

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 7 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF  
LOWNDES COUNTY BY STRIKING IN ITS ENTIRETY ARTICLE 3, SECTIONS  
30-38 ENTITLED LOWNDES COUNTY SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION  
CONTROL ORDINANCE AND SUBSTITUTING IN LIEU THEREOF THE FOLLOWING  
SO THAT AS AMENDED SAID ORDINANCE SHALL READ AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 3

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED LOWNDES COUNTY SOIL EROSION CONTROL  
ORDINANCE SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND  
IMPLEMENTATION OF A COUNTY-WIDE COMPREHENSIVE SOIL EROSION AND  
SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT THE LAND,  
WATER, AIR, AND OTHER RESOURCES OF LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, it is found that soil erosion and sediment deposition  
onto lands and into waters within the watersheds of this county  
are occurring as a result of widespread failure to apply proper  
soil erosion and sedimentation control practices in land  
clearing, soil movement and construction activities and that such  
erosion and sediment deposition result in pollution of waters in  
the county and damage to domestic, agricultural, recreational,  
fish and wildlife, and other resource uses,  
IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
LOWNDES COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 7-30. Title

This ordinance will be known as "Lowndes County Soil Erosion  
Control Ordinance".

Section 7-31. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and  
enforcement of this ordinance, unless otherwise specifically  
stated:

1. Best Management Practices (BMP's): A collection of structural  
measures and vegetative practices which, when properly  
designed, installed and maintained, will provide effective  
erosion and sedimentation control for all rainfall events  
up to and including a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event.
2. Board: The Board of Natural Resources.
3. Buffer: An area along the course of any state waters to be  
maintained in an undisturbed and natural condition.
4. Commission: The State Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

5. Cut: A portion of land surface or area from which earth has been removed by excavation; the depth below original ground surface to excavated surface. Also known as excavation.
6. Department: The Department of Natural Resources.
7. Director: The Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
8. District: The Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District.
9. Division: The Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
10. Drainage Structure: A device composed of a virtually nonerodible material such as concrete, steel, plastic or other such material that conveys water from one place to another by intercepting the flow and carrying it to a release point for storm-water management, drainage control or flood control purposes.
11. Erosion: The process by which land surface is worn away by the action of wind, water, ice or gravity.
12. Erosion and Sedimentation Plan: A plan for control of soil erosion and sedimentation resulting from a land disturbing activity. Also known as the "plan".
13. Ground Elevation: The original elevation of the ground surface prior to cutting or filling.
14. Fill: A portion of land surface to which soil or other solid material has been added; the depth above the original ground.
15. Finished Grade: The final elevation and contour of the ground after cutting or filling and conforming to the proposed design.
16. Grading: Altering the shape of ground surfaces to a predetermined condition; this includes stripping, cutting, filling, stockpiling and shaping or any combination thereof and shall include the land in its cut or filled condition.
17. Issuing Authority: The governing authority of any county or municipality which has been certified by the Director Of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources as an Issuing Authority, pursuant to the Erosion and Sedimentation Act Of 1975, as amended, or the Division in those instances where an application for a permit is submitted to the Division.
18. Land-Disturbing Activity: Any activity which may result in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediments into state waters or onto lands within the state, including, but not limited to, clearing, dredging, grading, excavating, transporting, and filling of land but not including agricultural practices as described in section 7-32 (A)(5).
19. Metropolitan River Protection Act(MRPA): A state law referenced as O.C.G.A. 12-5-440 et seq., which addresses environmental and developmental matters in certain metropolitan river corridors and their drainage basins.
20. Natural Ground Surface: The ground surface in its original state before any grading , excavation or filling.

21. Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Numerical units of measure based upon photometric analytical techniques for measuring the light scattered by finely divided particles of a substance in suspension. This technique is used to estimate the extent of turbidity in water in which colloiddally dispersed particles are present.
22. Permit: The authorization necessary to conduct a land-disturbing activity under the provisions of this ordinance.
23. Person: Any individual, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, utility, cooperative, state agency, municipality or other political subdivision of this State, any interstate body or any other legal entity.
24. Project: The entire proposed development project regardless of the size of the area of land to be disturbed.
25. Roadway Drainage Structure: A device such as a bridge, culvert, or ditch, composed of a virtually nonerrodible material such as concrete, steel, plastic, or other such material that conveys water under a roadway by intercepting the flow on one side of a traveled way consisting of one or more defined lanes, with or without shoulder areas, carrying water to a release point on the other side.
26. Sediment: Solid material, both organic and inorganic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, ice, or gravity as a product of erosion.
27. Sedimentation: The process in which eroded material is transported and deposited by the action of water, wind, ice, and gravity.
28. Soil and Water Conservation District approved plan: An erosion and sedimentation control plan approved in writing by the Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District.
29. Stabilization: The process of establishing an enduring soil cover of vegetation by the installation of temporary or permanent structures for the purpose of reducing to a minimum the erosion process and the resultant transport of sediment by wind, water, ice, and gravity.
30. State Waters: Any and all rivers, streams, creeks, branches, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, drainage systems, springs, wells, and other bodies of water, natural or artificial, lying within or forming a part of the boundaries of the State which are not entirely confined and retained completely upon the property of a single individual, partnership, or corporation.
31. Structural Erosion and Sedimentation Control Measures: Measures for the stabilization of erodible or sediment producing areas by utilizing the mechanical properties of matter for the purpose of either changing the surface of the land or storing, regulating or disposing of runoff to prevent excessive sediment loss. Examples of structural erosion and

sediment control practices are rip-rap, sediment basins, dikes, level spreaders, waterways or outlets, diversions, grade stabilization structures, sediment traps and land grading, etc. Such measures can be found in the publication **MANUAL for EROSION and SEDIMENTATION CONTROL in GEORGIA.**

32. **Trout Streams:** All streams or portions of streams within the watershed as designated by the Game and Fish Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources under the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, O.C.G.A. 12-5-20 et seq. Streams designated as primary trout waters are defined as waters supporting a self sustained population of Rainbow, Brown, or Brook trout. Streams designated as secondary trout waters are those in which there is no evidence of natural trout reproduction, but are capable of supporting trout throughout the year. First order trout waters are streams into which no other streams flow except springs.
33. **Vegetative Erosion and Sedimentation Control Practices:** Practices for the stabilization of erodible or sediment producing areas by covering the soil with:
- A. Permanent seeding, sprigging or planting, producing long-term vegetative cover; or
  - B. Temporary seeding, producing short-term vegetative cover; or
  - C. Sodding, covering areas with a turf perennial sod-forming grass.
- Such practices can be found in the publication **MANUAL for EROSION and SEDIMENT CONTROL in GEORGIA.**
34. **Watercourse:** Any natural or artificial watercourse, stream, river, creek, channel, ditch, conduit, culvert, drain, waterway, gully, ravine or wash in which has a definite channel, bed and banks, and including any area adjacent thereto subject to inundation by reason of overflow or floodwater.
35. **Wetlands:** Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

#### SECTION 7-32 EXEMPTIONS

This ordinance shall apply to any land-disturbing activity undertaken by any person on any land except for the following:

- A. 1. Surface mining, as same is defined in O.C.G.A. 12-4-72;
- 2. Granite quarrying and land clearing for such quarrying;
- 3. Such minor land-disturbing activities as home gardens and individual home landscaping, repairs, maintenance work, and other related activities which result in minor soil erosion;

