

**Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
Fort McAllister State Park
Group Shelter
3894 Fort McAllister Road
Richmond Hill, GA 31324**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

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

Board Members

Randy Dellinger
Duncan Johnson
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Miki Thomaston

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Lt. Brian Adams
Brett Albanese
Jon Ambrose
Brad Ballard
Tim Barrett
Jason Carter
Ellen Graham
Major Bob Holley
Thom Litts
Londa Moates
Clint Peacock

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Karen Hays

The October 25, 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 Karen Hays, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present Proposed Grant Criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-.15.

Ms. Hays stated the purpose of the grant is to reduce diesel emissions that can negatively impact human health and the environment by assisting public schools with school bus replacements and the program is funded through the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). She further stated the proposed criteria will encourage replacement of 2009 model year or older buses, require replaced school buses to be scrapped, require project applicants to provide 75% match, and provide \$557,008 in funding. She added the first priority will be public school systems in counties that were designated as nonattainment for the 2015 ozone standard, the second priority will be public school systems designated as maintenance for the 2008 ozone standard, and the third priority will be public school systems in all remaining counties.

Ms. Hays stated EPD will issue the first solicitation for applications within 4 months of DNR Board approval of the grant criteria. She further stated if funds remain after initial distribution of funds, additional solicitations will be issued.

Ms. Hays requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Grant Criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-.15.

Mr. Lambert asked Ms. Hays to continue with Item B, Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Chapter 391-3-20.

Ms. Hays stated Georgia's Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance Program covers gasoline-powered passenger vehicles registered in the 13-county Atlanta Metropolitan Area and is required by the Clean Air Act Amendments for areas that were moderate or higher nonattainment areas for the 1-hour ozone NAAQS. She further stated over 3,200,000 emissions tests were conducted in 2021 and there are 725 vehicle emissions testing stations and 1,990 active inspectors. She added the amendments will reflect the use of biometric identification to initiate an inspection and update terminology and add clarifying language.

Ms. Hays stated after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board today, there will be a public hearing and 30-day comment period beginning in November 2022. She further stated she plans to request adoption of the proposed amendments at the February 2023 DNR Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.