

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower

Tuesday, August 26, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Board Members

Lesley Reynolds, Chair
Patrick Denney, Vice Chair
Randy Dellinger, Secretary
Nancy Addison (via conference call)
Jeff Andrews
Dan Garcia
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Brent Layton
Mike Peavy
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

Guests

Damon Kirkpatrick, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Lyndy Rogers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountain Authority
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Firm
Bryan Tola, Georgia Urban Agriculture Council
Becky C. Ryles, RCR Capital Consulting
William Woodall, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Amy Hillman, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Taylor Fisher
Haley Chafin
Jeff Cown
Anna Truscynski
Katie Bloomfield
Mike England
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Angie Johnson
James McLaughlin
Tina Johannsen
Thom Litts
Chuck Mueller
Jim Boylan
Brent Womack
Lee Taylor
Dan Roach
Liz Booth
Jennifer Welte
Anna Aponte
Ellen Graham
Veronica Crawley
Jessica James-Weems
Lieren Merz
April Brown
Chad Kaiser
Jason Metzger
Hunter Rush

The August 26, 2025, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairwoman Lesley Reynolds.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Lyndy Rogers, Executive Director of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, who presented resolutions and commendations to William Woodall, Amy Hillman, and Glen Wilkins, for their service to the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation.

Chairwoman Reynolds adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

Chairwoman Reynolds called the August 26, 2025, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources back to order.

Chairwoman Reynolds called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on June 24, 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on June 24, 2025.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Cown updated the Board on new leadership positions within EPD, a summary of the Georgia Environmental Conference, the upcoming 2025 Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, and new babies born of several EPD employees.

Director Cown stated this concluded his report.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Walter Rabon, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Rabon presented staff with Faithful Service Awards: Brent Womack, 20 years; Lt. Colonel James McLaughlin, 25 years; Ted Will, 25 years; Doug Haymans, 25 years; and Jeff Cown, 35 years.

Commissioner Rabon stated members of the divisional Public Affairs teams gathered at Fort Yargo State Park to share division updates, collaborate on upcoming campaigns, review the Social Media policy and website redesign, and strengthen coordination across divisions.

Commissioner Rabon stated that on July 16, 2025, members from every DNR division gathered at Ft. Yargo State Park for a hurricane tabletop exercise.

Commissioner Rabon stated the 2025 DNR Career Academy was held on July 20-26, 2025, and brought together rising juniors and seniors from across Georgia, where participants explored careers within the Department, working alongside biologists, game wardens, park rangers and other specialists.

Commissioner Rabon stated that on Monday, August 11, 2025, DNR staff and members of the Sapelo Island Heritage Authority, met with the local community of Sapelo Island. He further stated this meeting gave DNR the opportunity to hear from residents and property owners, as well as provide updates on what the department has done, and is doing, since the last meeting.

Commissioner Rabon stated the Wildlife Resources Division hosted a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Update for DNR staff. He further stated the meeting covered updates on where the Department is on managing CWD in Georgia and efforts moving forward as we prepare for hunting season.

Commissioner Rabon stated the Leadership Academy met for the third session from August 12-14, 2025, at Cloudland Canyon State Park. He further stated this session highlighted the Law Enforcement Division's day-to-day operations while also engaging Academy participants in presentations on policy development, strategic planning, problem adoption, servant leadership, managing up, and Emergenetics.

Commissioner Rabon stated that DNR hosted an Outdoors Beyond Barriers meeting on August 22, 2025, at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center where staff and partners heard from South Carolina DNR's adaptive program lead, Matt Carroll.

Commissioner Rabon stated that August 23, 2025, was Hunting and Fishing Night at the Atlanta Braves game. He further stated that DNR staff offered numerous interactive and educational experiences for attendees.

Commissioner Rabon stated the 2025-2026 pre-application period for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program opened on August 1st and will remain open through October 17th. He further stated the Recreational Trails Program pre-application period will open on September 1st and close on November 1st.

Commissioner Rabon stated a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Vogel State Park for the new 6,500-square-foot visitor center. He further stated a ribbon cutting was also held at the Historic Pools Complex at Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs to commemorate the restoration of the historic pools.

Commissioner Rabon stated the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has released preliminary information regarding the officer-involved shooting. He further stated the Game Warden that was involved is safe and injured and been released back to duty.

