

**Stakeholder Advisory Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2007
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, Alice Champagne, Doug Easter, James Hamilton, JoAnn Macrina, James Magnus, Robert Ringer, Greg Teague Aaron Varner, Burns Wetherington and Connie Wiggins. Also present from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission were Brent Dykes, Jason Ulseth and Lauren Zdunczyk. Other interested parties Betsy Nichols.

II. Review/approve/amend minutes from January 19, 2007 meeting

The January 19, 2007 meeting minutes were approved with the following changes:

-Changed "Mr. Ringer informed the Board that EPD is looking at certification as another item on their checklist and would not take enforcement action based solely on certification." To "Mr. Ringer informed the Board that EPD District offices are looking at certification as another item on their checklist and would not take enforcement action based solely on the lack of certification.

- Changed "Mr. Varner stated that he would be glad to look into that and check with each association." To "Mr. Varner stated that he would be glad to look into that and check with ACCG."

Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Ms. Wiggins. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Certification Legislative Update

Mr. Hamilton gave the initial update stating that HB 463 passed on House floor and is now in the Senate. Mr. Dykes stated that HB 463 passed on March 30th and was amended, LC254922S.

Ms. Champagne stated that for most individuals the education requirement is still intact but individuals working in a sub contractor capacity will have to take a two hour awareness course rather the Level IA and that exams must still be administered by a proctor.

Mr. Dykes stated that the current Awareness course would not meet the requirements set forth by HB 463 and that if the Bill is passed, the Commission will develop an additional Awareness course.

Mr. Hamilton stated that now would be a good time to revisit the Fact Sheet and being to make changes reflecting HB 463. Therefore, if the Bill is passed a revised Fact Sheet can be distributed as quickly as possible.

Ms. Champagne agreed and stated that many people from different groups and associations were working on this Bill and does not anticipate it changing drastically in the Senate.

Stakeholders Advisory Board Meeting

March 29, 2007

Page 2

Mr. Hamilton encouraged the SAB to look up HB 463 and proposed the SAB meet if and after HB 463 is passed.

Ms. Champagne proposed the Commission and EPD begin working on the Fact Sheet now.

Mr. Teague informed the Board about the requirement in HB 463 that requires overviews be done quarterly, which would have a big impact on the Commission and Districts. He also stated that the language in paragraph C was changed from may revoke certification to shall revoke certification.

Ms. Champagne stated that while the change is in the HB she doesn't see that happening.

Mr. Dykes stated that the intent is greater oversight and this may encourage LIAs to attend monthly meetings and give more detailed updates and there may be a way to develop a standard report and that report would be used to determine which LIAs will need overviews.

Ms. Champagne agreed and stated that her Districts consider updates given at District meetings to be an overview since all of her 7 LIAs regularly come to meetings and give detailed updates.

Ms. Wiggins stated that it comes down to interpretation, and there needs to be some guidance issued on how to interpret it.

Mr. Dykes stated that there would be guidance.

Ms. Champagne stated that the HB does not state that every LIA has to be reviewed quarterly and one can interpret that to mean, if one overview is done quarterly then they are in compliance with the law.

Mr. Magnus asked if the December 2007 deadline was for the Awareness course and if the HB is signed into law in June would that be enough time to get required individuals through the course.

Mr. Thompson asked if the Awareness course requirement would be satisfied if subcontractors have already taken the Level IA certification course.

Several SAB members agreed that it would.

Mr. Hamilton asked how long it would take to create a new Awareness course.

Ms. Zdunczyk responded that it would take no more than a month to create an Awareness course tailored to subcontractors.

Ms. Wiggins asked that the Commission put together the Awareness course over the next 30 days and give it to the SAB to review and confirmed that the SAB agrees that if any subcontractor has taken the Level IA course it would meet the Awareness course requirement. She also stated that the Commission should proceed with drafting a new Fact Sheet.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the SAB had to give an outline for the Awareness course.

Stakeholders Advisory Board Meeting

March 29, 2007

Page 3

Ms. Zdunczyk stated that the Commission will have the presentation ready for the SAB to review before the next meeting and comments will be taken at next meeting.

Mr. Easter stated that he would like to see more basic information and how they can help reduce Erosion.

Ms. Wiggins asked Mr. Ringer to share a document she received from EPD about NonPoint Source Pollutants with the Commission staff.

With nothing more to discuss the SAB moved to the next item on the agenda.

