

Meeting Notes
Stakeholder Advisory Board
Organizational Meeting
July 13, 2004
Covington, Georgia

David Bennett opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the Stakeholder Advisory Board and offering the services of SWCC employees in taking minutes and other administrative tasks. Mr. Bennett proceeded to introduce the members of the SAB and their affiliations. Time was spent reviewing the duties and responsibilities of the Stakeholder Advisory Board.

Dr. Karim Shahlaee noted the evolution of the Stakeholder Advisory Board including the work of DIRT I, DIRT II, the GPAC subcommittee and the new Stakeholder Advisory Board. Dr. Shahlaee reminded the members that by December 31, 2006 all persons involved in land disturbing activities in Georgia must be certified.

Alice Champagne asked about the December 31, 2006 deadline for certification. The deadline was clarified as persons must be certified by January 1, 2007 and not that the program must be ready by that date.

Dr. Shahlaee continued by reviewing a PowerPoint presentation covering the SWCC's proposed seminar descriptions and commented that the courses would be independent of each other.

Connie Wiggins asked if someone must take a test to be certified. Dr. Shahlaee agreed that a test is required. Mr. Bennett strongly recommended that no online testing be offered.

Aaron Varner asked if the SAB would receive guidance concerning these issues. Mr. Bennett agreed that the SWCC would provide recommendations but highlighted the need for balance between the Commission and the Stakeholder Advisory Board.

Mark Hornbuckle, representing SAB member Doug Easter, questioned if continuing education courses will be offered. Mr. Bennett agreed that they would be offered by the SWCC.

Burns Wetherington requested clarification on testing procedures regarding attending a seminar before taking the test. Dr. Shahlaee expressed a need for attending a seminar before being allowed to test. Mr. Wetherington continued by asking if questions regarding the material covering the checklist for inspections and the difference between the Fundamentals and Advanced Fundamentals

courses. Dr. Shahlaee commented that the 2-day courses are intended for regulatory and non-regulatory (third party) inspectors and that the 1-day course would allow for inspecting and sampling. Mr. Wetherington questioned if non-SWCC sponsored courses could be geared toward specific industries. Mr. Hornbuckle commented that it is important for people in the field to have the same training across the board. Mr. Wetherington commented that going to another class should not be necessary. Mr. Bennett recommended tabling the issue until later.

Greg Teague commented that those running a site would need the 2-day course. Jim Hamilton added that the bar was raised by saying people need a 2-day course when the law says only a 1-day course is necessary. Dr. Shahlaee clarified that it depends on what that person is inspecting. Ms. Champagne observed that great strides have been made.

Mr. Bennett commented that we would judge the performance of the program in terms of water quality not by how many people pass exams.

Mr. Hornbuckle commented that the Level I course must be basic in nature and Dr. Shahlaee agreed that it should be a practical course.

Mr. Bennett introduced all SWCC employees that attended.

Michaelyn Rozar presented material covering seminar delivery including training through seminar attendance, GSAMS, the internet and interactive CD.

A question was asked regarding the number of students that could be addressed using GSAMS. Ms. Rozar commented that the number of students per location would be a lower number perhaps around 20 participants. Mr. Bennett added that the goal of GSAMS is to use the best person teaching each aspect of the course.

Mr. Hornbuckle commented that it is important that seminars not turn into sales seminars.

Discussion ensued regarding cost of seminars. Mr. Bennett answered that he does not want to interfere with free enterprise by saying what an organization can charge for seminars.

Mr. Bennett addressed the group highlighting the importance of electing a chairperson. He also recommended the formation of subcommittees for Curriculum, Rules and Regulations, and Training.

It was the consensus of the Stakeholder Advisory Board that the SWCC be responsible for taking minutes of meetings. It was stated that meeting notices

would be sent through the mail, email and would be posted on the Commission's website.

Mr. Wetherington requested that someone from EPD be present to discuss permit requirements and Connie Wiggins suggested that EPD send a representative for "reality checks." Board members were reminded that a member of the Board, Robert Ringer, was appointed to represent the EPD.

An opportunity was given for the members of the Stakeholder Advisory Board to make comments.

JoAnn Macrina thanked the Commission for its work regarding preparation for the meeting and the notebook, and recommended that the Board wait until the next meeting to elect a chairperson and discuss subcommittees. She recommended the Board communicate through email.

Ms. Champagne suggested that she is wary of using committees and that she would prefer the Board to work as a team. Ms. Champagne nominated Jim Hamilton for chair.

Aaron Varner commended the Commission on the notebook.

Jim Hamilton commended the commission for being very well organized considering the monumental task ahead. He added that it would be easy for the Board to get bogged down in all the details.

Mr. Hornbuckle recommended making a timeline regarding milestones. Ms. Wiggins says that the SWCC should put together a timeline and expressed concern about having courses by the end of the year.

Ms. Wiggins continued by recommending that everyone review the Rules and Regulations information by the next meeting.

Robert Ringer commended Commission staff for preparing the notebook and recommended waiting to elect a chair until the next meeting.

James Magnus did not agree with forming committees and commended the Commission for its preparation.

Ben Thompson commended the Commission as well, and recommending tasking individuals with responsibilities if no committees are formed.

Mr. Wetherington commented that a lot of information had been covered and recommended meeting before August 16 or 17, 2004. Jim Hamilton agreed and recommended meeting twice a month.

Greg Teague commended the SWCC.

Ms. Wiggins thanked the SWCC and agreed with Mr. Hamilton about meeting twice a month.

Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. Varner for hosting the meeting and dismissed the Commission from discussions.

At this time, the meeting adjourned, ending in personal discussions between Board members.

Submitted by:

Michaelyn Rozar