Commissioner Rabon updated the Board on boating activity in 2025. He stated that as of August 19th, there have been 97 boating incidents statewide, resulting in 89 injuries and 9 fatalities. He further stated that there have been 57 drownings and 264 BUI arrests since the start of the year.

Commissioner Rabon stated that on August 18, 2025, 20 non-sworn individuals reported to headquarters for orientation and will begin the P.O.S.T. Academy on August 28, 2025.

Commissioner Rabon updated the Board on recently completed cases in the Law Enforcement Division.

Commissioner Rabon stated that on August 23, 2025, the Law Enforcement Division held their annual awards banquet. He further stated that Game Warden Hunter Rush was named Game Warden of the Year and Cpl. Zach Griffis received the James R. Darnell Award.

Commissioner Rabon called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his update.

Director Haymans updated the Board on the Coastlines Magazine; Dock Rules Stakeholders process; Living Shorelines guidance; ASMFC Red Drum Draft Addendum II; new fisheries programs; and oyster harvesting.

Commissioner Rabon called on Ted Will, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his update.

Director Will updated the Board on tern banding on Bird Island; Chronic Wasting Disease; Hog Down Awards Program; WRD Training Academy; and new fisheries habitat films.

Director Will answered questions from the board members concerning the Hog Down Awards program and CWD management.

Commissioner Rabon stated this concluded his report.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair of the Coastal Committee, for his committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.15. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Ray Lambert, Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee, for his committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair of the Land Committee, for his committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to enter into a five (5) year Lease Agreement with the United States Postal Service, Sapelo Island, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried with one dissenting vote, that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to amend a twenty-five (25) year lease agreement with Georgia Power Company to construct a maintenance and residence facility at Dames Ferry Campground, Monroe County (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval enter into a twenty-five (25) year Ground Lease with Dawson County for a telecommunication tower by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly in Dawson Forest WMA, Dawson County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to enter into an agreement with the Wayne County to lease 2.00± acres Oglethorpe Bluff Landing, Wayne County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State

Properties Commissioner approval for the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.52± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Jefferson Energy Cooperative at McDuffie Public Fishing Area, McDuffie County.

(Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Steve Hufstetler, Vice Chair of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Hufstetler, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendment to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, pertaining to Required Clothing on Wildlife Management Areas.

Chairwoman Reynolds announced the next meeting of the Board of Natural Resources would be on September 23, 2025, at Jekyll Island.

There being no further business, Chairwoman Reynolds adjourned the meeting.

Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

Randy Dellinger, Secretary

**Minutes
Coastal Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower**

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9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chair (via conference call)
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Brent Layton
Mike Peavy
Paul Shailendra
Harley Yancey (via conference call)
Lesley Reynolds, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

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Duncan Johnson
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Hunter Rush

The August 26, 2025 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair of the Coastal Committee, who called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, to present the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.15.

Director Haymans stated the Coastal Advisory Council determines annual funding themes and project evaluation criteria for the Coastal Incentive Grant Program and these changes are brought to the Board each year. He further stated the themes for this funding cycle would be ‘Oceans and Wetlands,’ Public Access and Land Conservation,’ Sustainable Communities,’ Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards,’ and ‘Nature-Based Solutions.’ He added that the 2025 grant awards were included on page A-9 of the package.

Mr. Haymans requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.15.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower**

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chair
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison (via conference call)
Jeff Andrews
Patrick Denney
Dan Garcia
Penn Hodge
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Brent Layton
Paul Shailendra
Lesley Reynolds, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Randy Dellinger
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Mike Peavy
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

Guests

Damon Kirkpatrick, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Lyndy Rogers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountain Authority
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Firm
Bryan Tola, Georgia Urban Agriculture Council
Becky C. Ryles, RCR Capital Consulting
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Anna Aponte
Ellen Graham
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Lieren Merz
April Brown
Chad Kaiser
Jason Metzger
Hunter Rush

The August 26, 2025 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Lesley Reynolds.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Chairman Lambert called on Veronica Crow, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to present action on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6.

Ms. Crow stated that the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States to review their water quality standards at least once every three years and revise them if appropriate; this is known as Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. She further stated that there was an initial public hearing on March 22, 2022, to solicit items to be considered for this 2022 Triennial Review. She added that there were targeted stakeholder meetings: September 21, 2022, March 15, 2023, and February 7, 2024, on human health; August 16, 2022, March 21, 2023, March 28, 2023, and August 14, 2024, on selenium; 5 meetings held in August and September 2024 on new lake criteria. She further added that EPD gave two presentations at Georgia Association of Water Professional conferences in 2024. She finally stated that there was a comprehensive final public meeting held on October 7, 2024.

