

**Stakeholder Advisory Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2008
Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Athens, GA**

I. Roll Call

Mr. Hamilton called the meeting to order and took roll call. Present were Stakeholder Advisory Board members James Hamilton, JoAnn Macrina, Ben Thompson, and Aaron Varner. Also present from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission were Brent Dykes, Ben Ruzowicz and Lauren Zdunczyk.

II. Review/approve/amend minutes from February 19, 2008

There being no quorum the minutes were not voted on.

III. Certification Program Update

Ms. Zdunczyk informed that Board that to date the Commission has issued 55, 680 certifications and 1,037 re-certifications.

She informed the Board that the new NPDES permits had been finalized and released with an effective date of August 1, 2008 and that Ben Ruzowicz would discuss the changes momentarily. Ms. Zdunczyk stated that the Commission would begin working in consultation with EPD in developing an Alternative BMPs Guidance document, revising the ES&PC Plan Review Checklist and NPDES course presentations for certification and re-certification.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the Commission partner with a group that could do a research study to determine the impact the Certification Program has had on the State, perhaps a graduate student project.

Mr. Ruzowicz outlined the changes of the new NPDES Permit as follows:

1. Projects that are within 1 linear mile of an Impaired Stream must be designated on plan and select 4 additional BMPs from designated list of approximately 20 possible BMPs.

Mr. Hamilton asked if it would be easy to determine if a project was within 1 linear mile of an impaired stream.

Mr. Ruzowicz stated that GSWCC is looking to develop a program that would assist land owners in determining whether or not they were within 1 mile of an impaired stream.

Mr. Ruzowicz also stated that the list would be updated every two years by EPD. This would also require the plans to be updated as well.

2. Permittees must apply for a variance from EPD for projects that disturb more than 50 acres.

If Permittee does not receive a response from EPD within 35 days the variance is automatically approved. Once approved permittee must select 4 additional BMPs from designated list of approximately 20 possible BMPs.

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3. Lending institutions must file a new NOI 30 days after taking ownership of a site or 7 days before starting construction.
4. Alternative BMPs – The use of alternative BMPs are permitted if the performance of such alternative BMP has been documented to be superior to conventional BMPs as certified by a Design Professional (unless disapproved by EPD or State Soil and Water Conservation Commission) and documents.

Mr. Ruzowicz stated that the Commission was working with EPD to develop a guidance document for the use of alternative BMPs.

5. NOT submittal.

Primary Permittees may submit NOT after all construction activities has ceased for a minimum of 90 days, final stabilization has been implemented by primary and by all secondary permittees, all secondary permittees have submitted a NOT and the site is in compliance with the permit.

Individuals who purchase undeveloped lots within the common development must submit a new NOI and have an ES&PC plan developed for such lots.

IV. Discuss Changes to the Fact Sheet

Ms. Zdunczyk stated that the due to some confusion in the field the following revisions were made to the fact sheet.

1. It is important to note that a “certified subcontractor” (Level I) is not qualified to perform the duties of a “certified person” (Level 1A). Please note that a “certified inspector” (Level IB), “certified design professional” (Level II) or a “certified plan reviewer” (Level II) is qualified to perform the duties of a “certified person” (Level IA).
2. A “certified inspector” is an individual who has successfully completed the Advanced Fundamentals Seminar (Level IB). It is important to note that a “certified design professional” (Level II) or a “certified plan reviewer (Level II) is not qualified to perform the duties of a “certified inspector” (Level 1B).
3. In cases where an individual is required to possess a “certified inspector” (Level IB) card and a “certified design professional” (Level II) or “certified plan reviewer” (Level II) card, the individual must attend and obtain:
 - A passing exam score for the Advanced Fundamentals Seminar (Level IB) and the Introduction to Design Seminar (Level II), *or*
 - A passing exam score for the Introduction to Design Seminar (Level II) and passing exam score for the Advanced Fundamental Seminar (Level IB) “Exam Only Session.”

V. Date for next SAB meeting

Ms. Zdunczyk stated that she would be on maternity leave starting at the end of September and would be returning the first of the year. She stated that in her absence Ben Ruzowicz would be the contact person.

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The SAB agreed that the next meeting would be held at the start of the new year and possible dates would be sent via email.

With there being no further discussions that meeting was adjourned.