

MINUTES
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY BOARD
Covington, GA
January 19, 2005

Present were Stakeholder Advisory Board members Mark Byrd, Doug Easter, Jim Hamilton (Chair), Jo Ann Macrina, James Magnus, Robert Ringer, Karim Shahlaee, Ben Thompson and Aaron Varner. Members Alice Champagne, Gregory Teague, Burns Wetherington and Connie Wiggins were not in attendance. Also present were Soil and Water Commission employees John Carden, Michaelyn Rozar and Richard King. Interested parties in attendance included Michael Barnhart (Environmental Consultant) and Dana Heil (Georgia Transmission Company).

Mr. Hamilton opened the meeting by welcoming Board members and guests.

Agenda Items

1. Review and approve January 5, 2005 meeting minutes.

On a motion by Dr. Shahlaee and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the minutes of the January 5, 2005 meeting were approved.

2. Progress of the Rules and Regulations and Near Term Schedule

Mr. Hamilton stated that he attended the Georgia Association of Conservations District Supervisors the beginning of January. Mr. Hamilton presented information relating to the Stakeholder Advisory Board and certification program during the meeting. He distributed an updated flowchart covering the new program and a copy has been attached to these minutes.

Mr. Hamilton reminded the Board that a public hearing would be held regarding the Rules and Regulations on February 10, 2005 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens. The public comment period ends on February 11, 2005 and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board will act on the Rules at a February 17, 2005 meeting that will be held at the Fanning Institute for Leadership in Athens.

Mr. Hamilton stated that an e-mail had been received from Seth Yurman of the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association. Mr. Hamilton stated that Mr. Yurman encouraged the Board not to gloss over laws while reviewing the curriculum for the Level IA class. He stated that he would distribute copies of the email to Board members.

Mr. Hamilton continued the meeting by reviewing the "Erosion Education/Certification Program Near Term Education Schedule" (a copy of this document has been attached to these minutes). He stated that over 1000 individuals would need to be certified per month and that in order for Commission staff to be prepared the Board would need to be finished reviewing curricula by the end of March.

Mr. Magnus commented that of the 20,000 individuals estimated to need certification, a large number would hopefully be just sitting for the exam. He advocated getting proctors set-up and exam prepared to get those individuals certified as quickly as possible.

Mr. Hamilton advocated preparing applications so that trainers can be applying as soon as possible and agreed that proctors needed to be in place soon as well. He stated that was not sure if a SAB member could be an approved trainer without a conflict of interest but all SAB members could be approved proctors.

Mr. Magnus agreed that it could be a conflict of interest for SAB to be approved as instructors.

Mr. Easter agreed that proctor qualifications needed to be established as soon as possible. He advocated that employees of organizations such as the Georgia Homebuilders Association, and Georgia Utility Contractors Association be approved as proctors as these organizations already have active training programs.

Dr. Shahlaee stated that the Commission staff had not yet discussed proctor qualifications. Ms. Rozar stated that she would offer a report at the next meeting concerning proctoring.

3. Review of Level IA Course Content

Mr. Hamilton asked Dr. Shahlaee to start discussions by offering input. Dr. Shahlaee distributed CDs with PowerPoint presentations proposed for the Level IA training. Dr. Shahlaee began discussions by running through the slides associated with the "Erosion and Sedimentation Process." He recommended allowing 30-35 minutes for this presentation.

Mr. Magnus asked if the Commission plans to prepare presentations and set course material for use by all approved instructors. Dr. Shahlaee stated that was his plan.

Dr. Shahlaee asked Mr. Ringer to present the "Erosion and Sediment Control Act of 1975" presentation as it was prepared by the Environmental Protection Division and Mr. Ringer often gives this presentation during Commission training programs. Dr. Shahlaee stated that it is a very good presentation but there is some information that could.

Mr. Ringer stated the while the presentation does offer solid information some of slides could be removed as they are more applicable to Level IB training. He asked the Board to refer to his handout titled "Subjects for Inclusion in Level IA Seminar" (a copy of this document as been attached to these minutes.

Mr. Ringer continued by stated that information relating the Local Issuing Authority certification/decertification could be condensed or removed. Dr. Shahlaee stated that is important for individuals to know who local government officials are and how to contact such officials. Mr. Easter agreed that participants need to know what local governments can and can not enforce. Mr. Magnus stated that some of the information regarding LIA certification and decertification only applies to local government staff.

Mr. Ringer continued by stating that material regarding exemptions is useful to city and county government and perhaps to some builders and contractors. Dr. Shahlaee stated that this information is important to builders, as they need to know if they have to get a permit.

Mr. Easter stated that the slide regarding single-family homes not a part of common development is very important.

Mr. Ringer stated that information relating to buffers in the presentation would need to update to reflect the new buffer requirements.