Ms. Crow stated that the proposed changes from the first briefing include updating and correct formatting, adopting EPA's 2016 recommended aquatic life selenium criteria, adopting EPA's 2005 recommended aquatic life diazinon criteria, adopting EPA's 2005 recommended aquatic life nonylphenol criteria, updating human health criteria for 82 pollutants and add new human health criteria for 6 pollutants based on probabilistic risk assessment, adding language to allow for Site-Specific Bacteria Criteria, updating designated uses (11 recreation; 7 drinking water), and adopting site-specific criteria for Lakes Rabun, Burton, and Tugalo, including chlorophyll a.

Ms. Crow stated that the proposed rules were presented at the December 3, 2024, DNR Board meeting and a public hearing was held on January 28, 2025. She further stated that the EPD then received comments from EPA. She added that the following changes were made in response to EPA's comments and are included in this second briefing: Made minor revisions to the human health criteria in paragraph (5)(e)(iv) based on recalculations; added language to the dissolved oxygen criteria for drinking water, recreation and fishing designated use waters in paragraph (6) to address natural conditions; and removed the total nitrogen and total phosphorus criteria for Lakes Burton and Rabun from paragraph (17) to provide more time to receive technical advisement from EPA on those criteria. She further added that the modified proposed rules were presented to the public at a public meeting held on April 21, 2025, and no additional comments were received.

Ms. Crow stated that the kickoff public hearing for these rules was March 22, 2022, and between 2022-2024 there were 15 different public and stakeholder meetings. She further stated following the first briefing of the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board on December 3, 2024, EPD put out a public notice on December 4, 2024, and held a public hearing on January 28, 2025. She added that after receiving and implementing EPA's recommendations, today is the second briefing of the DNR Board Environmental Committee. She further added that EPD held a second public hearing in June 2025.

Ms. Craw requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6.

Chairman Lambert asked Ms. Craw to continue with Item B, to present action on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5.

Ms. Craw stated that the purpose is to amend the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, to provide a procedure for drinking water wells to be located within 100 feet of a surface water.

Ms. Craw stated that the Rules and Georgia's Minimum Standards for Public Drinking Water Systems set requirements for the construction and siting of wells. She further stated that one requirement is that wells cannot be located within 100 feet of a surface water. She added that the Rules and the Minimum Standards were updated in 2021, and the variance for well setbacks from surface water was removed. She further added that since that time, EPD has received comments about the need for a variance process to allow for wells to be drilled within 100 feet of a surface water.

Ms. Craw stated that in response to comments, EPD developed a process that would allow a water system that is proposing to locate a new groundwater well within 100 ft of a surface water to follow specific procedures, including monitoring, to identify whether the groundwater well is under the direct influence of surface water.

Ms. Craw stated that EPD held a public meeting on December 18, 2024, and accepted comments through December 27, 2024. She further stated that EPD received 6 public comments. She added that EPD made substantial changes in response to the comments and held a second public meeting on April 21, 2025. She further added that EPD received 1 public comment in support of the proposed rule amendments. She added that the commenter also suggested a clarification to the proposed rule language, and that EPD has made the suggested clarification.

Ms. Craw stated that 391-3-5-.07, "Well Construction Standards" is being amended to provide a procedure in paragraph (3) for a drinking water well to be located within 100 feet of surface water. She further stated that public water systems requesting to locate a well within 100 feet of a surface water must submit a hydrologic assessment report and bacterial and chemical monitoring. She added that based on the report and the monitoring, the well may be permitted as a groundwater source or as groundwater under the influence of surface water.

Ms. Craw stated that EPD briefed the DNR Board on the proposed rule amendments at the May 25, 2025 DNR Board meeting, and on May 29, 2025, EPD issued a public notice requesting comments on proposed amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, Rule 391-3-5-.04. She further stated a public hearing was held at 10:00 a.m. on July 1, 2025, using Zoom,

a free web conferencing platform that also allows participation by phone. She added that during the public hearing, EPD received one written supporting the proposed rule amendments during the public comment period.

