Calloway Co. CD
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Grayson Co. CD
Green Co. CD
Hancock Co. CD
Hardin Co. CD
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Hart Co. SCD
Henry Co. CD
Hickman Co. CD
Hopkins Co. CD
Jackson Co. CD
Jefferson Co. SWCD
Johnson Co. CD
Kenton Co. CD
Knott Co. SCD
Knox Co. CD
Laurel Co. SCD
Lawrence Co. CD
Lee Co. CD
Leslie Co. SCD
Letcher Co. CD
Lewis Co. CD
Lyon Co. SCD
Magoffin Co. CD
Marion Co. CD
Marshall Co. CD
Mason Co. CD
McCracken Co. SCD
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Bogue Chitto Pearl River
SWCD
Caddo SWCD
Calcasieu SWCD
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De Soto SWCD
Dorcheat SWCD
Dugdemona SWCD
East Carroll SWCD
Evangeline SWCD
Feliciana SWCD
Grant SWCD

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Jefferson Davis SWCD
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SWCD
Lasalle SWCD
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Northeast SWCD
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Rapides SWCD
Red River SWCD
Sabine SWCD
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St Mary SWCD
St. Martin SWCD
Tangipahoa-St Helena
SWCD
Upper Delta SWCD
Vermillion SWCD
West Carroll SWCD

Maine

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Franklin Co. SWCD
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Massachusetts Assn. of
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Ozage Co. SWCD
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Pike Co. SWCD
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Putnam Co. SWCD
Ralls Co. SCD
Saline Co. SWCD
Scotland SWCD
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St. Genevieve Co. SWCD
St. Charles Co. SWCD
St. Clair Co. SWCD
Stoddard Co. SWCD
Vernon Co. SWCD
Warren Co. SWCD
Wayne SWCD
Webster Co. SWCD
Worth SWCD
Wright Co. SWCD

Montana

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Nebraska

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Lewis & Clark NRD
Little Blue NRD
Lower Big Blue NRD

Conservation District Contributors continued

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Lower Niobrara NRD	East Torrance CD	Fishing Creek SWCD	Mountrail SCD	Medina Co. SWCD	Texas Co. CD	Tioga Co. CD
Lower Platte North NRD	Edgewood SWCD	Forsyth SWCD	Mouse River SCD	Meigs SWCD	Upper Washita CD	Union Co. CD
Lower Platte South NRD	Grant SWCD	Franklin SWCD	Nelson Co. SCD	Mercer Co. SWCD	Woodward Co. CD	Warren Co. CD
Lower Republican NRD	Hidalgo SWCD	Gaston SWCD	North Central SCD	Miami SWCD		Washington Co. CD
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Middle Republican NRD	Lava SWCD	Granville SWCD	North McHenry Co. SCD	Montgomery SWCD	Benton SWCD	Westmoreland CD
Nebraska Assn. of Resource Districts	Mesa SWCD	Guilford SWCD	Oliver SCD	Morgan SWCD	Clackamas Co. SWCD	Wyoming Co. CD
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Papio-Missouri River NRD	Otero SWCD	Henderson Co. SWCD	Ransom Co. SCD	Noble SWCD	Curry Co. SWCD	Rhode Island
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Upper Elkhorn NRD	San Juan SWCD	Jackson SWCD	Shelby Co. SCD	Pickaway SWCD	Rock	South Carolina
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Upper Republican NRD	Southwest Quay SCD	Lee SWCD	South McLean SCD	Preble SWCD	Hood River SWCD	Anderson Co. SWCD
	Taos SWCD	Lenoir SWCD	Steele Co. SCD	Putnam SWCD	Jackson SWCD	Bamberg SWCD
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Lincoln Co. CD	Clinton Co. SWCD	North Carolina Assn. of SWCD	Williams Co. SCD	Union SWCD	Tualatin SWCD	Fairfield SWCD
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Smith Valley CD	Genesee Co. SWCD	Randolph SWCD	Auglaize SWCD	Wood SWCD	Pennsylvania	Kershaw Co. SWCD
Southern Nye Co. CD	Hamilton Co. SWCD	Rockingham SWCD	Belmont SWCD	Wyandot SWCD	Adams CD	Lancaster CD
Starr Valley CD	Herkimer Co. SWCD	Rowan SWCD	Brown SWCD		Allegheny Co. CD	Laurens CD
Stillwater CD	Madison Co. SWCD	Rutherford SWCD	Butler SWCD	Oklahoma	Armstrong CD	Lexington SWCD
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	Otsego SWCD	Tyrrell SWCD	Bryant CD	Bradford CD	Bradford CD	Orangeburg SWCD
New Hampshire	Rensselaer Co. SWCD	Union SWCD	Cimarron Co. CD	Bucks Co. CD	Cambria CD	Pickens Co. SWCD
Belknap Co. CD	Rockland Co. SWCD	Vance SWCD	Coal Co. CD	Butler CD	Carbon CD	Richland SWCD
Grafton Co. CD	Saratoga Co. SWCD	Wake SWCD	Cotton Co. CD	Cambria CD	Centre Co. CD	Saluda SWCD
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	Washington Co. SWCD	Yancey SWCD	Ellis Co. CD	Clinton Co. CD	Columbia Co. CD	South Dakota
New Jersey			Garvin CD	Crawford CD	Crawford CD	American Creek CD
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Morris Co. SCD	Brunswick SWCD	Divide Co. SCD	Little River CD	Jefferson Co. CD	Lancaster Co. CD	Davidson CD
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	Chatham SWCD	Grand Forks Co. SCD	McKean CD	North Caddo CD	McKean CD	Faulk CD
New Mexico	Cherokee SWCD	Grant Co. SCD	Monroe Co. CD	North Fork of Red River CD	Monroe Co. CD	Gregory Co. CD
Caballo CD	Clay Co. SWCD	Griggs Co. SCD	Nowata Co. CD	Nowata Co. CD	Northampton Co. CD	Haakon Co. CD
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Central Curry SWCD	Cumberland SWCD	Logan Co. SCD	Pawnee Co. CD	Pawnee Co. CD	Snyder Co. CD	Hughes Co. CD
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 Sevier Co. SCD
 Shelby SCD
 Smith Co. SCD
 Sullivan Conservation SCD
 Sumner Co. SCD
 Tennessee Assn. of CDs
 Tipton SCD
 Union Co. SCD
 Van Buren Co. SCD
 Warren SCD
 Washington Co. SCD
 White Co. SCD
 Williamson Co. SCD
 Wilson Co. SCD

Texas

Agua Poquita SWCD
 Alamo SWCD
 Anderson-Houston SWCD
 Andrew Kent SWCD
 Andrews SWCD
 Archer Co. SWCD
 Assn. of Texas SWCD
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 Austin Co. SWCD
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 Gillespie Co. SWCD
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 Haskell SWCD
 Hays Co. SWCD
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 Hidalgo SWCD
 Highland SWCD
 Highpoint SWCD
 Hill Country SWCD
 Hill Co. Blackland SWCD
 Hockley Co. SWCD
 Hopkins-Rains SWCD
 Howard SWCD
 Hutchinson SWCD
 Jackson SWCD
 Jim Wells Co. SWCD
 Johnson Co. SWCD
 Karnes Co. SWCD
 Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD
 Kendall SWCD
 Kerr Co. SWCD
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 Lamar Co. SWCD
 Lamb Co. SWCD
 Lavaca SWCD
 Lee Co. SWCD
 Limestone-Falls SWCD
 Lipscomb Co. SWCD
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 Little Wichita SWCD
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 Loma Blanca SWCD
 Long Leaf SWCD
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 Lower Neches SWCD
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 Lower Sabine-Neches SWCD
 Lower Trinity SWCD
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 Marion Cass SWCD
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 Moore Co. SWCD
 Mustang SWCD
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Vermont

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 Essex Co. NRCD
 Franklin Co. NRCD
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 Ottauquechee NRCD
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Virginia

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 Clark CD
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 Palouse-Rock Lake CD
 Pend Oreille CD
 Pomeroy CD
 Skagit CD
 South Douglas CD
 South Yakima CD
 Spokane Co. CD
 Stevens Co. CD
 Thurston CD
 Underwood CD
 Wahkiakum CD
 Walla Walla Co. CD
 Whidbey Island CD
 Whitman CD

West Virginia

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 Eastern Panhandle SCD
 Elk SCD
 Greenbrier Valley SCD
 Guyan SCD
 Little Kanawha SCD
 Monongahela SCD
 Northern Panhandle CD
 Potomac Valley SCD
 Southern SCD
 Tygarts Valley CD
 Upper Ohio SCD
 West Fork SCD
 West Virginia Assn. of CDs
 Western CD

Wisconsin

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 Barron Co. LCD
 Burnett Co. LCD
 Columbia Co. LCD
 Crawford Co. LCD
 Dane Co. LCD
 Dodge Co. LCD
 Door Co. SWCD
 Douglas Co. LCD
 Dunn Co. LCD
 Florence Co. LCD
 Forest Co. LCD
 Grant Co. LCD
 Green Lake Co. LCD
 Iowa Co. LCD
 Lafayette LCD
 Manitowoc Co. LCD
 Oconto Co. LCD
 Oneida Co. LCD
 Outagamie Co. LCD
 Ozaukee Co. Planning, Resources & Land Mgt Dept
 Pierce Co. LCD
 Portage Co. LCD
 Racine Co. LCD
 Sauk Co. LCD
 St. Croix Co. LCD
 Vernon Co. LCD
 Vilas Co. LCD
 Waupaca Co. Land & Water Conservation Department
 Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Assn.

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 Crook Co. NRCD
 Dubois-Crowheart CD
 Hot Springs CD
 Lake DeSmet CD
 Laramie CD
 Laramie Rivers CD
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 Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins CD
 Shoshone CD
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 Mat-Su RC&D Council
Arizona
 Coronado RC&D Council
 Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D
California
 Central Sierra RC&D
Connecticut
 Eastern Connecticut RC&D

Georgia
 Central Savannah River RC&D Council
 Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D
 Coastal Georgia RC&D
Iowa
 Chariton Valley RC&D Council
Idaho
 Idaho Dept of Agriculture
Indiana
 Arrowhead Country RC&D
 Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D
 Hoosier Heartland RC&D

Kansas
 Flint Hills RC&D Council
Louisiana
 Capital RC&D Council
 Imperial Calcasieu RC&D
Maryland
 Southern Maryland RC&D Council
Minnesota
 Gizibbi RC&D Council
Missouri
 Green Hills RC&D Council
 Missouri Association of RC&D Councils

Montana
 Central Montana RC&D Council
 Montana Dept of Natural Resources
North Carolina
 Blue Ridge RC&D Council
 Environmental Impact RC&D
 North Carolina Dept of Environment & Natural Resources

North Dakota
 North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee
New York
 Black River-St. Lawrence RC&D Council
 Finger Lakes RC&D Council
 Greater Adirondack RC&D
Ohio
 Erie Basin RC&D Area
 Maumee Valley RC&D Council

Oklahoma
 Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Pennsylvania
 Southeastern Pennsylvania RC&D Council
Tennessee
 Clinch Powell RC&D Council
 Hull York Lakeland RC&D
Texas
 Concho Valley RC&D Council

Utah
 Color Country RC&D Council
Vermont
 George D. Aiken RC&D Council
Wisconsin
 Golden Sands RC&D Council
West Virginia
 Great Kanawha RC&D Council
Wyoming
 Wyoming Dept of Agriculture



509 Capitol Court Campaign

For 20-plus years, the NACD headquarters office in Washington, D.C., has given districts a presence on the national scene. The three-story townhouse, located at 509 Capitol Court NE, is mere blocks from the Capitol Building and Congressional office buildings. It is a valuable asset for districts and allows NACD to better represent district interests.

In recent years, after much use and minimal upkeep, the office building at 509 Capitol Court, NE began to show its age. Stained and fraying carpets, water-stained and crumbling ceiling tiles, single-pane windows, and an undersized and inefficient heating and cooling system were just a few of the problems with the building. These problems were not just eyesores; they also caused higher energy costs and posed health and safety concerns for employees and visitors.

Renovations on the building began in August of 2008 with funds raised through NACD's 509 Capitol Court Campaign, which was launched in February 2007. Construction lasted a month and was finished in time to use the new conference room, named in honor of 2007 NACD President Olin Sims, to host the Partnership Meeting in November. The renovations have resulted in an office worthy of NACD's members, partners and staff.

Individuals, districts and state associations across the country have stepped up to the challenge and contributed to the fundraising efforts. To date, \$183,000 has been donated toward our final \$320,000 goal.

While the construction part of the NACD office is complete, the current fundraising levels of the Campaign do not match the cost of renovations (\$183,000 raised vs. \$320,000 expense). As directed by the Board, NACD paid the project out of reserves instead of borrowing from outside sources. We are still depending on your generosity to bring the 509 Campaign to a successful close. We can do it! Keep in mind: no donation is too small!

Please, help NACD preserve the building for another twenty years. Make a donation today. Donation forms and additional information about the 509 Capitol Court Campaign, including current fundraising totals and a list of donors, is available on NACD's website at <http://nacdnet.org/events/509campaign/>.

Final Renovations Include:

- new heating and cooling system
- energy efficient double-pane windows
- new carpets and paint
- new exterior doors
- renovated bathrooms
- spiral staircase connecting basement with upper levels
- structural changes to improve layout and use



Conservation leaders from Utah, NACD President John Redding and CEO Krysta Harden review the renovations plans for the renovation of NACD's Washington, D.C. headquarters. As of July, Utah was the top contributor to the 509 Capitol Court Campaign and to-date has contributed \$12,449 to the Campaign's \$183,000 fundraising total.



Renovations included a spiral staircase to internally connect the basement and main levels of the office building. Previously, staff with offices in the basement had to exit the building and climb two flights of stairs to access the main office levels.



Construction on the office lasted the month of September. NACD CEO Krysta Harden, with the help of the HITT Foreman, kept tabs on the project, ensuring it remained on schedule and on budget.

Top Contributors

As of December 31, 2008, the following states and individuals led the way in contributions to NACD's 509 Capitol Court Campaign. We appreciate every dollar contributed, but space does not allow a full listing in this report. A full list of donors is available at www.nacdnet.org/events/509campaign/donors_list.phtml.

Top 20 State Donors

Utah	\$12,449
South Dakota	\$12,168
Ohio	\$9,860
North Carolina	\$9,030
Indiana	\$8,770
Kentucky	\$7,700
Texas	\$7,141
Alabama	\$7,130
New York	\$6,900
Colorado	\$6,662
Iowa	\$6,325
Wyoming	\$6,000
Maryland	\$5,950
Georgia	\$5,785
West Virginia	\$5,300
Louisiana	\$5,090
Washington	\$5,050
Mississippi	\$4,621
Pennsylvania	\$3,600
Kansas	\$3,300

Top 20 Individual Contributors

Robert Warner	\$2,962
John Redding	\$1,260
Gene Schmidt	\$1,110
Larry E. Kehl	\$1,000
Rich Duesterhaus	\$875
Larry Nix	\$750
Joe Lomax	\$750
Bill Thomas	\$558
Deb Bogar	\$550
Jim Gevock	\$520
Gene Weaver	\$500
Steve Robinson	\$500
Pete Waller	\$475
John Finch	\$475
Bob Cordova	\$450
Mike Macauley	\$400
Irvil Kear	\$400
Dennis Brown	\$375
Franklin Williams	\$375
Fred Feldman	\$359



Renovation Ride

NACD's members aren't the only ones to step up to the plate. In July, five NACD staff members bicycled 275 miles in five days in a fundraising initiative dubbed the Renovation Ride. The Renovation Riders began in Ohio, Pa. and pedaled through four states (PA, WV, MD, and VA) on the C&O Rail Trail and Great Allegheny Passage Trail to the District of Columbia. The ride ended on the steps of our nation's Capitol. The Renovation Ride raised \$51,010 for the 509 Capitol Court Campaign through pledges from members, districts, friends and family.

Capitol Court Campaign Fundraising Progress

Just think, if every conservation district official donated \$10 to this valuable cause, we would easily meet our goal.

$$17,000 \text{ officials} \times \$10 = \$170,000$$

$$\$170,000 + \$183,000$$

$$(\text{current fundraising total}) = \$353,000$$

If every district official donated \$15, we would exceed our goal by nearly 50 percent, and the extra money would go into a maintenance fund to ensure the upkeep of the building for another twenty years!

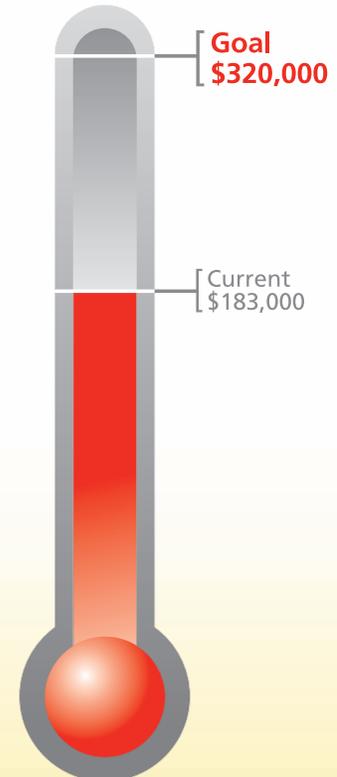
$$17,000 \text{ officials} \times \$15 = \$255,000$$

$$\$255,000 + \$183,000$$

$$(\text{current fundraising total}) = \$438,000!!!$$

(That's an excess of \$118,000 would go toward future upkeep of the building!)

