

Stakeholder Advisory Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2007

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Athens, GA

I. Roll Call

Mr. Hamilton called the meeting to order and called roll. Present were Stakeholder Advisory Board members, Alice Champagne, Doug Easter, James Hamilton, JoAnn Macrina, James Magnus, Greg Teague, Aaron Varner and Connie Wiggins. Also present from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission were Brent Dykes, Jason Ulseth and Lauren Zdunczyk. Other interested parties were Betsy Nicholas.

II. Review/approve/amend minutes from April 25, 2007 meeting.

Ms. Champagne stated that a name was misspelled in the minutes. Betsy Nichols was changed to Betsy Nicholas. There being no further discussion on the minutes Ms. Wiggins made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Ms. Champagne. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Vote to Approve "Subcontractors Awareness Seminar"

Mr. Ulseth stated that the course presentation was not only sent to the Stakeholders but to various other trade organizations as well. He also stated that he only received comments from Mr. Easter and made the few minor changes that were suggested.

It was an overall consensus that the Stakeholders were satisfied with the presentation and without further discussion Mr. Varner made a motion to approve the "Subcontractors Awareness Seminar" with a second from Mr. Teague. The seminar was approved unanimously.

Ms. Macrina asked if there would be cards issued. Ms. Zdunczyk stated that there would be cards, most likely a white card that would look similar to the current certification cards.

Mr. Magnus asked what the difference was between the Government Awareness and the Subcontractor Awareness course.

Mr. Ulseth stated that the Government Awareness focused on why erosion and sedimentation is bad and the Subcontractor Awareness has more focus on the actual job site – showing the good, the bad and the ugly.

IV. Vote to Approve Trainers

Ms. Wiggins stated she was concerned about Ms. Julie Robinson's qualifications and would like to see additional information specific to her experience.

Ms. Champagne stated that she was concerned about Mr. Doug Higgins qualifications based on the description provided and would also like to see additional information.

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Mr. Ulseth informed the Board the initial review was done based on the training requirements set by the Rules and that each applicant met those requirements based on the letter of the law.

The Board asked that both Ms. Robinson and Mr. Higgins provide more information. Ms. Wiggins made a motion to approve the trainer list with the exception of Ms. Robinson and Mr. Higgins, with a second from Ms. Macrina. The list with the exceptions was approved unanimously.

V. HB 463 Update/ Proposed Rules Changes

Prior to the meeting, each Board Member was sent a copy of the Commission's proposed revision to the Rules for their review.

Mr. Dykes stated that he welcomed all SAB comments and that the proposed changes need to be presented to the Commission Board at the June Board meeting. He also stated that the proposed revisions had been sent to the Attorney Generals Office and his office is awaiting their review.

Ms. Wiggins stated that if those that attend the "Subcontractors Awareness Seminar are being identified as "certified". She asked if the Commission will do the same for those that attend the Government Awareness Seminar. She also asked if they would explore the possibility of issuing certification cards for both groups. Mr. Champagne and Ms. Macrina liked the idea of issuing cards.

Mr. Varner suggested that the Commission contact ACGC and GMA to get their opinion on whether or not they would like to incorporate the Governmental Awareness Seminar into their training.

Mr. Teague stated that it may be something that works for these organizations.

Ms. Champagne asked when the Commission expected the Attorney General's review. Mr. Dykes stated that it should be received in the next week. Ms. Champagne asked if changes made to the proposal will need to be resubmitted to the Attorney General. Mr. Dykes stated that if there are significant changes it will have to be resubmitted.

Mr. Magnus asked if that included public comment. Mr. Dykes stated yes.

Ms. Champagne suggested that the Board wait until the comments come back from the Attorney General's office and schedule another meeting to discuss the changes.

Ms. Champagne made a motion to reconvene to discuss the proposed Rules the following week.

Ms. Wiggins stated she was willing to vote today and was not sure this matter warranted another call.

Mr. Teague suggested waiting for the Attorney General's opinion which would allow the Commission to send it out via email with a meeting request.

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Mr. Champagne made a motion to reconvene to discuss the proposed Rules once the Attorney General's opinion was received with a second from Ms. Macrina. The Board vote unanimously in favor of the motion.

VI. Certification Program Update

Ms. Zdunczyk announced that to date that 42,675 certifications have been issued. She also stated that exams are being scored as they are received, therefore the individuals can see their results in about one week.

VII. Update Course Material Revisions

Level II

Mr. Ulseth informed the Board that there was a meeting with EPD on May 3rd to discuss the "new checklist" and he is working on developing the final guidance document that will be incorporated into the Level II course. Also, he will be using Mr. Hamilton's memo to make the additional changes and that the tentative rollout date for Level II is July.

Mr. Hamilton stated that his staff is working to put together pictures for the presentations.

Level IB

Mr. Ulseth stated will the Board should have received the memo with the proposed changes – he has not yet started working on the revisions.

Level IA

Mr. Easter stated the group needed to meet and that he would send Ms. Zdunczyk the recommended revisions.

VIII. Recertification

Both Ms. Macrina and Ms. Wiggins stated their concerns about having recertification available online.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he wanted to explore this option and get back to the Board.

Ms. Zdunczyk stated that the Commission would work on the recertification and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

IX. Adjourn

The Board asked Ms. Zdunczyk to email the Board with dates for the next SAB Board meeting. The meeting was adjourned.