

**Minutes  
Board of Natural Resources**

Unicoi State Park  
Masters Hall 3/4  
1788 Highway 356  
Helen, GA 30545

**May 24, 2017**

**Attending:**

Board Members

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman  
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman  
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary – Via Conference Call  
Nancy Addison  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Mark Mobley – Via Conference Call  
Matt Sawhill  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Wilheit

Guests

Megan E. Spells, Georgia Department of Defense  
Richard A. Batten, Georgia Department of Defense  
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Randy Drummond, Georgia Department of Defense

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Dave Crass  
Rusty Garrison  
Col. Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
Spud Woodward  
Bowers, John  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Jeff Cown  
Karen Hayes  
Chuck Mueller  
Jon Ambrose  
Steve Friedman – Via call-in  
Mark Whitney  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Weaver  
James Hamilton  
John Erbele  
Larry Blankenship  
Bill Donohue  
Brenda McMillian

The May 24, 2017 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson stated that there would be a Committee meeting, followed by a Board meeting, followed by an NGMA meeting.

Chairman Johnson stated that Bodine Sinyard and Mark Mobley are participating via conference call.

Chairman Johnson called on John Erbele to introduce the Public Focus speaker. Mr. Erbele thanked the Chairman and introduced Mr. Jimmy Harris.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mr. Harris.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the Board Meeting to move into Committee meetings.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Sawhill to approve the minutes of the April Board meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn updated the Board on the drought conditions; the Governor's Agricultural Permitting and Compliance Task Force recommendations; the ozone season; and employee appreciation week.

Chairman Johnson stated that Philip Wilheit arrived.

Chairman Johnson called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for his report.

Commissioner Williams called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel, to present an action item on the sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 General Appropriations Act.

Mr. Pearson stated that in the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018, the General Assembly included items for DNR projects with a total value of \$27,570,000.00 that are to be funded by General Obligation bonds. He further stated that the projects that will be funded are \$19,900,000.00 for facility improvements and renovations; \$1,000,000.00 for facility and repairs and sustainment; \$1,670,000.00 for miscellaneous new construction; and \$5,000,000.00 for land acquisition. He added that the \$19,900,000.00 for facility improvements and renovations and the \$1,000,000.00 for facility repairs and sustainment will be issued as federally taxable bonds, which means that they can be used for projects at state owned facilities that are privately operated.

Mr. Pearson stated that the Attorney General's office prepared a Resolution concerning these bonds for consideration. He requested favorable consideration of the Resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board approve the request to approve the sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 General Appropriations Act.

Chairman Johnson stated that in Tab B of the Board package there is a Resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to Wally Woods on his retirement and requested a motion to adopt the Resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Wilheit to approve the resolution honoring Wally Woods. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson read the resolution and thanked Mr. Woods for his service.

Mr. Woods expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support.

Commissioner Williams presented Mr. Woods his service revolver.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the Law Enforcement Division dedication ceremony for the Fallen Game Warden Memorial; the Department-wide ADA compliance trainings; the Department-wide Critical Incident Management trainings; and the recent public meeting regarding Buck Head Shoals State Park.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Director Woodward gave an update on the Marine Habitat License Plate; the opening of state waters for food shrimp harvest; and the small business disaster recovery and redevelopment plan in partnership with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Williams called on Dr. David Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for his report.

Director Crass updated the Board on the Historic Sites Incident Recovery Planning; the upcoming Leadership Academy Session; and the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference.

Commissioner Williams called on Colonel Eddie Henderson, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his report.

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on the LED Memorial Dedication; the Turkey Team Up; the Advanced Game Warden Academy; the Incident Command Bus; the SPLASH campaign; the West Mims Fire; and the Critical Incident Management Train the Trainer.

Commissioner Williams called on Rusty Garrison, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Garrison updated the Board on the fishing season; turkey season wrap-up; recognitions for the Nongame section and the National Archery in the Schools champion; and nuisance wildlife.

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Lambert for the Environmental Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Hazardous Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-11. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Sawhill for the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Sawhill, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed revision of Dock Extension Policy and Procedure at High Falls State Park, Chapter 391-5-12.04(b).

A motion was made by Mr. Sawhill, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed revision of Gun Carry Policy and Procedure in State Parks, Historic Sites, and Recreation Areas, Chapter 391-5-1-.05.

A motion was made by Mr. Sawhill, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the updated and revised Department of Natural Resources/North Georgia Mountains Authority Master Agreement.

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. McWhorter for the Wildlife Resources Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. McWhorter, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, and Firing Ranges, Chapter 391-4-9-.02.

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Davis for the Land Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 5,332.73± acres of real property, Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Gambrell Tract, Emanuel County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 349.057± acres of real property, Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Karrh Tract, Emanuel County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 249.712± acres of real property, Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Tickanetley Tract, Emanuel County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease with Lee County for the Kinchafoonee Creek Boat Ramp, 1.486± acres, Lee County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the approval of legislative action and to enter into a settlement between the State and Mapache, LLC for Raccoon Key, Camden County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson stated that an NGMA meeting will follow the Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary