

## **EPD Watershed Protection Branch**

### **Notice of Public Meetings about draft Water Quality Trading Guidance**

This notice is to announce that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Watershed Protection Branch will be holding four virtual meetings to discuss a draft water quality trading guidance document. This document provides a framework for the implementation of Georgia's water quality trading program. A virtual format was chosen to allow for interested parties across the state to participate. Each meeting will focus on a specific section of the guidance document to ensure sufficient time for discussion. The goal of these four virtual meetings is to provide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittees, the agriculture community, mitigation bankers, land trusts, the public, and other stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on the draft guidance document. The draft guidance document was developed based on USDA and USEPA water quality trading guidance documents and memos, as well as feedback received in three stakeholder workshops held by EPD in October 2019. A copy of the draft guidance document is available on the Water Quality Trading page of the EPD website at <https://epd.georgia.gov/water-quality-trading>.

The four virtual meetings are as follow:

**1. Thursday, July 22, 2021, from 1 to 3 P.M.**

This meeting will serve as the initial kick-off meeting and will include a summary of trading-related projects and the 2019 stakeholder process. The meeting will also include a targeted discussion of sections 1-5 of the draft document, which hold much of the framework for water quality trading.

To log into the stakeholder meeting on your computer, please click this link or copy and paste it into your browser to join the meeting:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/93509341941?pwd=ajVRMEZKVDkybld5UVVQ1M1R0VG1kQT09>

To dial in by phone, please call this number: 877-853-5247 (Toll-free)

The meeting ID is 935 0934 194

The meeting passcode is 501366

**2. Thursday, August 19, 2021, from 1 to 3 P.M.**

This meeting will focus on the implementation specifics (trading plan development and permit language) related to the framework outlined in sections 1-5 of the draft document. These implementation specifics are housed in Appendices B and C.

To log into the stakeholder meeting on your computer, please click this link or copy and paste it into your browser to join the meeting:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/93381920929?pwd=Q1lFZnR6YUg4STZwY3FoVXhBai9udz09>

To dial in by phone, please call this number: 877-853-5247 (Toll-free)

The meeting ID is 933 8192 0929

The meeting passcode is 856338

**3. Thursday, September 16, 2021, from 1 to 3 P.M.**

This meeting will focus on a discussion of sections 6-11, which are primarily concerned with credit generation, tracking, and compliance and enforcement.

To log into the stakeholder meeting on your computer, please click this link or copy and paste it into your browser to join the meeting:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/99805857665?pwd=WmVha3JxVExPSmtpb1k0Mjl4TG1zQT09>

To dial in by phone, please call this number: 877-853-5247 (Toll-free)

The meeting ID is 998 0585 7665

The meeting passcode is 588524

**4. Thursday, October 14, 2021, from 1 to 3 P.M.**

This meeting will serve as a wrap-up discussion summarizing the stakeholder process and feedback received by EPD, answering open questions, closing out any items that required additional information, and describing next steps.

To log into the stakeholder meeting on your computer, please click this link or copy and paste it into your browser to join the meeting:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/98301117463?pwd=Q1RlPcHR6S0J2dGRTRk5WbHNkemVMdz09>

The meeting ID is 983 0111 7463

The meeting passcode is 654959

For more information about water quality trading, the previous stakeholder process, and the draft water quality trading guidance document, please see the Water Quality Trading page on the EPD website at <https://epd.georgia.gov/water-quality-trading>.

In addition to attending the workshops, stakeholders may choose to send written comments to EPD. Written comments may be sent to [EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov) or mailed to Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, Suite 1152 East Tower, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr., Atlanta, GA 30334. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please include the words “Water Quality Trading” in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff.

Please share this information with persons who may be interested.