

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

**October 25, 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- **via conference call**  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit  
Dee Yancey

Guests

Leon Watkins, White Stone Landfill  
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry, & Tribble  
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club  
Ronny Just, GA Power  
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council  
Leah Dixon, GA Conservancy

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Kyle Pearson  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Artica Gaston  
Rusty Garrison  
Col. Eddie Henderson  
Spud Woodward  
John Bowers  
Steve Friedman  
Maj. Thomas Barnard  
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver  
Matt Thomas  
Chip Madren  
Walter Lane  
Stan Elrod  
Doug Haymans  
Taye Pierce  
Mike Spencer  
Dave Crass  
Mark Whitney  
Sgt. