

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Via Teleconference**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Board Members

Dee Yancey, Chair
Dwight Davis, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Gary Vowell

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Josh Hildebrandt
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Miguel de Alba
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
John Bowers
Tina Johannsen

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The March 23, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dee Yancey.

Chairman Yancey called on Captain Mike Burgamy to give the invocation.

Chairman Yancey called on Cathy Barnette for roll call and declaration of quorum.

Chairman Yancey adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

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

Chairman Yancey called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lowe, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

Chairman Yancey called on Richard Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn updated the Board on pending state legislation with potential to affect EPD including bills concerning dedication of fees, coal ash post-closure care, open burning, and soil amendments.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams called on John Bowers, Special Projects Manager, Wildlife Resources Division, for a briefing on proposed repeals to Subject 391-1, Administration, Subject 391-4, Wildlife Resources, Subject 391-5, Historic Preservation, and to Rule 391-2-3-.03 Regulation of Marinas, Community Docks and Commercial Docks.

Mr. Bowers stated the department (Coastal Resources Division, Parks Recreation and Historic Sites Division, Law Enforcement Division and Wildlife Resources Division) was selected by Governor Brian Kemp's Georgian's First Commission as one of several state agencies to perform a complete review of its existing Rules. He further stated the Commission charged the

agency to identify Rules that may be duplicative of statutory code, exceed statutory authority, irrelevant or redundant, or refer to programs that are no longer in effect.

Mr. Bowers stated there were a total of 53 Rules identified for repeal and 57 parts of Rules for repeal. He further stated the repeals will be publicly noticed through the WRD's website and the proposed repeals will be presented to the Board for consideration and adoption at the May 25, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Williams provided a legislative update and stated the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and Natural Resources reviewed and approved the 2020-2021 Georgia Outdoor Stewardship's slate of grant projects and the nine (9) projects can move forward. He added the FY2022 budget is being closely monitored as it moves toward a final vote in the days ahead.

Commissioner Williams shared that Ms. Amber Carter will be leaving the department at the end of the month to start a new position at a law firm. He stated that Amber is a true member of the DNR family and will be dearly missed. He further stated that Amber started with DNR in 2015 as an Administrative Assistant and ascended to the role of Deputy Director of Public & Governmental Affairs. He added that while Amber was raising her son Ford, she found great success in serving the department and accomplished many achievements which included coordinating 5 of the last 6 Weekends for Wildlife, assisted with the passage of many key pieces of agency legislation, and planned over 50 ribbon cuttings at DNR properties.

Commissioner Williams thanked Amber for her years of service to the DNR and wished her much success in her career ahead.

Commissioner Williams announced the birth of Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon's first grandson, Rhett Cole Rabon, on March 18, 2021, and congratulated the Rabon family.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Law Enforcement Division, including the joint effort and investigation into a deer poaching case in Franklin County; a case involving an after-hours duck shoot in Toombs County; a case involving 2 sandhill cranes that were shot on property in Putnam County; subjects fishing without a license and using a seine net as a gill net in Glynn County; all 7 of LED's K-9 units in-service training in searches and tracking in Seminole State Park and Silver Lake WMA; and K-9 units assisting Decatur County and the GBI in a search for evidence related to the shooting death of Decatur County Sheriff Lieutenant Justin Bedwell.

Commissioner Williams stated the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation named Captain Stan Elrod as the 2021 Guy Bradley Award winner and virtually presented the award to Julie, Luke, and Levi Elrod. He further stated it is truly a lasting honor that further cements the many achievements and great legacy of our dear friend and member of the DNR family.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the State Parks division, including the replacement of old wooden entrance signs at sites across the state with new foamboard entrance signs; the Fort King George Tricentennial Anniversary; the ribbon cutting ceremony for the official opening of the Panola Mountain Greenway section of the Arabia Mountain PATH; CDL training for five (5) staff members at North Georgia Technical College; applications from volunteer groups for service days at our sites; and two new ADA restrooms installed at Kolomoki Mounds and Red Top Mountain State Park.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Wildlife Resources Division, including staff completing the second year of banding gobblers to determine harvest rates; the comprehensive renovation at Lake Burton Trout Hatchery; staff logging thousands of miles and hundreds of hours to collect, move and spawn brood fish; the discovery of invasive zebra mussels in “moss ball” aquarium plants that have been shipped all over the country, including Georgia, and the effort to quarantine and sterilize the contaminated products; the Wildlife Conservation staff’s two-year project to estimate the population of the federally listed Red Knots; and the inaugural session of the Georgia SHARP (Safe Harvest and Responsible Practices) Hunters training series at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Yancey called on Dwight Davis, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Renewal of License No. DACW21-3-21-0026 for Recreational Purposes 25-Year License Agreement), U.S. Department of Army, Corps of Engineers (COE), 11.19± acres of real property at Lake Hartwell Reservoir, Hart County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Renewal of Lease No. DACW01-1-21-1033 for Recreational Purposes 25-Year Lease Agreement, U.S. Department of Army, Corps of Engineers (COE), 47.80± acres of real property at Walter F. George Lake, Sandy Branch Park, Clay 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 approve to amend a thirty (30) year lease agreement with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service to use an existing house at Stephen C. Foster State Park, Charlton County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve of the Executive Transfer from the Georgia Department of Defense, of the 2.066 + acres Georgia Air National Guard Site (BLLIP #89089), Glynn County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.229± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to CitySwitch II-A, LLC (CitySwitch) at Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, Harris, 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 approve to renew a lease agreement with Bryan County for the Canoochee River Boat Ramp, 2.00 ± acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve to renew a lease agreement with Effingham County for lease the Ebenezer Creek Boat Ramp, 2.99± acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Delos H. Yancey, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dwight J. Davis, Secretary