

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Banquet Room – Dining Hall
543 Elliott Trail
Mansfield, GA 30055

Tuesday, August 23, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chair
Dwight Evans, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Patrick Denney
Joe Hatfield
Rob Leebern
Bodine Sinyard
Bill Jones, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Randy Dellinger
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Miki Thomaston
Gary Vowell

Guests

Andrea White, Georgia River Network
Max Brown, Georgia Audubon, Sierra Club
Lyndy Saparow, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Ted Will
Doug Haymans
Brett Albanese
Alan Isler
Jon Ambrose
Taylor Brown
Daniel Brown
Lindsey Brown
Whitney Fenwick
Jared Flowers
Jennifer Gadson
Brock Hoyt
Jessica James-Weems
Casey Jones
Thom Litts
Soheila Naji
Mark Patterson

Richard Dunn, Director
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller

The August 23, 2022 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Bill Jones, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Jones called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Mr. Lambert called on Karen Hays, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Miscellaneous Changes and Updates.

Ms. Hays stated EPD regularly updates rules to incorporate changes to US EPA rules, incorporate new US EPA rules, update references to the most current documents, and remove obsolete requirements. She further stated the key changes are removing references to the 1971 annual and 24-hour ambient air quality primary standards for sulfur dioxide and updates to certain New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

Ms. Hays stated after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board on April 26, there was a public hearing on June 30, and a public comment period which ended on July 7. She further stated no comments were received during the public comment period.

Ms. Hays requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Miscellaneous Changes and Updates.

Mr. Lambert asked Ms. Hays to continue with Item C, Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Open Burning.

Ms. Hays stated the Georgia Rules for Air Quality Control generally prohibit open burning, with some exceptions including reduction of leaves on premises, agricultural procedures for production or harvesting of crops, burning vegetative material for agricultural operations, and prescribed burning. She further stated additional burning restrictions that may apply based on the county and time of year.

Ms. Hays stated the proposed amendments will clarify the exemption for leaves by changing “leaves” to “leaf piles” and adding “yard debris” and “hand-piled natural vegetation” to the exemption, which is consistent with the language in the Georgia Forest Fire Protection Act, Section 12-6-90. Ms. Hays further stated the proposed amendments will revert the number of

counties subject to year-round open burning restrictions to the list of counties prior to the release of the 2020 US Census. She added the proposal is to remove Catoosa, Jackson, and Spalding counties from the list of counties subject to the year-round restrictions because the Atlanta area is currently well-below the 2009 ozone standard.

Ms. Hays stated a Stakeholder meeting was held on February 24, 2022. She further stated after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board on April 26, there was a public hearing held on June 30, and a public comment period which ended on July 7. She added no comments were received during the public comment period.

Ms. Hays requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Open Burning.

Mr. Lambert called on Chuck Mueller, Chief of the Land Protection Branch, to present the Proposed FY 2023 Spend Plan for the Solid Waste Trust Fund.

Mr. Mueller stated the Solid Waste Trust Fund, established in 1990, is funded from a fee of \$1.00 on each new tire sold by retail tire dealers. He further stated in 2021, House Bill 511 passed, which implemented the provisions of the dedicated fees constitutional amendment. He added HB 511 extended collection of fees through June 30, 2032, reestablished the Director as the Trustee, and requires an annual reporting of the funds expended be provided to OPB and the House and Senate Budget offices.

Mr. Mueller stated for the upcoming year, EPD proposes to put over \$3 million towards EPD program execution and management, \$300,000 to the Keep Georgia Beautiful program, and over \$1 million towards scrap tire abatement. He further stated over \$3.5 million will be used for post-closure care for 3 abandoned landfills, \$2 million for Recycling, Waste Reduction and Diversion grants, and \$650,000 set aside for emergency reserves. He added the total amount adds up to \$10,717,038.

There being no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned.