

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

March 29, 2017

Attending:

Board Members

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis - via conference call
Dwight Evans
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston - via conference call
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Leon Watkins, Whitestone Landfill
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner & Associates
Trip Addison, Georgia Southern
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Terry West
Artica Gaston
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Bowers, John
Jac Capp
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jeff Cown
Sydney Brogden
Don McGowan
Jodie Gardner
Hays, Karen
Langley, Bert
Mueller, Chuck

The March 29, 2017 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Ray Lambert for the opening invocation.

Chairman Johnson thanked the Board members for their support after the loss of his father, Duncan Johnson, Sr.

Chairman Johnson stated the Land Committee does not have a quorum so the Executive Session of the Land Committee will be moved to the April Board meeting.

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 on Nancy Addison to introduce the public focus speaker of the day, Samantha “Sam” Simonton from Gainesville, GA.

Chairman Johnson thanked Ms. Simonton for her remarks.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, and seconded by Mr. Sinyard, to approve the minutes of the February 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 and the legislative session.

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

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the legislative session, the recreational grants program, and the SPLASH campaign.

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

Director Woodward updated the Board on the Cobia Fishery Situation Report; and impacts of abnormal winter weather on estuarine flora and fauna.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on the International Association of Marine Investigators Conference; the current Game Warden Academy; open house for LED headquarters; 2017-2019 strategic goals; the Turkey Team up; and opening weekend of turkey season.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division for her report.

Director Kelley updated the Board on news coverage of Parks staff; Fort Mountain Visitor Emergency Response; Site Specific Reservations Phase 2; Memorial Day discounts; and the Georgia Conservancy’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.

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

Director Garrison updated the Board on WRD Marketing efforts; the NASP state tournament; and a fishing report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary