



## Georgia State Technical Committee Meeting (GA STCM)

January 16, 2025

9:00am – 12:00pm

*Presenters:* Lee Green, Gary Hankins, Tracy Cole, Brad Alexander, Stephanie Koontz

*Terrance O. Rudolph, NRCS, Georgia State Conservationist:* Welcome and opening comments

Discussed the following: Administration change, (Agency may face a hiring freeze)

All in-person attendees introduced themselves

*Lee Green, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs:* Discussed program overview, Inflation Reduction Act, IRA Core Practices, Additional funds for existing conservation programs and EQIP nationwide. No new programs created by IRA, discussed gas emissions and mitigate climate change, core practices selected and the 5 pools for IRA (PowerPoint Presentation Attached)

*Gary Hankins, NRCS State Soil Scientist:* Discussed Dan Wallace Retirement, Policy Protection Act (PPA), Special Projects Update, UGA and the Forest Productivity Index Study Soil Survey within the soil and Plant Science Division, Websoil Survey, Wetland termination request for 742 Heo, (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

*Tracy Cole, NRCS State Resource Conservationist:* Grazing, discussed resource concerns that's been treated: soil, water, air, plants, animals, or energy resource concerns., fence and forage harvest management which is hay land management(PowerPoint Presentation attached)

*Nick McGhee, NRCS Plant Material Manager:* Discussed projects that's being worked on: soil science and resource assessment deputy area, air quality specifically for climate smart mitigation, EQIP wildlife dashboard, NRI data, national resource inventory (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

*Justin Smith, NRCS, State Forester:* Discussed 612 tree shrub establishment, 655 forest trails and landings (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

*Noah McCord, NRCS State Biologist:* Discussed updates on several conservation practices standards and IRS, hedger planting, shallow water development and management, wetland restoration. Discussed the uploading of the Philadelphus Technical Guide, hedrop planting, (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

*Brad Alexander, Department of Natural Resources, Private lands Program Manager:* Discussed partnership with The National Bobwhite and Grassroots Initiative on RCPP

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*Stephanie Koontz, National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative Foundation, Georgia State Coordinator:* Discussed partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, mission with NRS is to promote NRCS practices aimed at creating early successful habitat for threatened flora and fauna, focuses on bobwhite quail, spoke on there under represented partner, the KKAC Organization, RCS programs. (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

*Questions and Comments from Committee/Open Discussion*

*Terrance O. Rudolph, NRCS, Georgia State Conservationist:* Closing statements. The next GA STC meeting will take place in April 2025 (exact date is being determined).

Meeting was adjourned