4. The construction of single-family residence, when such are constructed by or under contract with the owner for his or her own occupancy, or the construction of single-family residences not a part of a platted subdivision, a planned community, or an association of other residential lots consisting of more than two lots and not otherwise exempted under this paragraph; provided, however, that construction of any such residence shall conform to the minimum requirements as set forth in Section 7-33 of this ordinance. For single-family residence construction covered by the provisions of this paragraph, there shall be a buffer zone between the residence and any state waters classified as trout streams pursuant to article 2 of Chapter 5 of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act. In any such buffer zone, no land disturbing activity shall be constructed between the residence and the point where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action from the banks of the trout waters. For primary trout waters, the buffer zone shall be at least 50 horizontal feet, and no variance to a smaller buffer shall be granted. For secondary trout waters, the buffer zone shall be at least 50 horizontal feet, but the director may grant variances to no less than 25 feet. Regardless if a trout stream is primary or secondary, for first order trout waters, which are streams into which no other streams flow except for springs, the buffer shall be at least 25 horizontal feet, and no variance to a smaller buffer shall be granted. The minimum requirements of Section 7-33 of this ordinance and the buffer zones provided by this section shall be enforced by the issuing authority;
5. Agricultural operations as defined in O.C.G.A. 1-3-3 to include raising, harvesting or storing of products of the field or orchard; feeding, breeding or managing livestock or poultry; producing or storing feed for use in the production of livestock, including but not limited to cattle, calves, swine, hogs, goats, sheep, and rabbits or for use in the production of poultry, including but not limited to chicken, hens and turkeys; producing plants, trees, fowl or animals; the production of aqua culture, horticulture, dairy, livestock, poultry, eggs and apairian products; forest land management practices, including harvesting and farm buildings and farm ponds;
6. Any project carried out under the technical supervision of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture;
7. Any project involving one and one-tenth acre or less; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to any land-disturbing activity within 200 feet of the bank of any state waters, and for the purposes of this paragraph, "State Waters" excludes channels and drainageways which have

water in them only during and immediately after rainfall events and intermittent streams which do not have water in them year-round; provided, however, that any person responsible for a project which involves one and one-tenth acres or less, which involves land-disturbing activity, and which is within 200 feet of any such excluded channel or drainageway, must prevent sediment from moving beyond the boundaries of the property on which such project is located and provided, further, that nothing contained herein shall prevent the issuing authority from regulating any such project which is not exempted by paragraphs 1,2,3,4,5,6,8 and 9 of this section.

8. Construction or maintenance projects, or both, undertaken or financed in whole or in part, or both, by the Department of Transportation, the Georgia Highway Authority, or the Georgia Tollway Authority; or any road construction or maintenance project, or both, undertaken by any county or municipality; provided, however, that such projects shall conform to the minimum requirements set forth in Section 7-33 of this ordinance.
  9. Any land-disturbing activities conducted by any electric membership corporation or any municipal electrical system or any public utility under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission, provided, however, that any land-disturbing activity shall conform to the minimum requirements set forth in Section 7-33.
- B. Where this section requires compliance with the minimum requirements set forth in Section 7-33 of this ordinance, issuing authorities shall enforce compliance with the minimum requirements as if a permit had been issued and violations shall be subject to the same penalties as violations by permit holders.

## Practices

### Section 7-33

#### A. General Provisions

Excessive soil erosion and resulting sedimentation can take place during land-disturbing activities. Therefore, plans for those land-disturbing activities which are not excluded by this ordinance shall contain provisions for application of soil erosion and sedimentation control measures and practices. The provisions shall be incorporated into the erosion and sediment control plans, Soil erosion and sediment control measures and practices shall conform to the minimum requirements of Section IV (B) and (C) of this ordinance.

The application of measures and practices shall apply to all features of the site, including street and utility installations, drainage facilities and other temporary and permanent improvements. Measures shall be installed to prevent or control erosion and sedimentation pollution during all stages of any land-disturbing activity.

**B. Minimum Requirements/BMP'S**

1. Best management practices as set forth in Section 7-33 of this ordinance shall be required for all land-disturbing activities. Proper design, installation, and maintenance of best management practices shall constitute a complete defense to any action by the Director or to any other allegation of noncompliance with paragraph (2) of this subsection or any substantially similar terms contained in a permit for the discharge of stormwater issued pursuant to subsection (f) of O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-30. As used in this subsection, the terms "proper design" and "properly designed" mean designed to control soil erosion and sedimentation for all rainfall events up to and including a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event.
  2. A discharge of stormwater runoff from disturbed areas where best management practices have not been properly designed, installed, and maintained shall constitute a separate violation of any land-disturbing permit issued by a local issuing authority or by the Division or of any general permit for construction activities issued by the Division pursuant to subsection (f) of O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-30 for each day on which such discharge results in the turbidity of receiving waters being increased by more than 25 nephelometric turbidity units for waters supporting warm water fisheries or by more than 10 nephelometric turbidity units for waters classified as trout waters.
  3. Failure to properly design, install, or maintain best management practices shall constitute a violation of any land-disturbing permit issued by a local issuing authority or by the Division or of any general permit for construction activities issued by the division pursuant to subsection (f) O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-30 for each day on which such failure occurs.
  4. The Director may require, in accordance to regulations adopted by the board, reasonable and prudent monitoring of the turbidity level of receiving waters into which discharges from which land-disturbing activities occur.
- C. The rules and regulations, ordinances, or resolutions adopted pursuant to this chapter for the purpose of governing land-disturbing activities shall require, as a minimum, best management practices including sound conservation and engineering practices to prevent and minimize erosion and resultant sedimentation, which are consistent with, and no less stringent than, those practices contained in the "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia",

