

MINUTES
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 1, 2004
ATLANTA, GA

Present were Stakeholder Advisory Board members Mark Byrd, Doug Easter, Jim Hamilton, 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 Conservation Commission employees Brent Dykes, Michaelyn Rozar and John Carden. Interested parties in attendance included Bettie Sleeth (Home Builders Association of Georgia) and Marc Dastronadi (GADOT).

Agenda Items

1. Review and approve November 17, 2004 meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Magnus and seconded by Dr. Shahlaee, the minutes of the November 17, 2004 SAB meeting were approved contingent upon further review. The Board agreed to send email if any changes were necessary.

2. Schedule of future meetings.

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Board will be held December 15, 2004 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens, Georgia. SAB members were invited to attend the morning session of the Commission sponsored NPDES workshop the morning of December 15 and the meeting SAB will begin at 1pm. Lunch will be provided for SAB members. A meeting was scheduled for January 5, 2005 at the GA DOT facility in Forest Park and a January 19 meeting was tentatively planned for Covington. All SAB meetings are scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM.

3. Review of the Rules process.

Mr. Hamilton remarked that he had attended a November 17, 2004 meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board. Mr. Hamilton presented a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the certification process. He said that the Commission may send the Rules back to the SAB for additional input before approval.

4. Presentation of Soil and Water Conservation Plan for Implementation

Mr. Carden and Ms. Rozar of the Commission offered a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Commission's tentative plan for implementation of the Education/Certification program. Ms. Rozar detailed a draft staffing structure which would include five new Commission employees to assist in program implementation. The proposed staffing structure divided responsibilities between an administrative,

information technology and technical units of the Urban Water Resources Program. Mr. Carden summarized research conducted on the feasibility of using Scantron™ equipment and software to generate, grade and track examinations. Ms. Rozar also presented a draft timeline for program implementation including 30, 60 and 90-day milestones.

At this time the SAB took a short break.

5. Process for setting course curricula.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Board would need to agree on a process for reviewing and approving course curricula. He suggested beginning with the Awareness class agenda commenting that the Awareness course could be used to inform individuals about the new certification requirements.

The SAB agreed to begin reviewing course curricula by reviewing the Awareness Course agenda.

6. Review of Awareness Course Agenda

Dr. Shahlaee introduced a handout of the proposed Awareness Course agenda. A copy of the handout has been included in these minutes.

Dr. Shahlaee stated that the Commission has been doing a variation of an awareness course for many years in the form of 3-4 hour seminars around the state. The Commission has involved NRCS and EPD in these short courses. Dr. Shahlaee also stated that some counties including Cobb and Rockdale have conducted their own short courses. These short courses included information regarding local requirements including tree and streambank ordinances. Dr. Shahlaee also emphasized the importance of discussing the E&S Act, NPDES Permit and agency roles. He explained that discussions of vegetative measures should emphasize their role in preventing erosion. Dr. Shahlaee commented that private citizens would attend these courses as well as elected officials.

Mr. Hamilton advocated quality handout material including the previously discussed flow chart of the certification program and a FAQ document. He asked if other organizations other than the Commission would be able to offer Awareness courses. Mr. Dykes stated that the presentations would be available to other organizations as appropriate.

Mr. Easter commented that these courses could be presented to civic groups such as Homeowners Associations, women's groups and Rotary Clubs. He stated that a lot of people see problems in their area and might not know who to contact. He suggested that presentations be modified to fit into a local situation by including contact numbers for questions and complaints.

Mr. Varner stated that elected officials must know the responsibilities of local Issuing Authorities and how to budget money to meet certification requirements. He stated that ACCG and GMA have an on-going educational programs and that the information from the awareness course could supplement their programs.

Mr. Ringer stated that city and county employees such as zoning administrators should also be targeted.

Mr. Dykes stated that no certificate would be issued for an Awareness class.

Mr. Magnus questioned how Awareness courses would be marketed. Dr. Shahlaee answered that Commission regional offices would host course around the state. He stated that in the past, when a LIA has performed poorly on an overview, the Commission will lead a course to notify local individuals. Mr. Dykes added that Regional Representatives would be required to hold a certain number of courses a year in their Region.

Mr. Byrd agreed that there should be a strong outreach effort targeting Local Issuing Authorities.

Mr. Easter suggested that Land Disturbing Activity permits could be with held unless an individual can prove they or an employee has been certified. The Board discussed this suggestion and agreed that the responsibility belongs to the LIA to determine if a certified per is on-site.

The Board agreed to the proposed Awareness course agenda by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Hamilton asked that SAB members read through the information relating to Level IA training presented in the SAB notebooks and be ready to offer input. Dr. Shahlaee will email out a tentative agenda for Level IA training.

Mr. Hamilton thanked Board members for attending and the meeting was adjourned.