

WWALS Watershed Coalition  
Regular Meeting - Corrected DRAFT  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday 7:30 PM 11 July 2012  
IHOP Adel, GA

**Attending:**

Al Browning  
Dave Hetzel  
Gretchen Quarterman  
John Quarterman  
Bret Wagenhorst  
Nathan Wilkins

**Absent:**

Garry Gentry  
Brittney Hull  
Karan Rawlins

**Visitors:**

Debbie Browning  
Donald Davis  
Dr. Richard Lowrance  
Dorothy Wilkins

Prior to the meeting, Donald Davids presented 2 1917 soil maps, Brooks and Lowndes County, to the group for review.

At 7:39 the meeting was called to order by President Dave Hetzel.

Richard Lowrance, USDA-ARS, presented us with information on the amount of research and spending, \$2.2 billion, done by the Agricultural Research Service on an annual basis. The Agricultural Research Service, hereafter referred to as ARS, does research on animal and plant production and quality, as well as on water quality. The ARS has approximately 120 locations, primarily co-located on college campuses. The primary focus of ARS is developing food products, researching soil and water, and more recently the obesity epidemic. The ARS is headquartered in Maryland.

Dr. Lowrance works at the Southeast Watershed Research unit, which employs 7 scientists, and 20 full time employees. 15% of the ARS budget goes to soil and water research, and in 1954, congress authorized 6 watershed research units. In 1967, the Little River watershed was selected for research by the Southeast Watershed Research lab. The service does water hydrology and quality testing at the dam at Reed Bingham. The majority of research done by the Southeast research lab is done in conjunction with colleges, EPD, USGS, etc.

The ARS uses pressure transducers, which weight the water column above, to determine the water depth at a particular location. When samples are taken from the river, they are flow-proportional, and are analyzed for ph, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and nitrates. In general the nutrient levels in our watershed are very good compared to watersheds in other regions of the country. The ARS has a library, which can get the group pdf files of research articles for our use. He also gave us the name of the ARS researcher in charge of pesticide research, Tom Potter, and also stated that pesticide levels in our watershed were very low, 1-2 parts per billion. He informed us, due to the content of the soil, Tifton soil can cause increased runoff, but this can be greatly reduced through conservation tillage.

Donald Davis gave the group a copy of Valdosta Style magazine, which has an article on the Alapaha River.

Water Quality training is not on August 8th, but on August 25th.

We will be traveling from the SGRC to Drexel Park to collect water samples. We informed the attendees that the official email for WWALS Watershed Coalition is [WWALSWatershed@gmail.com](mailto:WWALSWatershed@gmail.com).

We were unsure if donations to WWALS would be allowed at water quality training.

The secretary was tasked with making a list of floating assets.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.