Mr. Varner suggested that slides relating to stream buffers state that local governments may have requirements that are more stringent and that individuals need to check with the local authorities regarding exact requirements. The Board agreed.

Mr. Ringer continued by presenting the NPDES Permit presentation. Mr. Magnus asked which permit would be covered. All three permits are currently covered in the presentation.

Mr. Ringer stated that the introductory material in the presentation would be revised.

Mr. Magnus asked if the would need to know such detailed information about fees. He suggested that the material lean more heavily on what needs to be done to fulfill permit requirements.

Mr. Ringer continued the presentation. Mr. Magnus recommended adding "pollutants" to the definitions at the beginning of the presentation.

Mr. Ringer concluded by stating that this presentation usually lasts 45 minutes and does not include inspection or recordkeeping. Mr. Magnus stated than an hour and 15 minutes would allow time to cover the additional information. Dr. Shahlaee commented that information about plans would also need to be included if a separate ES&PC Plan presentation is pulled from the agenda.

Mr. Easter asked if participants in the current NPDES Qualified Personnel workshops actually opened the permit. Dr. Shahlaee stated that they do not look at the permit itself, as there are three different permits. Mr. Easter advocated referring to section more to provide participants points of reference, as participants will refer back to their workshop notes first and the permit second.

Mr. Magnus recommended that the NPDES presentation begin with key definitions and also include representative monitoring forms and sample inspection checklists.

Mr. King presented the "Sampling, Monitoring and Recordkeeping" slides. Dr. Shahlaee stated that this presentation included a lot of overlaps with previous presentations and that the Mr. King would work with EPD staff to eliminate the repeated information.

Dr. Shahlaee continued by reviewing the Structural Control Measures presentation.

Mr. Magnus stated that 38 structural practices are included in the Green Manual. These 38 practices do not include topsoiling or Mats and Blankets. He commented that the installation, inspection and maintenance of these measures must be discussed and at three minutes per control measure, that presentation could not be offered in less than two hours. Mr. Hamilton agreed. Mr. Magnus also stated that some practices such as Sd2 would need more than 3 minutes.

Dr. Shahlaee reviewed the presentation relating to Vegetative Measures. Mr. Hamilton asked how much time would be needed for the vegetative presentation. Dr. Shahlaee recommended 45 minutes for vegetative measures, 90 minutes for structural measures and 30 minutes of review.

Mr. Hamilton asked that Board members review the CDs and email comments to the group. He again stated concern that the structural presentation would need at least two hours.

Mr. Varner stated that he is not an expert in the field and will support the decision of the Stakeholder Advisory Board and the experience of the Conservation Commission. He continued by expressing concern for consistency in the inspection and plan review process.

Mr. Magnus stated that the DOT has received feedback on the need to cover different soil types across Georgia and advocated tailoring presentations for different areas of the state.

Mr. Thompson stated that he is glad the exam is open book and that time needs to be wisely spent to prepare participants for the examination.

Mr. Varner recommended beginning the class at 8:00 am instead of 8:15 am stating that it is a new day in the state of Georgia. He commented that the Board did a good job giving and taking but if the course needs to begin at 8:00 am to cover the material, participants will have to arrive on time. He added that if the agenda is strapped for time, the Board should review the starting time and break times to allow for more instruction.

Mr. Easter agreed stating that participants need to take the course seriously and arrive on time.

Mr. Hamilton stated that standard PowerPoint presentations would be created for all instructors.

Mr. Thompson advocated designating certain areas of the agenda and presentations for alteration depending on audience.

Mr. Magnus commented that the DOT would not want to teach the Commission's vegetation requirements but the DOT grassing requirements instead. Mr. Hamilton asked if the DOT would have courses in addition to the certification course. MR. Magnus stated they would like to tailor the program just enough to cover the DOT's required material and also stated a desire

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Approved

for the DOT to only cover the NPDES Permit Construction Permit for Infrastructure. Ms. Macrina asked how this would affect consistency across the state. Mr. Magnus stated that there would be difference in teaching the course in South Georgia as opposed to North Georgia. Ms. Macrina commented that it would be important to cover all geographic areas because the certification translates across the state. Mr. Hamilton stated the exam would be the benchmark for certification.

Mr. Byrd advocated that instructors be allowed to stress different points depending upon audience. Ms. Macrina again expressed concern as individuals may be certified in North Georgia but still do work in South Georgia. Mr. Easter stated that in his experience few people work outside their small area of the state. Ms. Macrina stated that using the standard PowerPoint the instructor could talk about different soil types but emphasize the applicable type. She stated that all participants need to hear the same basic information. The Board continued to discuss the issue.

Mr. Varner stated that the goal of the program is cleaner water and the only way to achieve improved water resources is through consistency in training.

Mr. Hamilton asked that member review the CD and email any comments to other members before the next meeting. He also asked that members review material in the Stakeholder Advisory Board notebook relating to the Level IB training and adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by

Michaelyn Rozar