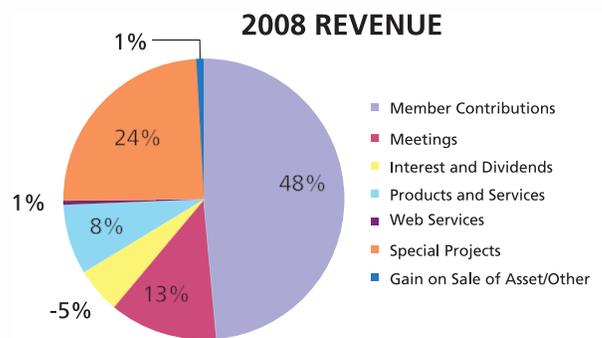
Help us continue the legacy of conservation districts. Make a donation today. Download the donation form at <http://nacdnet.org/events/509campaign/>. Remember, every little bit helps.



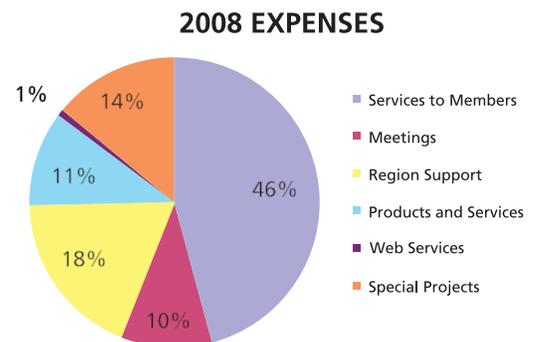
Financial Information

Statement of Activity *For the year ended September 30, 2008.*

Revenue	2008	2007
Member Contributions	\$1,662,538	\$1,647,662
Meetings	430,272	400,953
Interest and Dividends	(177,926)	79,565
Products and Services	276,277	377,158
Web Services	18,577	49,044
Special Projects	828,919	767,345
Gain on Sale of Asset/Other	30,647	14,615
	\$3,069,304	\$3,336,342



Expenses	2008	2007
Services to Members	\$1,449,717	\$1,394,118
Meetings	323,232	395,937
Region Support	589,413	549,352
Products and Services	336,207	383,977
Web Services	23,958	45,595
Special Projects	442,817	493,673
	\$3,165,344	\$3,262,652
Change in Net Assets	(\$96,040)*	\$73,690



*Note decrease in investment value.

Top 10 Contributing States

Ohio	\$97,059.12
North Carolina	\$62,851.50
Indiana	\$60,396.37
Arkansas	\$58,900.00
Texas	\$58,885.83
Minnesota	\$58,438.90
Alabama	\$52,700.00
Iowa	\$49,571.95
Kansas	\$47,290.26
Kentucky	\$46,456.18

100% District Participation

Alabama
Arkansas
Delaware
District of Columbia
Louisiana
Ohio
Nebraska
New Jersey
Virginia
West Virginia
Wyoming

Federal Partners

NACD currently has agreements with the following partners:

- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- DOI Bureau of Land Management

Associate Member Partners *(individuals contributing \$100 or more)*

Roger Hansen	Tonya Norwood-Pearson	Mark Clark	Larry Johnson
Jerry Snodgrass	Kenneth Riedlinger	Stu Trefry	Jane Hardisty
Franklin Varley	Connie Richmeier	Gene Schmidt	Doug Rushton
Sherman Bryant	Thomas Nix	Raymond Hughbanks	R. D. Jones
Dean Edson	Jack Majeres	Jeffrey Bohr	Fred Feldmann
Brad Ross	Bryan Harang	Robert Abell	Charles Hanley
Robert Warner	Richard Foose	Mark Rose	Lawrence Yamamoto
Edgar Corns	Donald Spickler	Wilson Murray	Richard Dueterhaus
Joyce Swartzendruber	Ronald Rohall	Irvin Kear	Neil Hyche
Joe Glassmeyer	Lynn Bahrych	Neil Strong	Fred Feldmann
Sherman Bryant	William Boyum	Jon Starns	Ray Brownfield
Kenneth Kaneshiro			

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John Compton South Central Region Baton Rouge, LA
James Lacy Southeast Region Compton, KY
Paul Leishman Southwest Region Wellsville, UT
Mike Barlow* Pacific Region Nyssa, OR
Bill Wilson Past President Kinta, OK
Tim Healey CTIC St. Louis, MO

* NACD lost a conservation leader and friend when Mike Barlow, NACD Executive Board Member from Oregon, passed away in late October. Mike was a well-respected man with a true love for the land. Mike will be missed by many in the conservation family across the nation.



National Association of
Conservation Districts
509 Capitol Court, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 547-6223
Fax: (202) 547-6450
www.nacdnet.org



Athens
Georgia
December 2008

2008-2009 Program Guide

The Evolution of Conservation

GEORGIA



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) constantly changes to meet the needs of its customers, both small and large. As the farm economy constantly evolves, the NRCS will be there to continue its role to assist the stewards of Georgia's natural resources.

Helping People Help the Land

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

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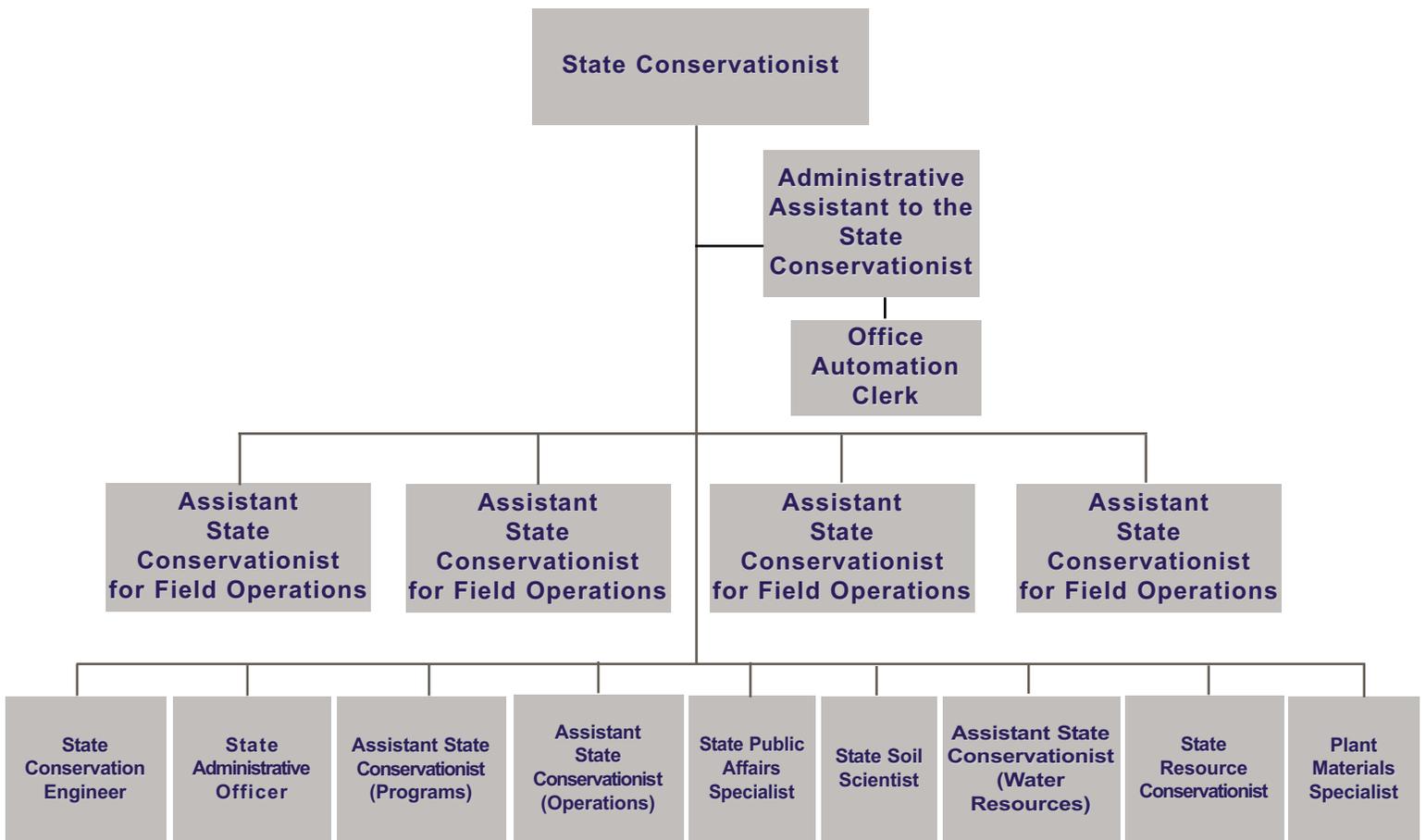
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Did you know?

NRCS has provided technical assistance to producers in 2008 to develop 3,350 conservation plans on 329,902 acres throughout the state. See feature stories at www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on news/success stories.

NRCS Organizational Structure



Designated District Conservationists

Area	Soil and Water Conservation District	NRCS District Conservationist
1	Catoosa County Coosa River Limestone Valley West Georgia Fulton County Cobb County Gwinnett County Henry County Clayton County Pine Mountain Rockdale County DeKalb County Roosevelt Towaliga Lamar County	Cindy P. Askew, LaFayette Sheri E. Teems, Rome Cindy P. Askew, LaFayette Sam Sharpe, Carrollton Valerie Pickard, Marietta Valerie Pickard, Marietta Julius George, Lawrenceville Vacant, McDonough Vacant, McDonough Jack L. Fokes, Jr., Buena Vista Julius George, Lawrenceville Julius George, Lawrenceville Kevin Keel, Newnan Carmen Westerfield, Barnesville Carmen Westerfield, Barnesville
2	Blue Ridge Mountain Hall County Stephens County Upper Chattahoochee River Broad River Lincoln County McDuffie County Oconee River Piedmont Warren County Brier Creek Columbia County Upper Ocmulgee River Walton County	Douglas Towery, Blairsville George Belflower, Gainesville Russell F. Biggers, Eastanollee Russell F. Biggers, Eastanollee Forrest W. Ferguson, Hartwell Rory Richardson, Washington Craig Bevan, Louisville Carol Boss, Commerce Dennis Brooks, Madison Craig Bevan, Louisville J. Cread Brown, Augusta J. Cread Brown, Augusta Dennis B. Brooks, Madison Jose' V. Pagan, Monroe
3	Ocmulgee River Flint River Lower Chattahoochee River Middle South Georgia	Calvin Essex, Perry Eddie Glover, Albany Lyndon McCavitt, Dawson Mary Leidner, Tifton
4	Alapaha Altamaha Satilla River Coastal Ogeechee River Ohoopee River Central Georgia	Harold B. Simpson, Jr., Nashville Bo Bannister, Douglas Rita Barrow, Brunswick James Austin, Richmond Hill William G. Thrift, Statesboro Sidney Lanier, Swainsboro Chuck McCranie, Eastman

Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations

Area 1	Griffin	Michael Watson	Area 2	Athens	Earl Brantley
Area 3	Americus	Natasha Brown	Area 4	Waycross	David Ferrell

District Conservationists & RC&D Coordinators

Alphabetical List of District Conservationists and RC&D Coordinators

Last Name	First Name	Telephone			
			George	Julius	770-963-9288
Askew	Cindy	706 638-2207	McCavitt	Lyndon	229-995-5811
Austin	James	912-459-2350	McCranie	Charles V.	478-374-8140
Bannister	Clemon L. (Bo)	912-384-4811	Moore	Stan	912-367-7679
Barrow	Rita	912-265-8092	Napier	Jim	229-924-4056
Belflower	George (Buddy)	770-536-6981	Nichols	Elizabeth	912-285-5975
Bevan	Craig	478-625-7771	Oliver	Harold E.	912-459-2070
Biggers	Russell	706-886-8223	Pagan	Jose	770-267-1359
Blackburn	Austin V.	912-564-2207	Palmer	Scotty	706-453-7021
Boss	Carol	706-335-7145	Parker	Britt S.	478-275-0425
Brooks	Dennis	706-342-1315	Pickard	Valerie	770-792-0647
Brown	Cread	706-554-5183	Reese	Karen	229-732-6211
Brown	Jerome	770-339-6071	Richardson	Rory	229-263-4909
Cabe	Doug	706 625-7044	Wilson	Galen	478-552-6073
Cleland	Steve	229-723-3825	Sharpe	Sam	770-832-8942
Collins	Marcus	229-246-8282	Simmons	Machelle	706-629-2582
Essex	Calvin	478-987-2280	Simpson	Harold B.	229-686-2363
Ferguson	Forrest	706-376-2876	Philip	Smith	229-228-0459
Futch	Joey A.	912-367-4368	Teems	Sheri	706-291-5651
Glover	Eddie	229-430-8509	Thompson	Kimberly C.	912-529-6652
Hall	Graylen	229-268-9106	Thrift	William G.	912-871-2605
Harris,	Jimmie	706-547-4045	Towery	Doug	706 745-2794
Haygood	Cindy	770-749-0444	Westerfield	Carmen	770-358-3223\
Hill	Forrest	706 885-0101	Wilson	Galen	478-552-6073
Jones	Luther D.	706-769-7922	Yancey	Frank	229-723-3841
Jones	Ray	478-956-6490			
Keel	Kevin	770-251-4283			
Lanier	Sidney C.	478-237-8037			
Leidner	Mary	229-382-4776			
Long	Paul	229-985-5399			

Agricultural Conservation Enrollees/Seniors

Program Manager: RD Crawley

Phone: 706 546-2313

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E-mail: rd.crawley@ga.usda.gov

Program Highlights

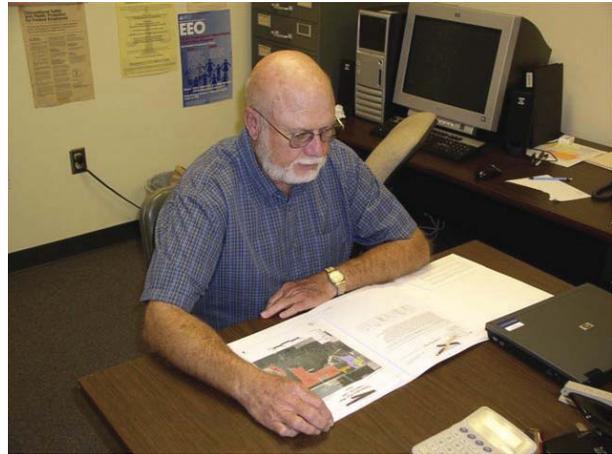
Agricultural Conservation Enrollees/Seniors (ACES) is a program designed to meet employers' needs for competent workers by providing access to individuals age 55 and older, and to enhance lifelong employment opportunities of experienced workers through training, job placement, education, research and advocacy. ACES is a program run by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) from a bigger program run by the National Older Worker Career Center (NOWCC), a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Arlington, VA. It provides national leadership to expand employment and to help shape public and private policy and practice for America's fast-growing population of workers age 55 and over. Today it provides employment to over 600 older workers located at the USDA-Environmental Protection Agency, and other government agencies.

From October 2007 to September 2008, the Vienna Field Office served over 650 customers. As an ACES employee, Bobby Nutt worked closely with a majority of those customers determining their needs and providing a solution to their problems.

Nearly 6,000 acres were placed under a conservation plan during this time period for Dooly County. Nutt reviewed most of those tracts of land with the owners or operators to determine the conservation needs of those tracts.

He then developed the maps needed to start the conservation plan and located the practice needed on that map. He also entered the customer's information into toolkit, developed a file and started the planning process for that customer. Conservation was applied on 3,166 acres of cropland to improve soil quality. He collected and assimilated data, then assisted in the design and layout of those practices used to solve those cropland needs. Conservation was also applied on 3,166 acres to improve water quality in this county.

Nutt helped in the development of the solutions needed to solve those environmental problems by working closely with the soil conservation technician. With his assis-



Bobby Nutt reviewing paperwork in his office.

Agricultural Conservation Enrollees/Seniors *Continued*

tance and input 1,050 acres of forest land conservation and 5,000 acres of wildlife habitat management was applied. Nutt was instrumental in the accomplishments of this year's goals and needs of this field office.

Charles Branch, National Older Workers Career Center (NOWCC) employee in the Sylvania-Springfield Field Office, is responsible for part of the field work in the office. His duties include the site investigation, layout, design, installation and checkout of conservation practices. He has over 40 years of experience in this work.

Jimmy Mock is the ACES employee in the Commerce Service Center. During the past year, he has taken applications for farm bill programs, assisted with on-site field visits and helped with the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Farm Service Agency.

Mock was also of great help with the Conservation Security Program (CSP) sign-up, preparing updated aerial photos and assisting with office interviews. This is of great significance given that the NRCS was shorthanded during the CSP enrollment/interview period.



Charles Branch digging soil with an auger for pond testing.

Conservation Security Program

Program Manager: Vacant

Phone: 706 546-2272

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Program Highlights

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that rewards farmers with a history of good farmland conservation through stewardship and incentive payments. The program is designed to reward the best conservation stewards of the soil, water and other natural resources in targeted watersheds through 5-10 year contracts. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size or type of farm operation.

The Broad River in Northeast Georgia was selected as the 2008 CSP program watershed. The agriculture in this watershed is primarily cattle operations and poultry houses.

An emphasis was placed on conservation practices that limited cattle from water bodies and management of hay land.

Interest was high at all public meeting with 59 applications being selected for funding. These new contracts were for a 5-year period and averaged \$6,500 per contract protecting 10,000 acres.

The 206 existing CSP contracts with Georgia producers continued to provide environmental benefits improving Georgia's soil, water and wildlife by implementing their CSP conservation plans.

These producers were rewarded for this effort through \$4.7 million in CSP payments.

Conservation tillage, cover crops, nutrient and pest management were the primary practices being utilized through the CSP.

Conservation Technical Assistance

Program Manager: Dot Harris

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Program Highlights

The purpose of the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program is to provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. The CTA Program provides the technical capability, including direct conservation planning, design, and implementation assistance, that helps people plan and apply conservation on the land. This assistance is provided to individuals, groups, and communities who make natural resource management decisions on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands.

The CTA Program provides the proven and consistent conservation technology and delivery infrastructure needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape, and has the following purposes:

- Reduce soil loss from erosion.
- Solve soil, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and agricultural waste management problems.
- Reduce potential damage caused by excess water and sedimentation or drought.
- Enhance the quality of aquatic and wildlife habitat.
- Improve the long term sustainability of all lands, including cropland, forestland, grazing lands, coastal lands, and developed and/or developing lands.
- Assist others in facilitating changes in land use as needed for natural resource protection and sustainability.

Conservation planning is a process for evaluating resource concerns on the landscape and developing alternatives to overcome the issues. It is the precursor for implementing conservation practices, with or without financial assistance.

In fiscal year 2008, there were 2,622 conservation plans written on 236,076 acres.

E-Government

Program Manager: Dot Harris

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Landowners and others wanting to do business with the government can now do it online! NRCS is one of three United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center agencies that now offer online services.

To learn more, visit the web site at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>

The USDA has implemented a new process for registering customers who choose to conduct electronic transactions with USDA agencies. This new process was implemented October 21, 2003.

Under the new process, a customer can register for access to eGov applications by visiting:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>

At this site, the application will take the customer through a simplified registration process.

When registered, the customer will need to visit their local service center and have their identity verified by presenting one of four forms of identification; state driver's license; state issued identification card; U.S. passport or a military identification card.

The service center staff will then be able to activate the account and provide the customer with access to many current and future eGov applications.

Please note that the USDA will only accept eAuthentication accounts from individuals. The USDA does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Program Manager: Jimmy Bramblett

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Program Highlights

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program provides local communities with emergency technical and financial assistance to address natural resource concerns resulting from a natural disaster. An example would be downed trees blocking road crossings at creeks. These impediments cause blockage to creeks or small drainage ways, threatening damage to roads, bridges and other structures and increasing risk to human life.

In 2008, NRCS Georgia completed the final project in a suite of technical and financial assistance projects representing over \$1.8 million dollars of EWP funding.

These funds were used to apply emergency conservation measures in three counties: Gilmer, Rabun, and Towns. Emergency measures included debris removal, stream-bank protection, bioengineering, road and culvert headwall protection and road-slide stabilization.

NRCS is currently offering technical and financial assistance to three other communities: Burke County, Grady County, and Thomas County. Tornadoes, in east central Georgia during March, and Tropical Storm Fay, in southwest Georgia in August, caused significant local damage.

Local units of government have requested NRCS assistance under the agency's EWP Program to remove debris from rivers, streams, and creeks to protect life and property. They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings, and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Program Manager: Vacant

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Program Highlights

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

- *On private lands with farmers and ranchers,*
- *On a voluntary basis,*
- *Using local, state, tribal and federal partnerships,*
- *Providing flexible technical, educational, and financial assistance,*
- *Assisting Farmers and Ranchers in complying with federal, state and tribal environmental laws, and*
- *Encouraging environmental enhancement.*

In 2008, 1,560 farmers benefited from \$18.5 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. Livestock producers received over 65 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$6.8 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

These livestock producers will implement grazing plans that include rotational grazing; alternative watering facilities, fencing and heavy use areas along with improve pasture plantings.

Water conservation continues to be a primary resource concern in South Georgia as producers sign



Jack McGlaun, a cattle farmer outside the community of Butler, in Taylor County, had several conservation concerns when he called the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for assistance. He has about 500 acres and runs 70 brood cows and had no rotational grazing plan. Using the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) he planted a mixture of forage and installed cross fencing.

up to retrofit 427 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. This will reduce water usage by

over 20 percent. Sub-surface drip irrigation grew in popularity in 2008 with an additional 14 systems being funded.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program *Continued*

This technology combines the water savings benefits of drip irrigation with the use of Global Positioning Guidance systems on a tractor. The drip tape is buried between the

rows and the GPS is used to plant cotton or peanuts precisely on the row avoiding the buried drip tape. These systems can reduce water usage by over 40 percent.

Another EQIP highlight was the special effort made to assist landowners in Southeast Georgia that had their lands damaged by the wildfires.

Peach Farmer likes the Micro-irrigation System

Jeff Wainwright manages the daily operations of Taylor Orchard, a 3,000-acre family run orchard just outside Reynolds in Taylor County. He said he had several natural resource concerns he wanted to address.

“I was looking for a more efficient way to irrigate the peach trees without wasting the water, without having so much runoff and without compacting the land. That was our three main goals. Burn less diesel, use less water and get a better job done,” he said.

Using EQIP, Wainwright put a 50-acre block under a micro-irrigation system first year and another 50-acre block the second year. Now he is looking at the savings. “I would say put-

ting in that system, on diesel alone, we saved probably 60%. We probably used 40% less diesel with the drip system than we did with the overhead,” said Wainwright.

Wainwright has noticed that using the micro-irrigation system has helped in two ways. It saves him money (cuts down on diseased fruit) and he has a better quality of fruit that tastes better.

Taylor Orchard has benefited from the application of the conservation treatments under EQIP both long and short term.

“It enables you to set up something long term in a field. If the program was



there and you were financially able you would want every tree you have irrigated under a drip or emitter system.

We have 90% irrigated now, but a lot of it is still with the overhead system and that's not efficient.

I would like to eventually get 60-70% of my farm under drip or emitters. I would feel great.

Look at your fuel savings!

It gives you bigger and more marketable fruit,” said Wainwright.

Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program

Program Manager: Vacant

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Program Highlights

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market value for the conservation easement. The program provides matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

In 2008, one proposal was selected for funding and will provide permanent protection of 210 acres of farmland in Oconee County. The value of the easements is \$1.1 million. Five additional easements closed in Oconee, Carroll and Walton County. All of the easements utilized funding from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program along with a match from the Georgia Land Conservation Program.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

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Program Highlights

NRCS in cooperation with Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) encourage forage and livestock producers to adopt practices that promote the efficient use of their grazing land resources, while conserving soil and protecting water quality through maintenance of healthy forage systems. Accomplishing the objectives is facilitated through on-farm cost-share demonstration projects, area- and state-wide conferences, development and distribution of grazing management resources, and funding of innovative research and land management projects

In 2008, Georgia received approximately \$370,000 from the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) to improve the management and condition of the state's private grazing lands. During the year, demonstration projects begun in 2007 were completed on 26 farms using GLCI funds. The demonstration projects allowed farmers to cost-share on a variety of practices, equipment, and structures targeting specific areas of their forage and livestock systems. The program was promoted and managed by Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC). In exchange for cost-share funds from GLCI, cooperating producers agree to allow GGLCC access to their farms for tours and field days.

A highlight of the year was the creation of two new NRCS grazing-related positions. Al Hubbard and Philip Brown are Grassland Conservationists stationed in the Carrollton and Washington Field Offices respectively. Al and Philip hit the ground running and have been assisting Field Offices and landowners throughout north Georgia with grazing planning since last winter. These GLCI-funded positions are new to the state.

A grazing system demonstration has been established on about 50 acres at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center in Americus. A resident beef cattle herd of about 20 cows and calves are grazing a unique system of native warm season grasses, tall fescue, bermudagrass, bahiagrass, and nine acres of silvopasture. The system will be used to develop recommendations for grazing management and for regular field days.



Cows and calves grazing a unique system of native warm season grasses.

National Resources Inventory

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Program Highlights

The National Resources Inventory (NRI) is a statistical survey of land use and resource condition on nonfederal lands in the United States. It is designed to be consistent over the whole nation and over time.