Chairman Lambert thanked Deputy Director Anna Truszczynski for her work on this, as he has received numerous calls on this issue. Chairman Lambert then called on Mr. Joe Hatfield who asked if these changes means people can drill within the 25-foot undisturbed buffer. Chairman Lambert called Deputy Director Anna Truszczynski to answer. Ms. Truszczynski stated that someone still needs to go through the buffer variance process and other regulations are still in effect.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5.

Chairman Lambert called on James Boylan, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present Item C, a briefing on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Chapter 391-3-20.

Mr. Boylan stated that Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program covers gasoline-powered passenger vehicles registered in the 13-county Atlanta Metropolitan Area. He further stated that the program is required by the Clean Air Act Amendments for areas that were moderate or higher nonattainment areas for the 1979 1-hour ozone standard. He added that 3,252,387 emissions tests conducted in 2024, 713 vehicle emissions testing stations and 2,119 active inspectors (as of 8/6/2025).

Mr. Boylan stated that proposed amendments include removing definitions and references associated with 2-speed idle (TSI) testing; updating to Phase VI emissions software; removing references to the RepairWatch Public Report; replacing the word "Chapter" with "Subject" to reflect the Secretary of State's naming convention; updating terminology; and correcting formatting and grammar.

Mr. Boylan stated that after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board today, there will be a public hearing and 30-day public comment period in September or October 2025. He further stated that he plans to request adoption of the proposed amendments at the December 2, 2025 DNR Board meeting.

Chairman Lambert asked Mr. Boylan to continue with Item D, a briefing on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17.

Mr. Boylan stated that the Rules are periodically amended to address requirements of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for Agreement States. He further stated that the Agreement States (e.g., Georgia) are required to ensure that the Rules meet the compatibility and health and safety categories established by the NRC.

Mr. Boylan stated that the proposed amendments incorporate comments in the NRC letter dated September 26, 2024; incorporate comments from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists regarding definitions, examinations, and training requirements; add a requirement to notify the NRC Headquarters Operations Center; further define and establish more detail in fee categories; replace the word “Chapter” with “Subject” to reflect the Secretary of State’s naming convention; update a citation; and correct formatting and grammar.

Mr. Boylan stated that after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board today, there will be a public hearing and 30-day public comment period in September or October 2025. He further stated that he plans to request adoption of the proposed amendments at the December 2, 2025 DNR Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes
Land Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower**

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Harley Yancey, Chair (via conference call)
Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison (via conference call)
Jeff Andrews
Randy Dellinger
Dan Garcia
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Steve Hufstetler
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Guests

Damon Kirkpatrick, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Lyndy Rogers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountain Authority
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Firm
Bryan Tola, Georgia Urban Agriculture Council
Becky C. Ryles, RCR Capital Consulting
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The August 26, 2025, meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds stated that Harley Yancey could not attend the meeting in person today and therefore Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair of the Land Committee, would serve as chair. She called on Vice Chair Johnson who called on Brent Womack, Chief of Real Estate, to present the action items.

Mr. Womack stated the first item was the request to enter into a twenty-five year lease agreement with the United States Postal Service to provide building space on Sapelo Island in McIntosh County with an option to extend for an additional five years. He further stated that the USPS has leased the building space from the Department since 1981 to provide mail delivery service to residents of Sapelo Island. He added the agreement would be effective from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2037, with an annual rent of \$2,130 to be paid to the Department for the first five years and if the USPS exercises their option to extend the agreement, the annual rent will increase to \$2,240 for the additional five-year term.

Mr. Womack requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a five (5) year Lease Agreement with the United States Postal Service, Sapelo Island, McIntosh County.

Mr. Womack stated the second item would be the request to amend an existing 25 year lease agreement with the Georgia Power Company to allow for the construction of a maintenance and residence facility at Dames Ferry Campground in Monroe County. He further stated in 2019, the 27.8 acre property was leased to the state and operates as a satellite campground for High Falls State Park. He added that the campground has continued to serve the public and has contributed to increased revenue and visitation at High Falls State Park, and due to the ongoing use and operational needs, the Department seeks to construct a combined maintenance and staff residence facility to support ongoing park operations, improve on-site maintenance response, and enhance the overall management efficiency of the campground.

Mr. Womack requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to amend a twenty-five (25) year lease

agreement with Georgia Power Company to construct a maintenance and residence facility at Dames Ferry Campground, Monroe County.

