

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

May 20, 2014

Attending:

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Phyllis Johnson
Aaron McWhorter
Paul Shailendra
Philip Wilheit, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Leah Barnett, Georgia Conservancy
Michael Snipes, Georgia SWANA
David Word, Joe Tanner and Associates
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner and Associates
Jeffrey Harvey, Georgia Farm Bureau
Sally Kilpatrick, Georgia Chamber
Allie Kelly, Georgia Conservancy
Abby Goldsmith, Goldsmith Resources
Gloria Hardegree, Georgia Recycling Coalition
Lauren Curry, Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Lonice Barrett

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Zachary Harris
Mary Walker
Doralyn Kirkland
Russ Pennington
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
John Bowers
Doug Haymans
Mark Whitney
Wally Woods
Audra Dickson
Jennifer Welte
John Martin
John Biagi
Michael Chadwell

The May 20, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, who called on Keith Bentley, Chief of the Air Protection Branch.

Mr. Bentley briefed the Board on EPD's Air Branch. This briefing included information on the activities that support the mission of the Air Protection Branch, the relationship between EPD and the U.S. EPA, monitoring and reporting the air quality, permitting, compliance assurance, funding of the air program, the improving air quality in Georgia, and the top challenges of the Air Protection Branch going forward.

Director Turner discussed the ozone levels in Georgia.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Shailendra asked that the Board members be sent a copy of the presentation.

Mr. Bentley stated the next item for the Board's consideration would be an action on the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to permit fees.

Mr. Bentley stated "Permit Fees" is being revised to specify the dollar-per-ton rate and reference a new fee manual for Calendar Year 2013 fees. He further stated EPD is proposing to retain the current fee structure from last year and adopt the 2013 Fee Manual.

Mr. Bentley stated the Committee was briefed on this item in February. He further stated a public hearing was held April 3, 2014. He added no comments were received during the public notice period.

Mr. Bentley stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board adopt this item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. McWhorter and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to permit fees, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Jac Capp, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to present the proposed grant criteria for award of Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants FY 2015.

Mr. Capp stated EPD annually awards approximately \$1.8 million in Nonpoint Source Implementation projects and anticipates a similar amount of funding available for this cycle. He further stated a competitive process is used to ensure that the most appropriate projects are selecting for funding. He added criteria for evaluation include cost effectiveness, clarity of the application, quality of the watershed plan, and expected degree of pollutant removal.

Mr. Capp stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Ms. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the proposed Grant Criteria for Award of Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants FY 2015, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Jeff Cown, Chief of the Land Protection Branch, to present the proposed amendments to Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4, pertaining to composting, mulching and anaerobic digestion facilities.

Mr. Cown stated the proposed revision to the Rules clarify the requirements for permitted facilities and provide greater flexibility in how composting operations are permitted. He further stated the most significant change is the addition of a six-tiered permit structure based on feedstock categories. He added this structure will clarify the siting, design, and operating standards for each tier.

Mr. Cown stated EPD convened a diverse group of stakeholders to review and recommend changes to the Rules relating to composting. He further stated stakeholders included representatives from the composting industry, local governments, major food residual generators, waste haulers, trade associations, agricultural sector, processors, academia, solid waste industry, and manufacturers.

Mr. Cown stated during the public notice period 44 written comments and 13 oral comments were received. He further stated no changes were made to the proposed rule language since the majority of the comments could be addressed through guidance or during the permit review and issuance process.

Mr. Cown stated the Committee was briefed on the proposed rules in September of 2013. Public comment periods and public hearings were held in December 2013 and April 2014.

Mr. Cown stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Chairman Lambert stated there were several people signed up to speak. He requested each speaker limit their comments to three minutes.

David Word of Joe Tanner and Associates spoke in support of the proposed rules.

Abby Goldsmith, A. Goldsmith Resources, signed up to speak but was not in attendance when her name was called.

Michael Snipes, Secretary of the Georgia Chapter of SWANA and stakeholder member, spoke in support of the proposed rule.

Gloria Hardegree, Executive Director of the Georgia Recycling Coalition and stakeholder member, spoke in support of the proposed rule.

Bill Hodges of Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble spoke in support of the proposed rules.

Chairman Lambert thanked the speakers for their comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Ms. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4, pertaining to composting, mulching and anaerobic digestion facilities, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.