NRI is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) tool to provide Congress and the Nation with natural resources information - especially concerning the nation's farmland. Since the early 1980's, resource data has been gathered on a random sample of 160-acre land units.

Three points within those units are studied more intensively. As of 2005, this work is divided between three national Remote Sensing Laboratories and local field offices. Field office personnel in Georgia surveyed 1,994 of these points in 2008.

Resource information available in NRI includes:

Crop year 1997 – Land Use in broad categories of Cropland, Pastureland, Forestland, Urban Land, Transportation, Federal Land, and Permanent Water. In addition to the broad categories, land use can be further subdivided into approximately 200 finer categories of crop types, forest types and other types of land use. Resource condition is mainly erosion estimates. In current NRI work, a transition from the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) to the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE II) is a major emphasis. Wetland loss and gain is another of NRI's data points.

Crop year 2003 – Broad Land Use, Erosion and Wetlands on the national level (no sub-state estimates available). This data showed Georgia losing prime farmland to development at the third fastest rate in the nation. In good news, the nation showed its first net gain of agricultural wetlands since the NRI began in 1982.

Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP) – This initiative to correlate NRI data with Agricultural Research Service (ARS) study watersheds began with the 2002 Farm Bill. Several very interesting publications have been released through this program. Releases in 2008 are:

*Integrated Landscape Monitoring - Prairie Potholes Pilot: Tier II Study Plan

*Ecosystem Services Derived from Wetland Conservation Practices in the United States Prairie Pothole Region with an Emphasis on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs

National Resources Inventory *Continued*

*Interim Report – Assessment of Ecological Services Derived From U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Programs in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley: Regional Estimates and Functional Condition Indicator Models

*CEAP Conservation Insight—Estimated Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Benefits to Mixed-Grass Prairie Birds

Effects of the Wetlands Reserve Program on Waterfowl Carrying Capacity in the Rainwater Basin Region of South-Central Nebraska

*CEAP Conservation Insight—Ecological Monitoring Insights from the Wetlands Reserve Program in Missouri

A complete library of CEAP publications since 2002 and all the data listed here can be found at the NRI website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/> .

Plant Materials Program

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Program Highlights

The Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center (PMC) is a branch of the USDA-NRCS. It is one of 27 plant materials centers located throughout the United States. The Center is located on the Northwest corner of Americus, Georgia, in Southwestern Georgia and is approximately 40 miles North of Albany. Areas served include Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and parts of Tennessee and Florida. Its mission is to develop plant materials and state-of-the-art plant science technology to solve natural resource problems and meet the objectives of environmental programs. The emphasis of the PMC is using native plants, developing test and release and providing superior adapted plants to commercial growers along with production and management technology.

The PMC worked with 13 different studies in the past year. Some of the highlights are as follows;

- Increasing a promising line of big bluestem for possible future use as forage and/or biofuel.

- A cattle rotation study was conducted with Dennis Chessman, grazing specialist, NRCS Athens, to demonstrate a year-round cattle grazing system and silvopasture establishment.

- Assisted Dr. Brad Morris PhD in Agronomy, legumes researcher with USDA-Agriculture Researcher Station (ARS) Griffin, studying legumes for future pharmaceutical use.

- A Bobwhite Restoration Study was done between Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the NRCS biologists in Alabama and Georgia on 10 acres at the PMC.

- The PMC worked on a future release with South Carolina called Penn Center switchgrass for use along South Carolina coastal area between high marsh and maritime forest. Staff located and hope to collect seed from sweetgrass population on Sapelo Island, to help support the basket making industry along the coast.



New release Muckalee Woolgrass
(Constructed wetlands)

Plant Materials Program *Continued*

- Three field days were held covering CP-36 training and training on prescribed burns for NRCS and others.

- PMC staff participated in ecological site descriptions in South Carolina with a Regional team to describe understory and overstory of longleaf pine communities.

- PMC had a total of 23 presentations and/or training events, produced 13 technical documents and released two new plants.

- Five new field plantings were established.

- Six field plantings in Alabama and Georgia were evaluated.



CP36 field day conducted in March 2008



Native grass and forbes for Wildlife in Summer 2008

Resource Conservation & Development

Program Manager: Jimmy Bramblett

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Introduction

Over 40 years ago, Congress established a unique program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that empowered rural people to help themselves. The USDA focus was to assist local people by providing tools and technical support to stabilize and grow their own communities, while protecting and developing natural resources. To carry out the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) concept, diverse groups of local volunteers (The RC&D Council) are brought together in a unique partnership to find solutions to their problems. Local people are best able to determine local needs, and create local solutions for their Community. The focus on the local direction and control has made RC&D one of the most successful rural development programs of the Federal Government.

During 2008, RC&D Councils increased 35 businesses for the state of Georgia. They completed 11 watershed, or area-wide plans, totaling over 47,000 acres. It is also estimated that RC&D Councils implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance during the year.

This year, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils completed Area Plans for their respective jurisdictions. Area Plans are guideposts to direct Council activities. To complete an Area Plan, each Council solicited public input about resource and economic needs from individuals and organizations within their Council Area. Over 1,200 individuals supported the process by offering suggestions on how the quality of life can be improved within their respective area. As a result, Georgia's eleven RC&D Councils have identified over 600 new projects to pursue between 2008 and 2013. Examples of projects Councils will be pursuing include, but are not limited to:

- Water Quality Improvement Projects
- Wildlife Enhancement Projects
- Energy Conservation Projects
- Economic Development Projects
- Water Supply Projects
- Conservation Education Assistance
- History and Tourism Projects, and
- Philanthropic Assistance

Resource Conservation & Development *Continued*

The diversity of RC&D is unmatched by any other organization. As 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, RC&D Councils enjoy the support of a full-time federal employee, along with additional program resources from the federal government. At the same time, RC&D Councils enjoy flexibility to provide local assistance in many ways beyond the ability of all units of government.

RC&D Councils in Georgia

Central Savannah River
501 N. Main St., Wrens,
Georgia 30833
(706) 706 547-4045
Fax: (706) 547-7606

Chestatee-Chattahoochee
170 Scoggins Drive, Demorest,
Georgia 30535
(706) 894-1591
Fax: (706) 894-1597

Coastal Georgia
185 Richard Davis Dr., Ste 204
Richmond Hill, GA 31324
(912) 459-2070
Fax: (912) 459-2071

Golden Triangle
822-R Jesse Johnson Street
Blakely, Georgia 39823
(229) 723-3841
Fax: (229) 723-3842
www.enhancinggeorgia.org

Limestone Valley
125 Red Bud Road, Suite 7
Calhoun, Georgia 30701
(706) 625-7044
Fax: (706) 625-9943

Oconee River
P.O. Box 247
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677
(706) 769-7922
Fax: (706) 769-3184

Pine Country
105 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Soperton, Georgia 30457
(912) 529-6652
Fax: (912) 529-6000

Rolling Hills
203 Legion Road
Dallas, Georgia 30132
(770) 505-4288
rlnghills@netscape.net

Seven Rivers
239 N.E. Park Avenue, Suite E
Baxley, Georgia 31513
(912) 367-7679
Fax: (912) 367-1184

Two Rivers
100 Ridley Avenue
LaGrange, Georgia 30240
(706) 885-0101
Fax: (706) 885-0103
www.tworiversrcd.org

Upper Ocmulgee River
750 S. Perry Street, Suite 212
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045
(770) 339-6071
(678) 442-1329

Soil Survey

Program Manager: Edward Ealy

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Program Highlights

The Soil Survey Program is authorized under law and regulation, and guided by executive order and secretary's memoranda. The Agriculture Appropriation Act of 1896 established the soil survey, and subsequent laws (1903, 1928, and 1935) clarified the purpose. In 1966, Congress expanded the scope and further clarified the intent of the Soil Survey Program in Public Law 89 560, known as the Soil Survey for Resource Planning and Development Act. This law, now codified under the Public Health and Welfare 42 USC, provides detailed expectations for the soil survey program and is the principal basis for the soil survey mission.

The authorities define the mission of the Soil Survey Program. Taken together, the authorities direct the Secretary of Agriculture to:

- 1. make an inventory of the soil resources of the United States;*
- 2. keep the soil survey relevant to ever-changing needs;*
- 3. interpret the information and make it available in a useful form; and*
- 4. promote the soil survey and provide technical assistance in its use for a wide range of community planning and resource development issues related to non-farm and farm uses.*

The soil survey program of the United States is a cooperative effort conducted by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other Federal agencies in collaboration with states and other entities. Leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey is delegated to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (7 CFR 2.61).

