

Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

June 28, 2016

Attending:

Committee Members

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Dwight Evans
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Philp Wilheit
William Bagwell, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis (via conference call)
Ray Lambert, Jr.
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Matt Sawhill
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Don Rapier, Environment Georgia
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Jodi Killen, Devils Backbone Hunting Club
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Ross Smith, Potash Corp
Dink NeSmith, the Press-Sentinel
Grant Coyle, GSU
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
David Word, Joe Tanner and Associates
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Truitt Eavenson, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner and Associates
Aaron Mitchell, Georgia Power
Ryan Gesser, Georgia Pacific
Lewis Massey, Massey, Watson and Hembree

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
John Biagi
John Bowers
Steve Friedman
Eddie Henderson
Wayne Hubbard
Spud Woodward
Terry West
Richard Dunn
Jeff Cown
Chuck Mueller
Doralyn Kirkland
Karen Hays
Bert Langley

Russ Pennington, MWC
Jonathan Harding, Georgia Agribusiness Council

The June 28, 2016 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell called on Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee. Chairman Johnson called on Lieutenant Wayne Hubbard of the Law Enforcement Division's Special Permit Unit to introduce the film production wildlife permit and propose a new rule for issuance of the permit.

Mr. Hubbard stated that House Bill 840 established the Film Production Wildlife Permit in Georgia. He further stated that the law was passed in response to the growing film industry in Georgia and the numerous requests for the use of native wildlife in film production. He added that prior to passage of House Bill 840, no Georgia law was in place to allow this activity.

Mr. Hubbard stated that some of the highlights of the proposed rule are that permit holders must meet requirements of all applicable local, state, and federal agencies. He further stated that this permit allows the use of wildlife in film production just as wild animals are currently used. He added that traditionally wildlife has only been used for educational purposes.

Mr. Hubbard stated that the purpose of this regulation is to protect wildlife and the citizens of Georgia by establishing regulations for the possession and exhibition of wildlife to be used in the film industry. He further stated that this regulation provides and establishes permit requirements and requirements for animal origin, humane care, use and handling, and reporting.

Mr. Hubbard stated that section two of the rule sets the term of the permit, requires the possession of pre-requisite licenses and sets age and experience requirements. He further stated that this section of the rule also requires possession of liability insurance, and responsibility for any costs associated with the escape, capture and disposition of any permitted animal. He added that this section addresses care, confinement, humane handling, and transportation of permitted animals.

Mr. Hubbard stated that section 3 of the rule defines the animals which may be held under this permit. He further stated that no animals will be taken from the wild for purposes of this permit. He added that this section also requires rabies pre-exposure criteria for handlers of rabies vector species animals.

Mr. Hubbard stated that section 3 also sets health certificate and micro-chip I.D. requirements. He further stated that this section requires permit holder to allow inspections and allows Film Production Wildlife Permit holder to also provide educational programs.

Mr. Hubbard stated that section 4 of the rule requires reports of previous year activity prior to renewal, annual veterinary health report, and reporting of injury to animals, handlers or members of the general public. He further stated that notification is required of transport of permitted animals to production/education venues and immediate reporting of any escape. He added that an accurate inventory is to be maintained with the Department and approval must be obtained before any transfer of permitted animals.

Mr. Hubbard stated that the last section is the penalty section. He further stated that the rule reads “Film Production Wildlife Permit” holders in violation of this rule shall be subject to revocation or suspension of their permit in accordance with O.G.GA. 27-2-25.

Mr. Hubbard stated that the rulemaking timeline begins today with the Board briefing. He further stated that public hearings will be held during July with the deadline for submitting comments on August 1, 2016. He added that they will request adoption of the rule by the Board on August 31, 2016.

Mr. Stewart asked if there were any other states who had regulations similar to these. Mr. Hubbard stated that these regulations do exist in other states, but Georgia’s are some of the most comprehensive.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.