

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

March 23, 2010

Attending:

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chairman
Earl Barrs
Dennis Billew
Warren Budd
Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Phyllis Johnson
Jim Walters
Tom Wheeler
Jenny Lynn Bradley, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Bill Archer
Gene Bishop
Bill Carruth
Joe Hatfield
Mabel Jenkins
Loyce Turner
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Dr. Mark Risse, Driftmier Engineering Center, UGA
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Bettie Sleeth, Homebuilders Association of Georgia
Helen Tapp, Trust for Public Land

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Allen Barnes
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Marlin Gottschalk
Terry West
Paul Nelson
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Linda MacGregor
Thomas Barnard
John Bowers
Steve Friedman
Emily Hitchcock
Lauren Curry
Homer Bryson
Tami Morris
Mark Whitney
Connie Buck
Mike England
Jeff Weaver
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Mark Dickerson, Mountain Conservation Trust
Jim Kidd, Trout Unlimited
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy

The March 23, 2010 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Jenny Lynn Bradley. Chairman Bradley called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

Mr. Lambert called on Linda MacGregor, Chief, Watershed Protection Branch, for two briefings.

Ms. MacGregor stated that her first briefing was on proposed amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to triennial review of water quality standards, including Lake Allatoona. She further stated that the Federal Clean Water Act requires states to review water quality standards at least once every three years and make necessary updates. She added that the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) would work with stakeholders to identify any updates needed, and feels that water use classifications and water quality standards in Lake Allatoona will need to be addressed. She further added that more may be added as EPD interacts with stakeholders over the next few months.

Ms. MacGregor stated that the proposed amendments would be brought before the Committee and Board at the August meeting. She further stated that the proposed amendments would then go out for public comment after that and would be presented for action at the December meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. MacGregor stated that the next briefing was on proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to major spills. She further stated that there is an existing Rule that outlines the definition of a major spill that includes single daily excursions of certain permit limits. She added that if that definition is met, there are certain things required, for example, having a public notice in the legal organ of the newspaper, initiating a monitoring program and notifying downstream public water supplies. She further added that these are appropriate actions for things that meet the definition of major spills.

Ms. MacGregor stated that since the original Rule was passed, many wastewater treatment plants now have very tight low affluent limits, and the same percentage daily excursion of those very tight limits does not qualify as a major spill and does not warrant the actions that the Rule requires. She further stated that the proposed changes are to take another look at the Rule and to clarify the definition of a major spill, the conditions that warrant that definition, and the actions that are necessary to deal with the situation.

Ms. MacGregor stated that EPD will work with stakeholders on this issue and come back to the Committee and Board with the proposed amendments in June. She

further stated that the proposed amendments would go out for public comments and then be presented for action at the September meeting.

Mr. Lambert called on Allen Barnes, Director of EPD, for an update. Director Barnes gave a briefing on the current budget situation, stating that EPD had been asked to cut another \$1.1 million. He further stated that from 2008, when the program was fully funded, to the Amended FY-10 budget, this was a 45% cut. He added that this has caused EPD to look at all areas of service, programs, people, etc. He further added that he would like to commend EPD staff for their hard work and determination in these trying times.

Director Barnes gave a briefing on the State Water Plan, stating that it is moving on to the next phase, with presentation of the municipal and industrial plans to the Water Councils and the agricultural and energy plans will soon follow. He further stated that he would encourage every citizen in the state to participate in this process.

Director Barnes gave a briefing on the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP), stating that it began January 1, and that EPD is still working on modifications to the program.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.