Mr. Womack stated the next item for consideration would be the approval to enter into a twenty-five-year lease with Dawson County for a telecommunications tower by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly at Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Dawson County. He further stated the county is requesting permission to install the tower to improve their emergency services. He added that the tower will also improve Department radio reception within the WMA, providing management and public safety benefits. He stated that due to the benefits for the Department, he recommends that the license and easement be issued at no cost and that Dawson County would cover all costs to install and maintain the tower.

Mr. Womack requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a twenty-five (25) year Ground Lease with Dawson County for a telecommunication tower by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly in Dawson Forest WMA, Dawson County.

Mr. Womack stated the fourth item would be the request to enter into a twenty-five-year lease of two acres from Wayne County for the Oglethorpe Bluff Landing Boat Ramp. He further stated that Wayne County would be responsible for the general facility maintenance of the boat ramp and that the department will continue to operate the boat ramp and parking area while performing structural maintenance and repairs as needed. He added that due to the benefit of the public, the Department will enter into a twenty-five-year lease agreement with the Wayne County Board of Commissioners at no cost.

Mr. Womack requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into an agreement with the Wayne County to lease 2.00± acres Oglethorpe Bluff Landing, Wayne County.

Mr. Womack stated the final item for consideration would be the approval to grant a revocable license and permanent easement of up to 0.52 acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Jefferson Energy Cooperative at McDuffie Public Fishing Area, McDuffie County. He further stated that Jefferson Energy Cooperative has made this request to provide power service to a maintenance facility at McDuffie Public Fishing Area. He added that the area is under a Heritage Preserve designation, but the request supports the reason for the designation.

Mr. Womack requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to Grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.52± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Jefferson Energy Cooperative at McDuffie Public Fishing Area, McDuffie County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Parks and Historic Sites Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
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Lieren Merz
April Brown
Chad Kaiser
Jason Metzger
Hunter Rush

The August 26, 2025, meeting of the Parks and Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds call on Dan Garcia, Chair of the Parks and Historic Sites Committee, who called on Ellen Graham, Chief of Resource Management, to brief the Committee on the proposed amendments to the Rule on Parking Pass, Chapter 391-5-1-.03.

Ms. Graham stated the changes are proposed because the parking pass rate has not been increased since 2009, and the division will start using technology to expedite the collection and validation of each parking pass. She further stated the changes are not complex, should have no impact on public health or natural resources, and should have virtually no cost to implement.

Ms. Graham stated the parking pass will go from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per vehicle. She further stated for vehicles 13-30 passengers, the rate will change from \$30.00 to \$50.00, and for vehicles with more than 30 passengers the rate will increase from \$70.00 to \$100.00.

Ms. Graham stated the public notice period would begin August 26, 2025, and the deadline to submit comments on the proposed amendments would be September 28, 2025. She further stated she anticipated bringing the item to the board for approval at the October board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower

Tuesday, August 26, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Steve Hufstetler, Vice Chair
Jeff Andrews
Dan Garcia
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Duncan Johnson
Brent Layton
Mike Peavy
Bodine Sinyard
Lesley Reynolds Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison (via conference call)
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Paul Shailendra
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

Guests

Damon Kirkpatrick, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Lyndy Rogers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountain Authority
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Firm
Bryan Tola, Georgia Urban Agriculture Council
Becky C. Ryles, RCR Capital Consulting
William Woodall, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Amy Hillman, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Taylor Fisher
Haley Chafin
Jeff Cown
Anna Truscynski
Katie Bloomfield
Mike England
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Angie Johnson
James McLaughlin
Tina Johannsen
Thom Litts
Chuck Mueller
Jim Boylan
Brent Womack
Lee Taylor
Dan Roach
Liz Booth
Jennifer Welte
Anna Aponte
Ellen Graham
Veronica Crawley
Jessica James-Weems
Lieren Merz
April Brown
Chad Kaiser
Jason Metzger
Hunter Rush

The August 26, 2025, meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds called Steve Hufstetler, Vice Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief of Game Management, to present the proposed amendments to the Rules for Wildlife Management Areas, 391-4-2.

Ms. Johannsen stated these amendments include changes responsive to the passage of House Bill 167 during the 2025 legislative session, which authorized fluorescent pink hunting outer garments and were briefed to the Board at the June meeting. She further stated that 119 emails and one phone call were received during the public comment period. She added that many of the emails that were opposed to the change were misinformed and thought they could no longer wear hunter orange.

Ms. Johannsen requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Proposed Amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, pertaining to Required Clothing on Wildlife Management Areas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.