

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

May 27, 2009

Attending:

Committee Members

Walter Hudson, Chairman
Ray Lambert
Jim Walters
Philip Watt
Tom Wheeler
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Bill Archer
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Joe Hatfield
Bob Rutland
Loyce Turner
Jim Tysinger

Visitors

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Debbie Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Kelly Jordan, The Georgia Conservancy
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper
Shana Udvardy, The Georgia Conservancy
Kelly Clark, Office of Planning and Budget
Will Wingate, The Georgia Conservancy
Richard Steughton, GA Golf Superintendents Association
Jimmy Geter, GA Golf Superintendents Association
Mike Crawford, GA Golf Superintendents Association

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Dan Forster
Marlin Gottschalk
Becky Kelley
Ray Luce
Steve Friedman
Linda MacGregor
John Bowers
Doralyn Kirkland
Jim Ussery
Dave Crass
Emily Hitchcock
Lauren Curry
Sarah Dearman
David Freedman
Becky Marshall
Bryan Alexander
Suzanne Burnes
Alice Keyes
Dianna Trettin
Dominic Weatherill
Mary Ann Evans

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George Martin, GA Golf Superintendents Association

Jeanette Gayer, Environment Georgia

Teresa Tamburello, Environment Georgia

Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power

Doug Miell, Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Jon Huffmaster, Georgia Farm Bureau

Tom Leslie, American Council of Engineers

Todd Edwards, Association County Commissioners of GA

The May 27, 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 Linda MacGregor, Chief of Watershed Protection Branch, for presentation of two items.

Ms. MacGregor stated that the first item was for action on the eligibility and selection criteria for the 319 Grant Program. She further stated that these grants were named for the section of the Clean Water Act that provides Georgia with approximately \$4.5 million each year, which the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) gives out as grants to local governments and other governmental agencies to do nonpoint source projects.

Ms. MacGregor stated that the requirements for eligibility are established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She further stated that priority is given to projects that: (1) result in measurable improvements in water quality; (2) implement actions to alleviate violations; (3) implement the nonpoint source components of other plans/programs; (4) support a watershed management approach and utilize cooperating partnerships; and (5) correct the adverse impacts of increased impervious surfaces.

Ms. MacGregor updated the committee on the Grant schedule and requested approval of the 319 Grant criteria.

A motion was made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Lambert and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board approve the Grant Criteria for the 319 Grant Program. (319 Grant Program Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Ms. MacGregor stated that the next item was a briefing on the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to Federal requirements on pretreatment. She further stated that the proposed amendments were in response to changes in Federal regulations.

Ms. MacGregor stated that EPD regulates industrial wastewater treatment facilities discharging to publicly-owned treatment works. She further stated that EPD is updating the Rules to reflect the federal pretreatment streamlining Rule change.

Ms. MacGregor stated that key Rule updates include: (1) reducing the burden to industrial users; (2) protecting the environment; (3) providing more flexibility in technical and administrative requirements; and (4) reducing the burden to the permitting authority. She further stated that these changes will provide much more flexibility in allowing both the industry and the local publicly-owned treatment works to focus on certain

contributors that may actually cause problems, and reduces the burden on contributors that are not causing problems.

Ms. MacGregor stated that after today's briefing a 30-day public notice would be posted and a public hearing would be held in July. She further stated that the proposed amendments would come to the Committee and Board for action in August.

Board Chairman Carruth stated that he would like to introduce his daughter, Kristen to the Board. He further stated that Kristen would graduate from West Georgia College this summer and will be working in Senator Saxby Chambliss' office beginning on July 13.

Chairman Carruth stated that he and Commissioner Clark have created a Sponsorship and Fundraising Task Force. He further stated that Jim Walters and Philip Watt would co-chair the task force, and other members include David Allen, Bill Archer, Gene Bishop, Warren Budd, Ray Lambert and Tom Wheeler. He further stated that if any other board members would like to volunteer, it would be appreciated. He added that Commissioner Clark and Lauren Curry, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, would work closely with this group to reach out to corporate sponsors and foundations at the beginning of each year with definite and direct requests.

Commissioner Clark stated that he would like to add that he believes DNR should begin to diversify the core sponsorship group and not continue to call on the same groups each time. He further stated that Sarah Dearman, Communications Specialist, would spearhead the group in setting up meetings.

Chairman Carruth stated that the political season is upon us again and called on Bob Rutland for words of wisdom. Mr. Rutland stated that he would just like to raise awareness on this issue. He further stated that he would advise the board members to keep a very broad-based influence on all legislative interaction and to keep themselves neutral on political positions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.