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GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Erosion & Sediment Certification Program

for people involved with land disturbing activities

NASCA State Sharing Session
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When & Why?

Purpose: Provide training that would establish a baseline to reduce erosion from land disturbing activities statewide.



1975: Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act was passed

GESA; State law that regulates land-disturbing activities to prevent soil erosion and the resulting sedimentation os state warers.

2003: House Bill 285

Mandatory education and certification was created by legislative amendments, and GSWCC was tasked to develop and run the program.

2007: House Bill 463 and other amendments

Develop sustainable practices that boost local economic activities, particularly in fishing and tourism, ensuring long-term benefits for the community.

Purpose

Educate permittees on the State and Federal rules and regulations governing Land Disturbing Activities in Georgia.

- NPDES
- GESA
- State Waters
- BMPS

Pictured: George Busbee, Governor of the State of Georgia, signed into law the Erosion & Sedimentation Act of 1975 .

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How Georgia's Program was Developed

Administered by GSWCC

Policy, procedures, and program rules were posted as official GSWCC documents and rulemaking.

Partnership with Georgia Enviromental Protection Division

State agency charged with regulating Georgia's air, land, and water resources through state and federal environmental statutes.

Governor-appointed Stakeholder Board* created.

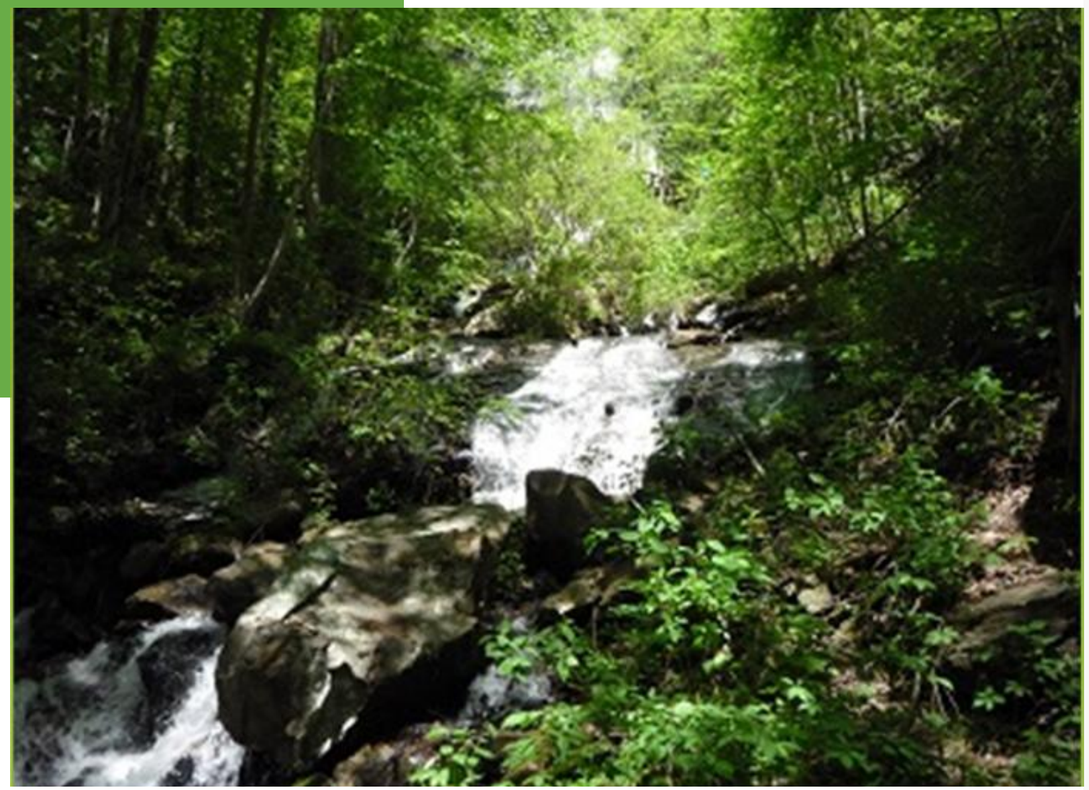
State and local stateholders from across the state worked with GSWCC and GA EPD to develop rules, course standards, testing, levels and systems.

*State Bill 96

2025 legislative session transferred Stakeholder Board powers to the Overview council, so the E&S program and manual are administered by the same board.

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Impacts & Benefits



Consistent Statewide Training and Standards

Improved BMP Installation, Inspection, and Compliance

Protection of Georgia's Water Resources from Sedimentation

District funding opportunity though course sponsorship

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Certification Levels

Subcontractor Awareness

Basic information (2 hours)

Level 1A: Fundamentals

Contractors and site personnel (1 Day)

Level 1B: Inspectors

Regulatory/contract inspectors (2 days)

Level II: Design Professionals

Engineers and plan reviewers

Recerts/ Continuing Ed

Required for all certification levels.

Become a Certified Trainer

10 Years experience or Bachelors Degree and 5 years Experience required.

Trainer I

Certified to teach Awareness, 1A, 1B, and Recertifications

Trainer II

Certified to teach Level II and Level II Recertification

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Course Content

GESA

Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act

NPDES Permitting

Execute erosion mitigation strategies to protect and restore the shoreline.

State Waters

Develop eco-friendly tourism and local businesses.

