

Commission NEWS

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MSWCC currently developing assessments on 32 watersheds

The Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission, through an agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is currently developing watershed



NICK IVY

assessments on 32 watersheds throughout the state of Mississippi.

Of those 32 watersheds, 27 are being developed for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative, and 5 are being

developed for the National Water Quality Initiative.

The goal of these assessments is to identify the resource concerns of these watersheds, and through that, implement

an effective and efficient conservation plan that can reach the desired water quality in these watersheds.

With updated guidance, both of these landscape conservation initiatives have seen a greater focus on watershed planning and assessments, as well as the use of multi-year budgets to demonstrate long-term commitments to watershed resource concerns.

When completed, these 32 Watershed Assessments will allow for continued and expanded funding for conservation programs in these watersheds.

The Commission, through a sub-agreement with the MS Department of Environmental Quality, as well as Waggoner

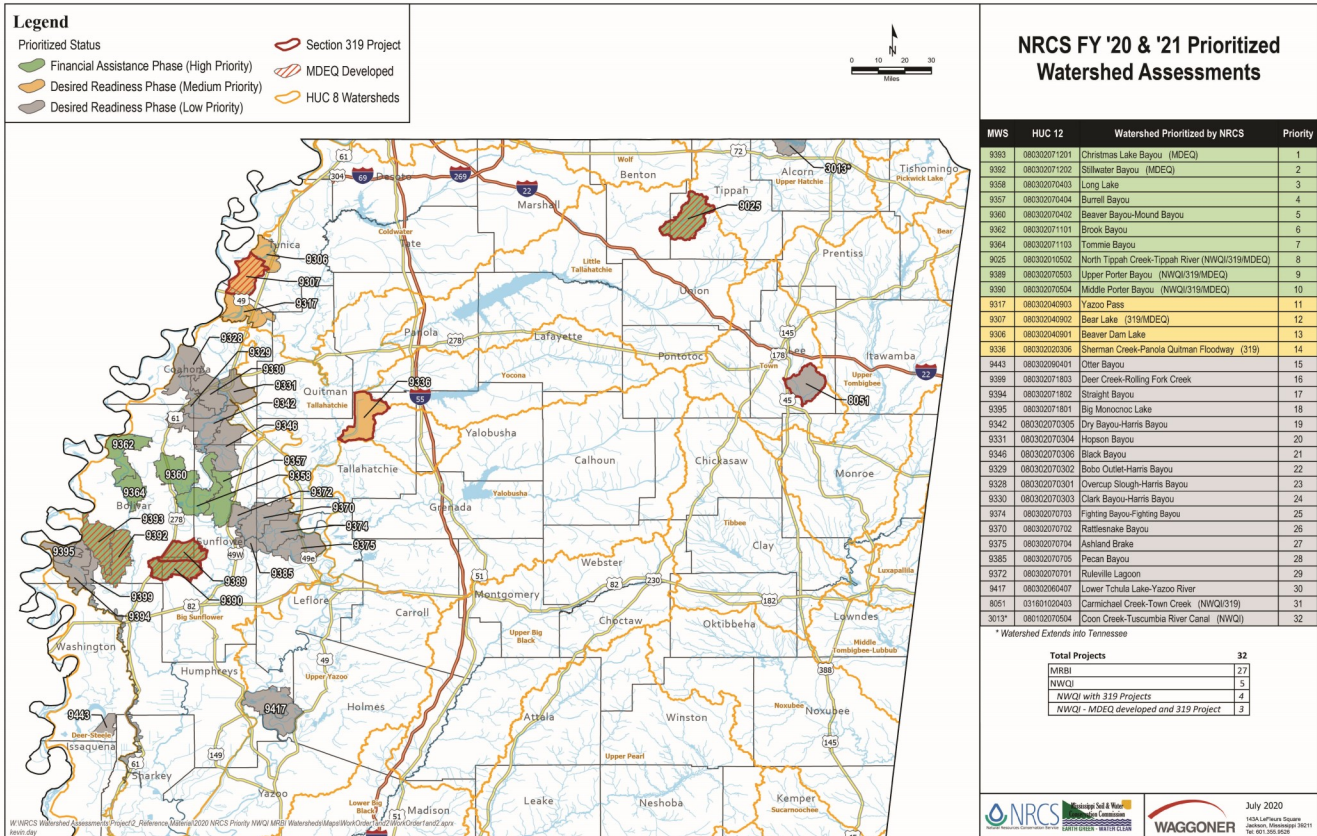
Engineering, has been able to increase capacity in order to exceed the deadlines for these assessments, and ultimately produce an end product that we believe is second to none.