The NRCS will complete the initial inventory of all the soils in Georgia in 2011. After the initial inventory is completed, the Georgia Cooperative Soil Survey will begin to focus toward the three remaining core mission functions mentioned above.

Nationally, efforts have already begun within the Soil Survey Division to redirect its focus toward continually improving soil survey information to meet ever-changing needs for new data and analysis, delivering soil survey analysis and data in more useful forms to a more

diverse clientele, promoting soil survey, and providing technical assistance in its use. The focus will be to deliver the soil survey on a Major Land Resources Area (MLRA) basis and remove the political boundaries from the initial soil inventory.

Soil Survey Continued

To achieve this mission, the NRCS has begun to restructure the soil survey program that focuses on initial mapping to a program that will focus on updating and maintaining the soil inventory gathered over the past five decades.

When the initial soil inventory is completed the NRCS will have reduced the number of Soil Survey offices in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and the Pacific Basin, from 255 to 144 MLRA Soil Survey Offices (SSO). Georgia will have three MLRA SSOs.

The Griffin, GA. SSO will have soil survey update and maintenance responsibilities in the Piedmont (MLRA 136) for Georgia and Alabama.

The Richmond Hill, GA. SSO will have soil survey update and maintenance responsibilities of the Tidewater and Atlantic Coast Flatwoods (MLRA 153A & 153B) in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

The Tifton, GA. SSO will have soil survey update and maintenance responsibilities in the Coastal Plain (MLRA 133A)

of Georgia and a small area in North West Florida.

The update and maintenance for the Carolina and Georgia Sand Hills (MLRA 137) in Georgia will be the responsibility of the Bishopville, SC MLRA SSO.

The update and maintenance for the Blue Ridge (MLRA 130B) in Georgia will be the responsibility of the MLRA SSO in Ashville, NC.

The update and maintenance for the Ridge and Valley (MLRA 128) in Georgia will be the responsibility of the Knoxville, TN MLRA SSO; and the Sand Mountain (MLRA 129) in Georgia will be the responsibility of the Normal, AL MLRA SSO.

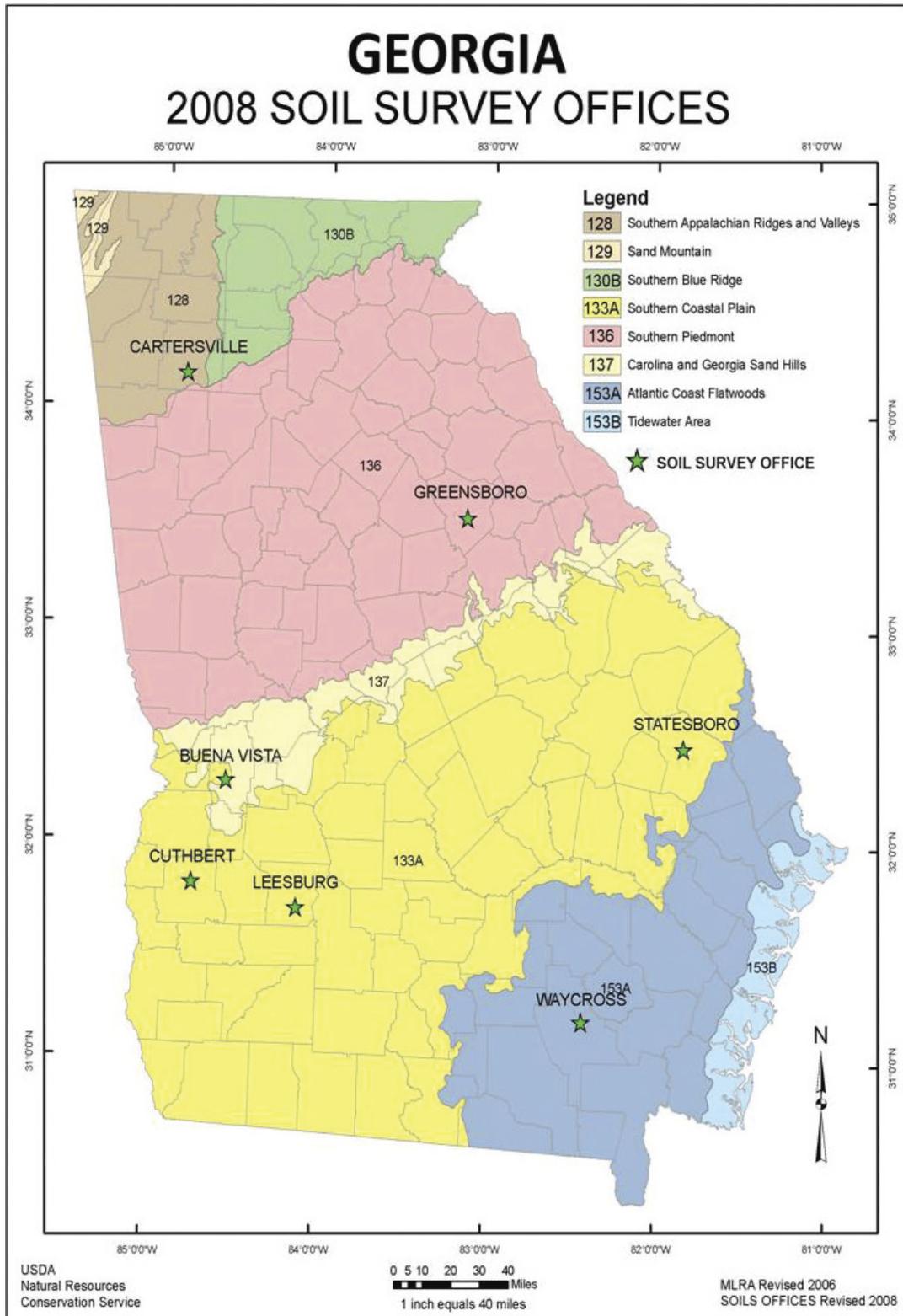
In FY 2008 the Georgia Cooperative soil survey published new or updated soil surveys for Effingham, Fulton and Monroe Counties; completed field work in Webster County and posted the SSURGO (Soil Survey Geographic Database) for Ware County.

All digitized soil surveys are available to the public through the web soil survey, an interactive, web-

based delivery system. Soil survey reports and soil data downloads are available at

<http://www.soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>. More information can be found at <http://www.soils.usda.gov/>.

Soil Survey Continued



Technical Service Providers

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Program Highlights

The Technical Service Provider (TSP) program was outlined in the 2002 Farm Bill. The TSP program requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow producers to receive technical assistance by individuals and entities other than NRCS. This provision is designed to ensure NRCS has the capacity to address the significant workload associated with implementing Farm Bill programs. TSP assistance is another tool for NRCS to use in the implementation of conservation programs.

In fiscal year 2008, NRCS obligated \$334,426.00 in the TSP program throughout Georgia. These funds were disbursed to seventeen counties for use in the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees/Seniors (ACES) program, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) agreement, Georgia Forestry Commission agreement (GFC), Department of Natural Resources agreement and the Ogeechee SWCD Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Through these obligated funds, hundreds of conservation practices have been installed.

The installations of practices such as cover crop, critical area planting, fence, hedgerow planting, irrigation water management, nutrient management, pasture and hayland planting, prescribe grazing, residue management, riparian forest buffer, heavy use area, well, pipeline, tank and trough and stream crossing, and the use of the CNMP have afforded Georgia's NRCS another avenue to help people help the land.

Watershed Planning Program

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Program Highlights

The Watershed Program helps sponsoring organizations in the development of a plan on watersheds 250,000 acres or less. Resource concerns associated with impaired water quality, limited water supply, flooding, land management, sedimentation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitats are eligible for evaluation. Watershed Plans and Environmental Assessments propose alternative courses of action to alleviate identified problems. Public benefits, costs, and cost-sharing rates are identified as a necessary prerequisite to justify Federal financial assistance for installing works of improvement.

In 2008, NRCS in Georgia provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning assistance.

Community needs for water supply projects have become the most common resource concern generating request for assistance from NRCS.

Other community scale resource concerns addressed this year include water quality degradation, agricultural irrigation deficiencies, and excessive erosion.

Three watershed, or area-wide, plans were completed during the year; two for water quality (Upper Alapaha Watershed and Upper Withlacoochee Watershed), and one for erosion control (Fort Benning).



Multiple purpose reservoir

Watershed Rehabilitation Program

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Program Highlights

The Watershed Program helps sponsoring organizations in the development of a plan on watersheds 250,000 acres or less. Resource concerns associated with impaired water quality, limited water supply, flooding, land management, sedimentation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitats are eligible for evaluation. Watershed Plans and Environmental Assessments propose alternative courses of action to alleviate identified problems. Public benefits, costs, and cost-sharing rates are identified as a necessary prerequisite to justify Federal financial assistance for installing works of improvement.