Best Management Practices (BMPS)

- Structural
- Vegatative

Inspection & Enforcement

Level 1B

Plan Review & Design

Level II

Manual for Erosion & Sediment Control

Level 1A, 1B, and both Level II Certification types require a passing score of 70%
Trainer I and Trainer II Certifications require a passing score of 85%
Recertification is required every 3 years or within a year of expiration date.

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Program Connections to Conservation Districts



Local Issuing Authorities (LIAs)

- Partners with EPD on regulatory actions
- Issues permits
- site inspections
- provides updates to Conservation Districts monthly
- turns in semi-annual reports to GSWCC

Conservation Districts

- Approves all ES&PC plans needed for land disturbing activities, technical review provided by GSWCC on behalf of the Districts.
- Can issue Memorandum of Agreements with LIA for ability to review their own plans
- partners with GSWCC and LIAs on technical assistance requests and complaints

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- provides technical assistance and program management
- manages all administrative actions related to district programs and responsibilities
- technical assistance and complaint assistance/resolution
- provides training, sponsored by districts.

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Program Establishment Steps



01

Legislative Step:
Consider whether to use statute or other administrative rule.



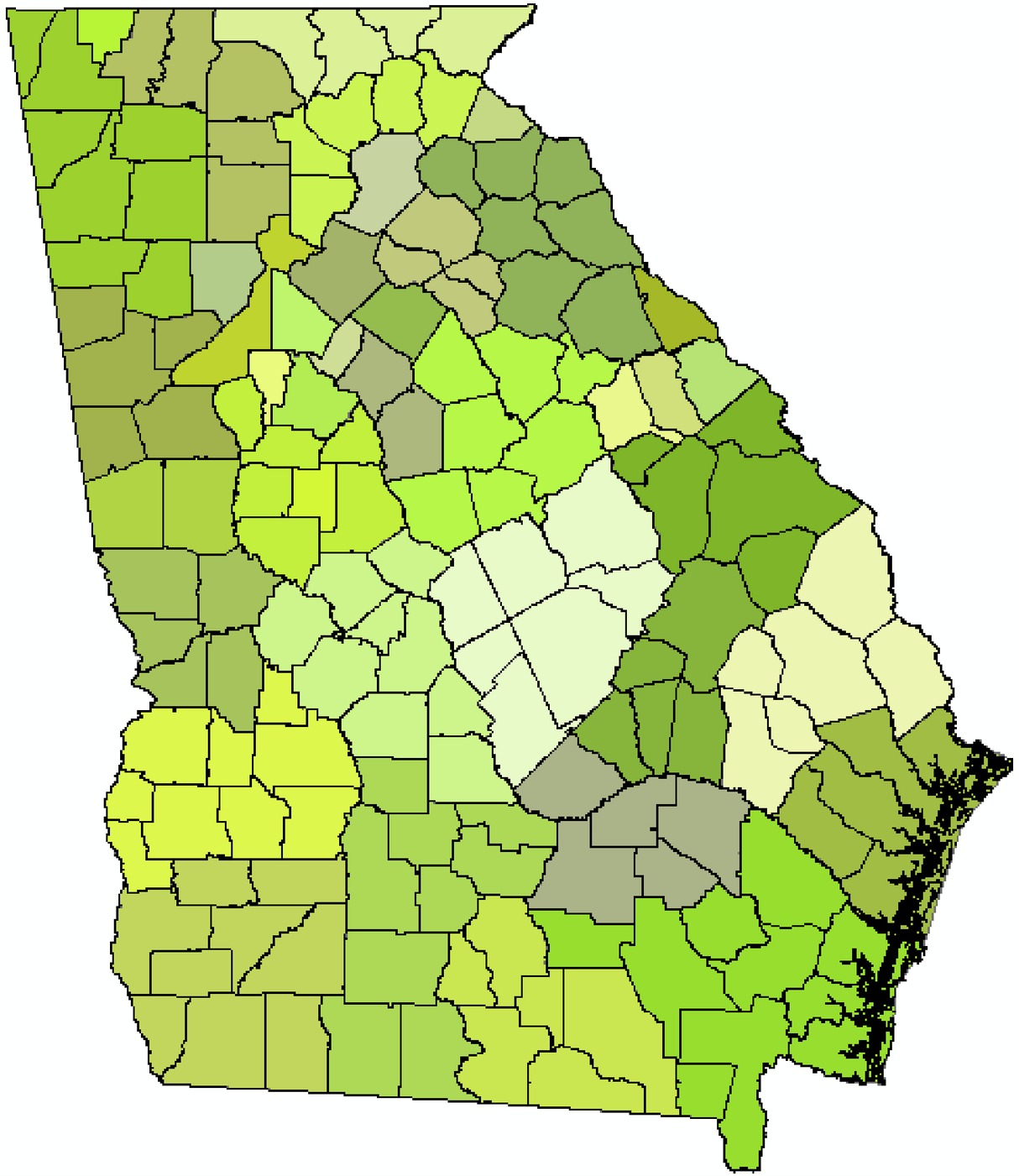
02

Stakeholder Engagement:
Needed to help design feasible requirements and course content.



03

Rollout and Recertification Plan:
Discuss initial certification deadlines and recertification requirements.



Thank You!

Contact me with any questions!

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