IV. Certification Program Update

Ms. Zdunczyk announced to date 34,785 certifications have been issued and that number reflects exams scored through February 5, 2007 and that February would be completely scored by April 6, 2007. She also stated that between now and June 30, 2007 there are 210 courses scheduled with courses being added daily.

Ms. Zdunczyk announced that the Commission has approved a Level I Trainer Felix Marrero to teach the Spanish IA Fundamentals course. She also stated that to date, Mr. Marrero has scheduled three Spanish IA courses.

Ms. Zdunczyk gave an update on the Spanish IA meeting held in February. She stated that the Level IA course notebook was translated into Spanish by a Commission staff member and that the exam questions were translated by a Certified Translator that was under contract with the Commission. It was determined that there were some vocabulary discrepancies between what was in the book and what was on the exam and that may be the reason for such a high failure rate among the Spanish courses. Since that meeting the Commission has had the translator go back and revise the exam questions to reflect that the vocabulary in the course notebook. Ms. Zdunczyk also stated that the Commission held a free Spanish IA course and invited all the individuals that did not pass prior to the revision.

V. Course Material Revisions

Mr. Hamilton asked Ms. Zdunczyk to update the SAB on the SWAT team assignments and then asked each team lead to give an update.

Ms. Zdunczyk stated that the SWAT teams are as follows:

Level IA SWAT Team – Doug Easter (Team Lead), James Magnus, Burns Wetherington, Connie Wiggins

Level IB SWAT Team – Alice Champagne, Bob Ringer, Jason Ulseth (Team Lead), Aaron Varner

Level II SWAT Team - Jim Hamilton, JoAnn Macrina (Team Lead), Greg Teague, Jason Ulseth

Mr. Hamilton stated that he would like to see the new State Waters Determination Field Guides incorporated into all three courses.

Stakeholders Advisory Board Meeting

March 29, 2007

Page 4

Mr. Burns stated he thought that might be too much detail for the Level IA.

Ms. Macrina felt that if nothing else instructors should at least mention it.

Mr. Teague felt that it should be given to inspectors.

Ms. Zdunczyk gave a brief update for the Level IB SWAT team. She stated that the group revised the agenda and where in the processes of reviewing the presentations.

Mr. Ringer stated that he and Mr. Varner had given Mr. Ulseth written comments.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the revisions to Level II are a work in progress and the team will be meeting again on April 9th. He also stated that staff members from EPD will be present at the meeting to give their comments and will also look into incorporating the NPDES Checklist into the course. He also stated that Ms. Macrina is working on the Hydrology presentations and has some recommendations.

Mr. Burns stated that the Level IA needs to stress the permittee's responsibility to get the 7 day inspection.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Level II may include a sample 7 day inspection letter.

Mr. Hamilton asked all SWAT teams to get there comments to Ms. Zdunczyk.

Mr. Ringer informed that Board that EPD staff felt that the actual focus of the courses needed to be altered and more information on phasing the site and staying in compliance needed to be stressed.

Mr. Hamilton agreed and stated that individuals who attend these courses should leave knowing what they need to do to stay in compliance.

Mr. Ringer stated that after further review of the course material and time constraints that EPD staff would be able to give limited assistance.

Mr. Dykes stated that in an October meeting, EPD made a commitment to assist with course revisions and if EPD could not provide comments it would be difficult to convey EPD's thoughts.

Mr. Ringer stated that EPD understands that if they cannot provide comments on the presentations, then they may not be what they expect. He also stated that Bartow County Extension Services expressed interest in assisting with revisions.

Mr. Hamilton stated that final recommendations be made at the end of April.

VI. Recertification

Mr. Hamilton asked what the deadline is for the rollout of the Recertification Program.

Ms. Zdunczyk stated that it needs to be ready by the September 2007 and that there needs to be several recertification options available. She stated that the Commission needs the SAB to agree on basic structure of the Recertification program.

Stakeholders Advisory Board Meeting

March 29, 2007

Page 5

Mr. Hamilton asked if the law had specific requirements the SAB needed to follow.

Mr. Dykes read the recertification requirement as stated in the law which reads as "A certification will be extended or renewed by attending and participating in at least four hours of approved continuing education courses, as established by the Conservation Commission, every three years after its issuance."

Mr. Dykes stated that the Commission would put together some ideas/speaking points on recertification for the SAB to review.

Mr. Hamilton asked the SAB to get some ideas together and give their input over the next 30 days.

The SAB set the next Board meeting for April 25th at 2pm via teleconference.

Mr. Hamilton stated the April Board meeting would cover final comments on course revisions, input on Fact Sheet and Awareness course and Recertification.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

VII. Adjourn