

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

February 25, 2009

Attending:

Committee Members

Walter Hudson, Chairman
Earl Barrs
Warren Budd
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Jim Walters
Philip Watt
Tom Wheeler
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

David Allen
Bill Archer
Gene Bishop
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Joe Hatfield
Bob Rutland
Loyce Turner
Philip Watt

Visitors

Lauren Curry, Department of Economic Development
Bruz Clark, Lyndhurst Foundation
Elliott Davenport, Lula Lake Land Trust
Catherine Eddins, Georgia Land Trust
Carol Hassell, Georgia Piedmont Land Trust
Hans Neuhauser, Georgia Land Trust Center
Chris Butts, Georgia Green Industry Association
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Stacy Funderburke, The Conservation Fund

Staff Members

Noel Holcomb
Chris Clark
Paul Burkhalter
Carol Couch
Susan Shipman
Steve Friedman
Todd Holbrook
Marlin Gottschalk
Becky Kelley
Ray Luce
Jac Capp
Doralyn Kirkland
Linda MacGregor
David Crass
Jimmy Johnston
Bryan Alexander
Steve Saunders
Pam Earl
Connie Buck
Antoinette Norfleet
Sherry Crew-Jay
William Cook
Sarah Dearman
Emily Hitchcock
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Gary Black, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy

Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy

Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club

Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia

The February 25, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Carruth.

Chairman Carruth called on Walter Hudson, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

Mr. Hudson called on Jac Capp, Chief, Air Protection Branch, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), to present an action item on Grant Criteria for Georgia Diesel Engine Retrofits Grants.

Mr. Capp stated that the Diesel Engine Retrofits Grant Program is supported by two different Federal grants, totaling about \$2 million, for the purpose of retrofitting emission control devices onto diesel engine school buses. He further stated that one of the grants applies to public school buses operated in the 20-county metro-Atlanta ozone nonattainment area and the other grant to public school buses operated in counties that are currently designated as attaining air quality standards.

He reviewed the impact of emissions of fine particles from heavy duty diesel engines on air quality and on Georgia's ozone nonattainment areas. He stressed the need to install emission controls and reduce emissions from the existing fleet of public school buses, model years 2006 and older. He stated that previous retrofit school bus projects from grants had included 1,084 retrofits in 17 public school systems, which have reduced fine particles by 7.2 tons per year. He further stated that grant funds for retrofits require a 20% match, and that the match had been provided by public school systems that qualify for the grants and by other sources.

He requested approval for the Grant Criteria for Georgia Diesel Engine Retrofits Grants. (Power Point attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Capp explained that monies in one of the grants, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant, are limited to ozone nonattainment areas, and that Georgia's only ozone nonattainment area is the 20-county metro Atlanta area.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Walters, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board approve the Grant Criteria for Georgia Diesel Engine Retrofits Grants. (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Hudson called on Linda MacGregor, Chief, Watershed Protection Branch, to give a briefing on Proposed Amendments to Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, pertaining to Federal requirements.

Ms. MacGregor stated that the proposed amendments to Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, comply with new Federal requirements to protect drinking water and are proposed based on the Federal rule. She further stated that the amendments add protection from lead poisoning by updating the lead and copper rule and would protect from contaminants in water supply sources. She added that the proposed amendments would also protect against contaminants affecting the nervous system and reproductive health as well as cancer. She further added that the groundwater rule protects against fecal contamination in groundwater.

She stated that affected water systems in Georgia had attended nationwide public hearings by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and that EPD had been working with permittees to meet Federal requirements since 2002 by providing training and technical assistance for monitoring and analyses to water systems across the state. She added that in March 2009, the proposed amendments would be posted for public notice and comment, and a public hearing would be held. She further added that the proposed amendments would be presented to the Board for action in April 2009.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. MacGregor stated that the proposed changes would require additional monitoring and analyses at many facilities in the state, and that plant upgrades and distribution system modifications would be required at a small number of water systems. (PowerPoint attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Hudson called on Ms. MacGregor to give a briefing on Proposed Amendments to Rules for Outdoor Water Use, Chapter 391-3-30.

Ms. MacGregor stated that the proposed amendments comply with Georgia House Bill 1281, passed in 2008, which requires the formation of a drought response committee, drought indicators and triggers, drought declaration process, state and local pre-drought mitigation strategies, and drought response strategies. She further stated that the proposed revisions would likely amend definitions, outdoor water use schedules, drought response levels, exemptions, and local and regional options. She added that EPD would solicit informal input in February and March 2009 regarding changes needed to comply with the bill. She further added that the Board would be briefed again in April on the proposed amendments, a 30-day public notice and public hearings would be held in May, and the final proposed amendments would be presented to the Board in June 2009 for action. (PowerPoint attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.