Since 1953, 357 project dams have been built in Georgia. Currently, 189 of these are “High Hazard,” indicating a potential loss of life if the dam were to fail. Preliminary investigations indicate that some \$120 million will be needed to upgrade these structures and ensure compliance with current dam safety legislation.

NRCS project dams annually provide \$21 million of benefits to local communities by providing flood protection, water based recreation, municipal water supply, and other water uses. Property values for land associated with these floodwater retarding structures have also increased. Homes and property adjacent to one of these reservoirs averages 25% higher than home and property without such amenities.

One of the major issues involved with aging dams is the safety and health of an estimated 17,000 people downstream from the dams. Many dams were originally built in rural areas to protect agricultural lands; but homes, business, and roads have now been built downstream thereby increasing the impacts if they were to fail. Congress passed legislation in 2000 that authorized NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance for rehabilitation of dams that were originally constructed under NRCS water resource programs.

Since 2002, NRCS-Georgia has secured \$11 million under this program to upgrade six watershed dams. In 2008, construction for public safety was completed on Yellow River Watershed Structure No. 15 (Y-15). NRCS invested almost \$3 million in this project, which took \$4.1 million to complete.



Y-15 Upgraded Gwinnett County

Watershed Rehabilitation Program *Continued*

Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards. Emergency Action Plans are being developed on all of these dams to help protect Georgia residents living below these structures.



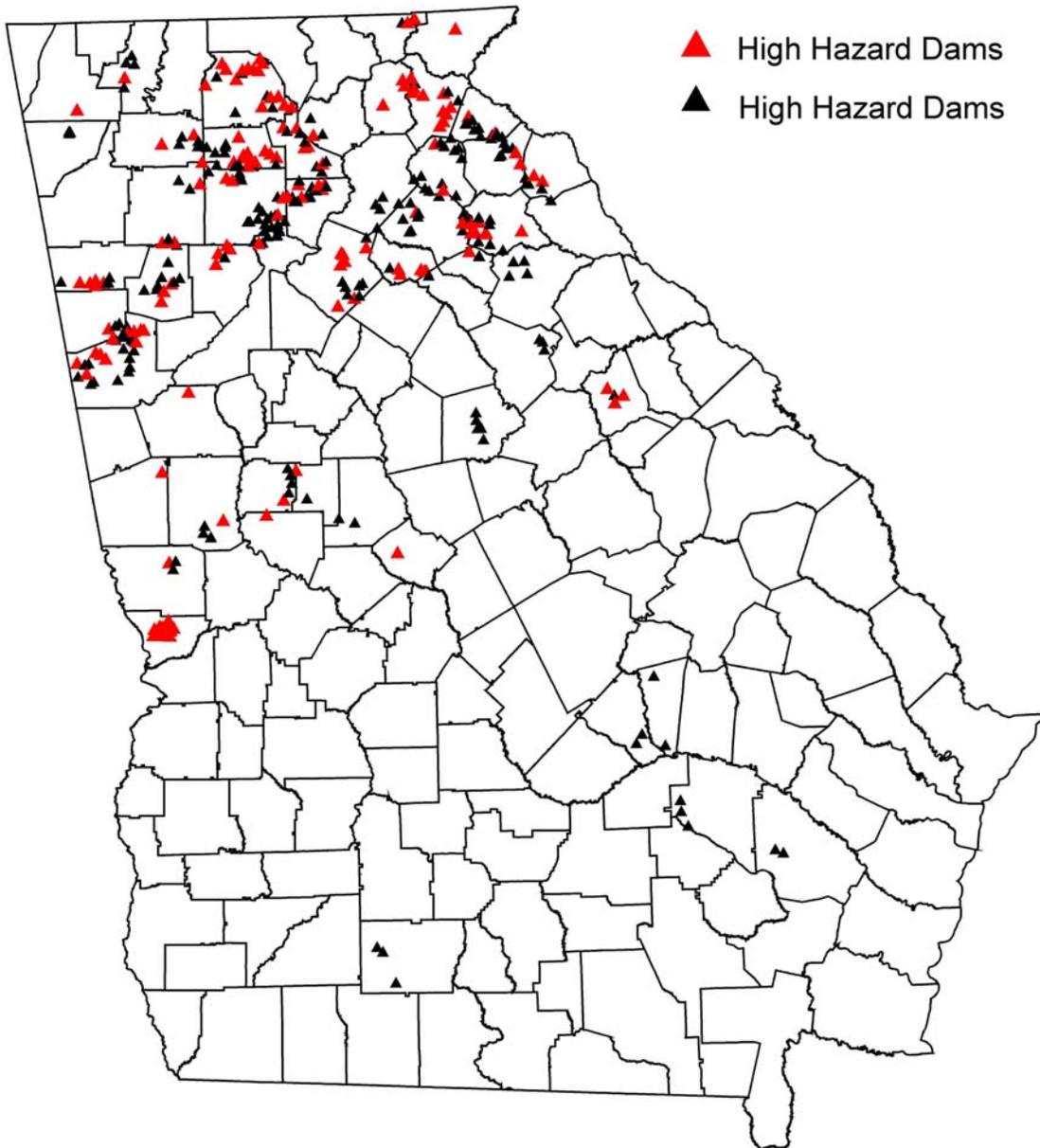
Y-17 Upgrade Gwinnett County

Watershed Rehabilitation Program *Continued*

NRCS Assisted Dams



Hazard Classification



November 2006



Watershed Operations Program

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Program Highlights

The Watershed Program helps sponsoring organizations in the development of a plan on watersheds of 250,000 acres or less. During planning, problems such as water quality, flooding, water and land management, and sedimentation are evaluated and works of improvement are proposed to alleviate problems. The resulting watershed plans estimates benefits, costs and cost-sharing rates. The plans arrange operation and maintenance necessary to justify Federal assistance to install works of improvement.

Watershed Operations Program

Since 1952, a total of 77 small watershed projects have been approved for operations in Georgia. Some \$189 million of water quality improvements, soil erosion reduction, flood protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat establishment have been planned on 5.2 million acres.

The following watershed projects are active watershed protection projects for water quality:

Lower Little Tallapoosa River Watershed - Carroll County; South Chickamauga Creek Watershed - Walker and Catoosa Counties; Piscola Creek Watershed - Brooks County; Turkey Creek Watershed - Dooly County; Five Points Area Watershed - Macon County; and Tobesofkee Creek Watershed - Lamar and Monroe Counties

NRCS-Georgia has received over \$7 million to help local landowners install conservation practices for water quality improvement in the above projects. Through 2008, just over \$4 million of financial assistance has been provided to landowners.

Watershed Dam Operation and Maintenance

Since 1953, 357 NRCS Assisted Project Dams have been constructed. Most dams provide flood protection benefits to communities downstream. As man-made structures, these dams need regular maintenance. After years of neglect, many local sponsors [with financial assistance from the state] have allocated approximately \$150,000 for much needed maintenance. To date, the maintenance on 112 dams has been brought up to date. NRCS provides technical assistance with identification of maintenance needed.



Larry Coburn a former soil conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Georgia and a farmer in Putnam County pose at water crossing

Wetland Reserve Program

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Program Highlights

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides landowners the technical and financial support to make restoration possible. The NRCS goal is to restore the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife habitat protection.

In 2008, 598 new acres were signed up under the wetlands reserve program.

An additional 8,000 acres were restored, or are in the process of restoration. These acres occurred in existing WRP easements. Restoration included removing culverts that impede flood water movement in bottlenecked hardwoods and replacing with low water crossings and the construction of ditch plugs to restore the hydrology in wetlands that were drained years ago. Due to the land being burned by the fire in April 2007, in January and February 2008, the NRCS assisted land owners who planted 550,000 Cypress trees and 50,000 Longleaf Pines in Roundabout Swamp, Atkinson County.



Individual carrying Bald Cypress on their back for planting.



L to R: Congressman Jack Kingston, Lynn Nichols, district conservationist for the NRCS, David Lamm, assistant state conservationist – programs, James E. Tillman, Sr. state conservationist, David Ferrell, assistant state conservationist for area four walk Roundabout Swamp.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Program Manager: Vacant

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Program Highlights

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) develops or improves wildlife habitat on privately owned land. Through WHIP, NRCS provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land.

Georgia received \$727,000 in Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) funds this year. Ninety-four (94) contracts were approved in 44 counties.

Tree and Shrub plantings, prescribed burning and early successional habitat management continue to be the primary practices being used to improve Georgia's wildlife on private lands.

Wildlife habitat damaged or destroyed in the wildfires of 2007 was targeted for restoration efforts using WHIP funds.

These areas will be planted to Longleaf Pine.