"Our desire is for Mississippi to set the standard for Watershed Assessments throughout the country," Ivy stated.

"We know that great planning is one of the keys to great conservation, and that is what this project is all about.

"This project is just one of many examples of the strong conservation partnership at work in Mississippi, and the success we achieve when we work together for a common goal."

—Nick Ivy, Bureau Director



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GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

DALTON GUY GARNER SR.,

81, of Booneville, MS, passed away on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Booneville.



DALTON GARNER

A third-generation farmer and owner of La Vaca Acres Farm, Garner worked from childhood on the family's dairy farm, becoming a beef farmer in 1980.

A Soil Conservationist at USDA/NRCS, he was a county agent at Prentiss Co. Extension Service, a manager of Prentiss Co. Co-Op, director of Prentiss Co. Farm Bureau, on the Prentiss Co. Electric Power Association board, director of Prentiss Co. Vo-Tech, president of the Prentiss Co. MS State Alumni Association, and president of MS Holstein Association.

He graduated from Booneville High School in 1957, Northeast

Mississippi Community College in 1959, and earned his B.S. in Dairy Production from MS State in 1962. He was president of MSU Farm House Fraternity.

He had the first Beef Evaluation Station in cooperation with the Extension Service, was named a Master Dairy Farmer each year from 1964-1977, was selected as Outstanding Young Farmer for Mississippi, and his family was chosen as a Mississippi Farm Family of the Year.

Garner received the Outstanding Soil, Air and Water Award from the MS Wildlife Federation, the Outstanding Conservation Award from Woodmen of the World, and four Awards of Merit from the NRCS.

He was an active member of Christ United Methodist Church in Booneville.

A private service was held on Aug. 29, with interment in Jumpertown Cemetery.

ERNEST BARTON BRASHER,

88, of Charleston, MS, passed away on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi in Oxford.



ERNEST BRASHER

A third-generation farmer, Brasher served as a Tallahatchie Co. District Commissioner for 47 years, and as chairman for 40 years, where he learned about conservation practices and alternative crops.

Brasher was inducted into the Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame in 2017.

He served on the MS Association of Conservation Districts' board of directors for more than 30 years, and on the board of directors for the Federal Land Bank and the Tallahatchie Co. Farm Bureau.

He also worked closely with Rep. Jamie Whitten-D, who brought millions of dollars in Agricultural Projects to the state.

A conservationist for more

than 45 years, Brasher started growing Kenaf in 1992, at a time when Delta farmers were looking for alternative crops to grow.

He started a co-op for the farmers to grow and process Kenaf for use as paper pulp. When pulp prices softened, other farmers moved away from the crop, however, Brasher stuck with it and found niche markets for Kenaf.

He founded Ken-Gro Corporation in 1997, which became a leading manufacturer of organic absorbents and bioremediation agents. His family continues to operate KenGro.

Services for Brasher were held Sunday, Sept. 27, at Magnolia Gardens Cemetery at Paynes. Womble Funeral Home in Charleston handled arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital American Cancer Society Rally for a Cure, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

DRAWDOWN TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM MACD

Although the MACD Annual Meeting will not be a face-to-face event in 2021, MACD is selling drawdown tickets to raise funds for the MACD Endowment Fund Scholarships.

MACD Secretary/Treasurer Hope Daley asks SWCDs to let commissioners know about the availability of the tickets, which can be or-

dered via email from hope.daley@ms.nacdnet.net or hdaley@mswcc.ms.gov. Tickets will be mailed as soon as possible.

Daley reminds districts that the money raised goes to allowing five students to be the recipients of \$5,000 scholarships for their

education.

The MACD board continues to work on plans for the virtual online meeting. More details are forthcoming.

If you have any questions, please email Hope.Daley@ms.nacdnet.net.

Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

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