

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30319

April 21, 2015

Attending:

Committee Members

William Bagwell, Chairman
Dwight Evans, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis
Aaron McWhorter
Mike Phelps
Ray Lambert, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Bill Jones
Mark Mobley
Paul Shailendra
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Doug Miell, Georgia Chamber
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Jennette Gayer, Environment Georgia
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Johnathan Harding, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Bennett Weinstein, ARC
Debra Berger, HSUS
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner and Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Walter Rabon
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Mary Kathryn Yearta
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Zachary Harris
Trip Addison
Doralyn Kirkland
Wally Woods
Jeff Cown
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Terry West
Jeff Weaver
Thomas Barnard
Mary Walker

The April 21, 2015 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Ray Lambert.

Chairman Lambert called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, who called on Keith Bentley, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to brief the Committee on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Low Emissions Vehicle Certification.

Mr. Bentley stated HB 348 was passed in the 2014 legislative session. He further stated HB 348 added a tax credit for purchasers of alternative fuel heavy-duty and medium-duty vehicles. He added today's proposed amendments were in response to the added tax credits in HB 348.

Mr. Bentley stated the tax credit is limited to a total of \$2.5 million per FY and \$250,000 per taxpayer and the credit is allowed for "amount expended on or after July 1, 2015 and before June 30, 2017." He further stated EPD is responsible only for certifying vehicle eligibility.

Mr. Bentley stated to certify a vehicle the owner must submit an application and proof of vehicle purchase to EPD for certification. He further stated after review, EPD staff returns the application and associated documents to the applicant.

Mr. Bentley stated it is the responsibility of the Department of Revenue to draft the rule to implement the tax credit program and develop application for preapproval. He further stated DOR must ensure annual and taxpayer caps are not exceeded.

Mr. Bentley stated a public hearing would be held on May 22, 2015. He further stated he anticipates EPD to request Board adoption of the proposed amendments on June 24, 2015.

Mr. Yancey asked Mr. Bentley to explain the process of determining the amount for each credit. Mr. Bentley explained that is determined by the Department of Revenue.

Chairman Bagwell called on Jac Capp, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to brief the Committee on the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, pertaining to the Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards.

Mr. Capp stated EPA requires Georgia to review and revise water quality standards at least once every three years. He further stated water quality standards include three components: designated use, criteria (either numeric or narrative) and antidegradation policy. He added that in preparing for these amendments, EPD engaged with various stakeholders at public meetings occurring on the following dates: February 6, 2013; April 16, 2013; July 10, 2013; March 26, 2014; November 5, 2014 and December 2-4, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated under its Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards process, EPD proposes amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control to accomplish the following:

- Designate the headwaters of the Conasauga River as Outstanding National Resource Water
- Adoption of site specific copper criteria at Buffalo Creek
- Adoption of the EPA 2012 Recreational Bacteria Criteria
- Remove reference to the minimum flow at Peachtree Creek of 750 cfs and update specific water use classifications of various water bodies
- Clarification of the total lake loading phosphorus
- Removal of the Variance to the Narrative Toxicity Standard on Cabin Creek

Mr. Capp stated a 45-day public notice will begin in May 2015. He further stated a public hearing for the proposed amendments will be held in June 2015. He added EPD anticipates requesting adoption of the proposed amendments by the Committee at the August 26, 2015 meeting.

Chairman Bagwell called on Jennette Gayer, Environment Georgia, who spoke in support of the designation of the Conasauga River as Outstanding National Resource Water.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.