published by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission as of January 1 of the year in which the land-disturbing activity was permitted, as well as the following:

1. Stripping of vegetation, regarding and other development activities shall be conducted in a manner so as to minimize erosion;
2. Cut-fill operations must be kept to a minimum;
3. Development plans must conform to topography and soil type so as to create the lowest practical erosion potential;
4. Whenever feasible, natural vegetation shall be retained, protected and supplemented;
5. The disturbed area and the duration of exposure to erosive elements shall be kept to a practicable minimum;
6. Disturbed soil shall be stabilized as quickly as practicable.
7. Temporary vegetation or mulching shall be employed to protect exposed critical areas during development;
8. Permanent vegetation and structural erosion control measures shall be installed as soon as possible.
9. To the extent necessary sediment in run-off water must be trapped by the use of debris basins, sediment basins, silt traps, or similar measures until the disturbed area is stabilized. As used in this paragraph, a disturbed area is stabilized when it is brought to a condition of continuous compliance with the requirements of this chapter;
10. Adequate provisions must be provided to minimize damage from the surface water to the cut face of excavation or the sloping surface of fills;
11. Cuts and fills may not endanger adjoining property;
12. Fills may not encroach upon natural watercourses or constructed channels in a manner so as to adversely affect other property owners;
13. Grading equipment must cross flowing streams by means of bridges or culverts except when such methods are not feasible, provided, in any case, that such crossings are kept to a minimum.
14. Land-disturbing activity plans for erosion and sedimentation control shall include provisions for treatment or control of any source of sediments and adequate sedimentation control facilities to retain sediments on-site or preclude sedimentation of adjacent waters beyond the levels specified in Section 7-33 (B)(2) of this ordinance of this Code section;
15. Land-disturbing activities shall not be conducted within 25 feet of the banks of any state waters, as measured from the point where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action, except where the Director determines to allow a variance that is at least as protective of natural resources and the environment, where otherwise allowed by the Director pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 12-2-8, or where a drainage

- structure or roadway drainage structure must be constructed, provided that adequate erosion control measures are incorporated in the project plans and specifications are implemented; provided, however, that buffers of at least of 25 feet established pursuant to Part 6 of Article 5 of Chapter 5 of this title, the "**Metropolitan River Protection Act.**" shall remain in force unless a variance is granted by the Director as provided in this paragraph;and
16. Land-disturbing activities shall not be conducted within 100 horizontal feet, as measured from the point where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action, of the banks of any state waters classified as "trout streams" pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 5 of the "**Georgia Water Quality Act,**" unless a variance for such activity is granted by the Director except where a roadway drainage structure must be constructed, provided that adequate erosion control measures are incorporated in the project plans and specifications are implemented.
- D. Nothing contained in this chapter shall prevent an issuing authority from adopting rules and regulations, ordinances, or resolutions which contain requirements that exceed the minimum requirements in Section 7-33 (B) and (C) of this ordinance.
- E. The fact that land-disturbing activity for which a permit has been issued results in injury to the property of another shall neither constitute proof of nor create a presumption of a violation of the standards provided for in this ordinance or the terms of the permit.

#### SECTION 7-34 APPLICATION/PERMIT PROCESS

- A. General  
The property owner, developer and designated planners and engineers shall review the general development plans and detailed plans of the issuing authority that effect the tract to be developed and the area surrounding it. They shall review the zoning ordinance, stormwater management ordinance, subdivision ordinance, flood damage prevention ordinance, this ordinance, and other ordinances which regulate the development of land within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Issuing Authority. However, the property owner is the only one who can obtain a permit.
- B. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
1. No person shall conduct any land-disturbing activity within the jurisdictional boundaries of **LOWNDES COUNTY** without first obtaining a permit from the **COUNTY ENGINEERS OFFICE** to perform such activity.

2. The application for a permit shall be submitted to the **COUNTY ENGINEERS OFFICE** and must include the applicant's erosion and sedimentation control plan with supporting data, as necessary. Said plans shall include, as a minimum, the data specified in Section 7-34 (C) of this ordinance. Soil erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans shall conform to the provisions of Section 7-33 (B) and (C) of this ordinance. Applications for a permit will not be accepted unless accompanied by five (5) copies of the applicants soil erosion and sedimentation control plans.
3. A fee, in the amount of \$75.00 shall be charged for each application .
4. Immediately upon receipt of an application and plan for a permit, the Issuing Authority shall refer the application and plan to the District for its review and approval or disapproval concerning the adequacy of the erosion and sedimentation control plan. The results of the District review shall be forwarded to the Issuing Authority. No permit will be issued unless the plan has been approved by the District, and any variances required by Section 7-33 (B), (15) and (16) and bonding, if required as per Section 7-34 (B), (5) (b), have been obtained. Such review will not be required if the Issuing Authority and the District have entered into an agreement which allows the Issuing Authority to conduct such review and approval of the plan without referring the application and plan to the District.
5. (a) If a permit applicant has had two or more violations of previous permits, this ordinance section, or the Erosion and Sedimentation Act, as amended within three years prior to the date of filing of the application under consideration, the Issuing Authority may deny the permit application.  
(b) The Issuing Authority may require the permit applicant to post a bond in the form of government security, cash, irrevocable letter of credit, or any combination thereof up to, but not exceeding, \$3000.00 per acre or fraction thereof of the proposed land-disturbing activity, prior to issuing the permit. If the applicant does not comply with this ordinance or the conditions of the permit after issuance, the Issuing Authority may call the bond or any part thereof to be forfeited and may use the proceeds to hire a contractor to stabilize the site of the land-disturbing activity and bring it into compliance. These provisions shall not apply unless there is in effect an ordinance or statute specifically providing for a hearing and judicial review of any determination or order of the Issuing Authority with respect to alleged permit violations.

### C. PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Plans must be prepared to meet the minimum requirements as contained in Section 7-33 (B) and (C) of this ordinance. Conformance with the minimum requirements may be attained through the use of design criteria in the current issue of the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia, published by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission as a guide; or through the use of alternate design criteria which conform to sound conservation and engineering practices.

The Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia is hereby incorporated by reference into this. The plan for the land-disturbing activity shall consider the interrelationship of the soil types, geological and hydrological characteristics, topography, watershed, vegetation, proposed permanent structures including roadways, constructed waterways, sediment control and stormwater management facilities, local ordinance and State laws.

2. Data Required for Site Plan
  - (a) Narrative or notes, and other information: Notes or narrative to be located on the site plan in general notes or in erosion and sediment control notes.
  - (b) Description of existing land use at project site and description of proposed project.
  - (c) Name, address, and phone number of property owner.
  - (d) Name and phone number of 24-hour local contact who is responsible for erosion and sediment control.
  - (e) Size of project, or phase under construction in acres.
  - (f) Activity schedule showing anticipated starting and completion dates for the project. Include the statement in bold letters, that "the installation of erosion and sedimentation control measures and practices shall occur prior to or concurrent with land-disturbing activities."
  - (g) Stormwater and sedimentation management systems-storage capacity, hydrologic study, and calculations, including off-site drainage areas.
  - (h) Vegetative plan for all temporary and permanent vegetative practices, including species, planting, dates, and seeding, fertilizer, lime, and mulching rates. The vegetative plan should show options for year-round seeding.
  - (i) Detail drawings for all structural practices.  
Specifications may follow set forth in the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia.
  - (j) Maintenance statement "Erosion and sedimentation control measures will be maintained at all times. Additional erosion and sedimentation control measures and practices will be installed if deemed necessary by on-site inspection."
3. Maps, drawings, and supportive computations shall bear the signature/seal of a registered or certified professional in

Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Land Surveyor, or Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The certified plans shall contain:

- (a) Graphic scale and North arrow indicating magnetic North.
  - (b) Vicinity maps showing location of project and existing streets.
  - (c) Boundary line survey.
  - (d) Delineation of disturbed areas within project boundary.
  - (e) Existing and proposed contours, with contour lines drawn with an interval of not more than (5) feet.  
(The procedure or method used in arriving at contour intervals shall be indicated.
  - (f) Adjacent areas and features such as streams, lakes, residential areas, etc. which might be affected should be indicated on the plan.
  - (g) Proposed structures or additions to existing structures and paved areas.
  - (h) Delineate the 25-foot horizontal buffer adjacent to state waters and the specified width in MPRA areas.
  - (i) Delineate the specified horizontal buffer along designated trout streams, where applicable.
  - (j) Location of erosion and sedimentation control measures and practices using coding symbols from the Manual for Erosion and Sedimentation Control in Georgia, Chapter 6.
4. Maintenance of all soil erosion and sedimentation control practices, whether temporary or permanent, shall be at all times the responsibility of the property owner.

#### D. PERMITS

1. Permits shall be issued or denied as soon as practicable but in any event not later than forty-five (45) days after receipt by the Issuing Authority of a completed application, providing variances and bonding are obtained, where necessary.
2. No permit shall be issued by the Issuing Authority unless the erosion and sedimentation control plan has been approved by the District and the Issuing Authority has affirmatively determined that the plan is in compliance with this ordinance, any variances required by Section 7-33 (B), (15) and (16) are obtained, bonding requirements if necessary, as per Section 7-34 (B)(5)(b) are met and all ordinances and rules and regulations are met. If the permit is denied, the reason for denial will be furnished to the applicant.
3. If the tract is to be developed in phases, then separate permit shall be required for each phase.
4. The permit may be suspended, revoked, or modified by the Issuing Authority, as to all or any portion of the land effected by the plan, upon finding that the holder or his successor in the title is in violation of this ordinance. A

- holder of a permit shall notify any successor in title to him as to all or any portion of the land effected by the approved plan of the conditions contained in the permit.
5. No permit shall be issued unless the applicant provides a statement by the **Lowndes County Tax Assessors Office** certifying that all ad valorem taxes levied against the property and due and owing have been paid.

#### SECTION 7-35 INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

- A. The Lowndes County Engineering Department will periodically inspect the sites of land-disturbing activities for which permits have been issued to determine if the activities are being conducted in accordance with the plan and if the measures required in the plan are effective in controlling erosion and sedimentation. If, through inspection, it is deemed that a person engaged in land-disturbing activities as defined herein has failed to comply with the approved plan, with permit conditions, or with the provisions of this ordinance, a written **NOTICE TO COMPLY** shall be served upon that person. The notice shall set forth the measures necessary to achieve compliance and shall state the time within such measures must be completed. If the person engaged in the land-disturbing activities fails to comply within the time specified, he shall be deemed in violation of this ordinance.
- B. The **Lowndes County Engineering Department** shall have the power to conduct such investigations as it may reasonably deem necessary to carry out duties as prescribed in this ordinance, and for this purpose to enter at reasonable times upon any property, public, or private, for the purpose of investigation and inspecting the sites of land-disturbing activities.
- C. No person shall refuse entry or access to any authorized representative or agent of the Issuing Authority, the Commission, the District, or Division who requests entry for the purpose of inspection, and who presents appropriate credentials, nor shall any person obstruct, hamper or interfere with any such representative while in the process of carrying out his official duties.
- D. The Districts or the Commission or both shall periodically review the actions of counties and municipalities which have been certified as issuing authorities pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section. The Districts or the Commission or both may provide technical assistance to any county or municipality for the purpose of improving the effectiveness of the counties or municipalities erosion and sediment

control program. The Districts or Commission shall notify the Division and request investigation by the Division if any deficient or ineffective local program is found.

