

**Minutes**  
**Environmental Protection Committee**  
**Georgia Southern University**  
**Engineering & Research Building**  
**Room 3000**  
**4012 Forest Drive**  
**Statesboro, GA 30458**

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

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

**Board Members**

Randy Dellinger  
Duncan Johnson  
Tim Lowe  
Billy New  
Miki Thomaston

**Guests**

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Agriculture Council  
Dr. Ryan McNutt, Georgia Southern University  
Dr. Matthew Compton, Georgia Southern University  
M. Jared Wood, Georgia Southern University  
Jason Metzger, GA EPD

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Donald Kirkland  
Cathy Barnette  
Artica Gaston  
Alexandrea Solomon  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Steve Friedman  
Ted Will  
Doug Haymans  
Tina Johannsen  
Antoinette Norfleet  
  
Richard Dunn, Director  
John Eunice  
Karen Hays  
Anna Truszczynski

The April 26, 2022 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Bill Jones.

Chairman Jones called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Mr. Lambert called on Ania Truszczynski, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to present Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Chapter 391-3-7.

Ms. Truszczynski stated to ensure consistency and compliance with the 2021 amendments to the Erosion and Sedimentation Act under HB 577. She further stated HB 577 required the adoption of rules by the Board relative to requests for variances for road construction and maintenance projects undertaken by the Georgia Department of Transportation. She added the proposed changes include other clarifying amendments to the Rules.

Ms. Truszczynski stated there was a Public Stakeholder Meeting on December 16, 2021 with no comments received. She further stated after briefing the DNR Board Environmental Protection Committee on January 28, 2022, there was a Public Notice issued on February 16<sup>th</sup> and a Public Hearing held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. She added no comments were received during the public comment period.

Ms. Truszczynski requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Chapter 391-3-7.

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 today, a 30-day comment period and public hearing will be scheduled for May and June 2022. She further stated she will request Board adoption of the proposed amendments at the August 23, 2022 meeting.

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 after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board today, a 30-day comment period and public hearing will be scheduled for May and June 2022. She further stated she will request Board adoption of the proposed amendments at the August 23, 2022 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.