



COBB COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



BOARD MEMBERS

Woody Snell, PE — *Chairman*

Don Ayres, PE

Alan Bowling, PE

Alice Champagne, CPESC, CFM

Jim Lanier, CPESC



HISTORY



Following the 1930s Dust Bowl disaster, Congress passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. In 1937 President Roosevelt wrote to state governors recommending legislation that would allow for the formation of Soil Conservation Districts.

As a consequence, the Cobb County Soil and Water Conservation District, which was formed from the Atlanta District established in 1940, was organized on September 11, 1981.

The District provides cost-efficient assistance in the areas of erosion control, conservation, education and outreach, as well as public awareness and planning for citizens and local governments in Cobb County. In addition, the District Board interacts with local, state and federal agencies to assist in the conservation of soil and water resources.

Five District Supervisors serve on the Board; three elected Supervisors serve 4-year terms and two appointed Supervisors serve 2-year terms.

Assisting the District are the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The GSWCC, established by the General Assembly in 1937, is charged with and empowered to provide guidance, coordination and assistance to the District. Their primary goal is to provide protection to Georgia's soil and water resources.

By written agreement with and at the request of the District, NRCS provides professional conservationists to help implement the District's long-range conservation programs. The District channels the services of NRCS and sets priorities for the implementation of conservation practices.

For additional information concerning cost share programs, erosion and sediment control assistance or District activities, contact a District Supervisor, the GSWCC or the NRCS.

"Take care of the land and the land will take care of you." Hugh Hammond Bennett

ACTIVITIES



Provide monthly assistance to all seven of Cobb County SWCD's local issuing authorities (LIAs) for land disturbance permits including complaint resolution and technical assistance.



Review monthly information provided by LIAs indicating Erosion & Sediment Control (E&SC) permitting activity, notices of non-compliance, stop work orders, etc.

Review E&SC plans as required by state law for Marietta, Powder Springs and Austell.



Conduct overviews of LIAs E&SC program including administration and record keeping; site inspection and enforcement. Conducted Overviews of LIAs E&SC program including administration and record keeping; site inspection and enforcement.

Host E&SC workshops in Cobb County for local government, builders, contractors, and landscape designers.

Assist in amending Georgia's E&SC law to include the certification of E&SC inspectors and E&SC plan designers and plan reviewers.

All Cobb District Supervisors are Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Level 2 Certified plan designers and reviewers.



SPECIAL PROJECTS



Repairs at Shaw Park

In September 2010, stream bank restoration and repairs were completed at Shaw Park.

Restoration and repairs at Noonday Creek watershed dam No. 17 were completed under a partnership with the Georgia Safe Dams Program and the USDA-NRCS.

Throughout the year the CCSWCD has advised and consulted with the NRCS for conservation programs including CCRP, EQIP, and EWP.

The CCSWCD website is maintained in order to provide conservation resources and materials including the District's Guideline for Native Vegetation and Stream Bank Restoration.



The District website can be found at www.cobbswcd.org

Shaw Park Streambank Stabilization & Education Project



WATERSHED DAMS

WATERSHED DAM STRUCTURE NOONDAY NO. 17

Pictured below:
Noonday No. 17 before,
during, and after
construction.



Noonday No. 17 following September 2009 flood damage.

The District partnered with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Safe Dam Program and Cobb County to inspect four District sponsored dams.

Repairs to Noonday Creek watershed structure No. 17 were completed under partnership with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The damages sustained by the dam were a result of the September 2009 flooding.



Noonday No. 17 in April 2011 after repairs.

NRCS/COBB COUNTY ACTIVITIES

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In conjunction with Rolling Hills RC&D, NRCS presented information to a group of beginning farmers on the EQIP & WHIP programs. Over 40 participants learned about the 2008 Farm Bill programs and how they can sign up and what the local resource priorities are for 2011.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Emergency Watershed Protection Program, EQIP are NRCS programs implemented in Cobb County in the recent year.



Completed debris removal at EWP site in Cobb County.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

NRCS High Tunnel Pilot

The Marietta Field Office funded 2 out of 10 applications for the pilot EQIP High Tunnel practice. One participant from Cobb County was chosen based on their application ranking. We look forward to working with them and seeing what their research shows as the benefits of high tunnels and how they can extend the crop growing seasons.

Conservation practices funded in Cobb County by the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program included:

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|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Crop Rotation</i> | <i>Nutrient Management</i> |
| <i>Fencing</i> | <i>Prescribed Grazing</i> |
| <i>Forage and Biomass Planting</i> | <i>Seasonal Residue Management</i> |
| <i>Heavy Use Area Protection</i> | <i>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management</i> |



Photos taken at Bray Family Farms in Cobb County.

PUBLICATIONS

Cobb County

Cobb County Stream Buffer Revegetation Guidelines
March 2006



PREPARED BY:
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NRCS

Backyard Conservation

Bringing
Conservation
From the
Countryside to
Your Backyard



A cooperative project of
National Association of Conservation Districts
National System of Conservation Districts
National Wildlife Federation
National Audubon Society

SMALL SCALE SMALL FIELD CONSERVATION



NRCS
National Resource Conservation Service

EDUCATION



Sponsor and promote soil and water stewardship poster contest for fifth and sixth graders in Cobb County schools.

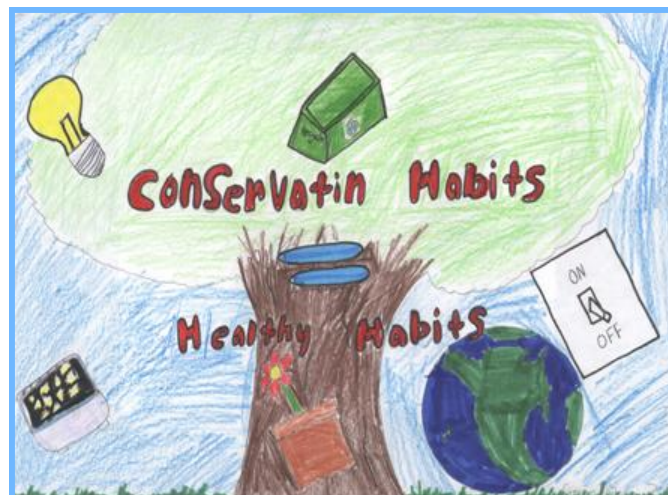
Sponsor students to the Natural Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton.

Hosted Equestrian Workshop with NRCS.

NACD POSTER CONTEST

2010 National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest. The theme was "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits."

The NRCS Marietta Field Office coordinated the contest this year with participants Cobb County Elementary schools, Blackwell and Nicholson. The 1st place winners will be presented at the state level competition in late August.



PARTNERSHIPS

Maintain Memoranda of Understanding with NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to provide technical guidance and support for conservation programs.

Membership in Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors (GACDS) and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to support conservation efforts on the state and national level.

Hosted GSWCC Regional Representative meeting.

Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission Region III



*Left-Right:
Jenny Searl (Secretary),
Russell Tanning (Region III Representative),
Melissa Echevarria (E&S Specialist)*

NRCS Marietta Field Office



*Valerie Pickard (District Conservationist),
Susan Breen (Soil Conservation Aid)*





The mission of the Cobb County Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide educational and technical assistance to conserve soil, improve water quality, and enhance the natural resources in Cobb County.

The District could not successfully accomplish our mission without the partnership with local governments including Cobb County, Marietta, Acworth, Powder Springs, Smyrna, Kennesaw and Austell. Our partners provide the foundation to help us accomplish our conservation programs. We are especially grateful for their support and assistance to the District.