- E. The Division may periodically review the actions of counties and municipalities which have been certified as issuing authorities pursuant to Code Section 12-7-8 (a). Such review may include, but shall not be limited to, review of the administration and enforcement of a governing authorities ordinances and review of conformance with an agreement, if any, between the district and the governing authority.

If such review indicates that the governing authority of any county or municipality certified pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-7-8 (a) has not administered or enforced its ordinance or has not conducted the program in accordance with any agreement entered into pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-7-7 (d), the Division shall notify the governing authority of any county or municipality in writing. The governing authority of any county or municipality so notified shall have 30 days within which to take the necessary corrective action to retain certification as an issuing authority. If the county or municipality does not take necessary correction action within 30 days after notification by the division, the division may revoke the certification of the county or municipality as an issuing authority.

#### SECTION 7-36 PENALTIES AND INCENTIVES

A. FAILURE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT FOR LAND-DISTURBING ACTIVITY

If any person commences any land-disturbing activity requiring a land-disturbing permit as prescribed in this ordinance without first obtaining said permit, the permit person shall be subject to revocation of his business license, work permit or authorization for the conduct of a bussiness and associates work activities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Issuing Authority.

B. STOP WORK ORDERS

Upon notice from the Issuing Authority or its agents, work on any project that is being done contrary to the provisions of this ordinance or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, shall be immediately stopped. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, his authorized agent or the person or persons in charge of the activity on the property, and shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed. Where an emergency exists, no written notice shall be required

C. BOND FORFEITURE

If, through inspection, it is determined a person engaged in land-disturbing activities has failed to comply with the approved plan, a written notice to comply shall be served upon that person. The notice shall set forth the measures necessary to achieve compliance with the plan and shall state the time within such measures must be completed. If the person engaged in the land-disturbing activity fails to comply within the time specified, he shall be deemed in violation of this ordinance and, in addition to other penalties, shall be deemed to have forfeited his performance bond, if required to post one under the provisions of Section 7-34 (B), (5) (b). The Issuing Authority may call the bond or any part thereof to be forfeited and may use the proceeds to hire a contractor to stabilize the site of the land-disturbing activity and bring it into compliance.

D. Monetary Penalties

Any person violating any provisions of this ordinance, permitting conditions, or stop work order shall be liable for a monetary penalty not to exceed \$2,500.00 per day, by a sentence of imprisonment not to exceeding 60 days in jail or both fine and jail or work alternative. Each day during which the violation or failure or refusal to comply continues a separate violation.

SECTION 7-37 ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL, JUDICIAL REVIEW

A. ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

The suspension, revocation, modification or grant with condition of a permit by the Issuing Authority upon finding that the holder is not in compliance with the approved erosion and sediment control plan; or that the holder is in violation of permit conditions; or that the holder is in violation of any ordinance; shall entitle the person submitting the plan or holding the permit to a hearing before the Board of Commissioners of Lowndes County within (15) fifteen days after receipt by the Issuing Authority of written notice of appeal.

B. JUDICIAL REVIEW

Any person, aggrieved by a decision or order of the Issuing Authority, (Lowndes County) after exhausting his administrative remedies, shall have the right to appeal de novo to the Superior Court of Lowndes County.

SECTION 7-38 EFFECTIVITY, VALIDITY AND LIABILITY

A. EFFECTIVITY

This ordinance shall become effective on the 3<sup>RD</sup> day of AUGUST 19 95.

B. VALIDITY

If any section, paragraph, clause, phrase, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not effect the remaining portion of this ordinance.

C. LIABILITY

1. Neither the approval of a plan under the provisions of this ordinance, nor the compliance with provisions of this ordinance shall relieve any person or property otherwise imposed by law nor impose any liability upon the Issuing Authority (Lowndes County) or the Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District for damage to any person or property.

2. The fact that a land-disturbing activity for which a permit has been issued results in injury to the property of another shall neither constitute proof of nor create a presumption of a violation of the standards provided for in this ordinance or the terms of the permit.

ATTEST: LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman G. Norman Bennett

G. Norman Bennett (Chairman)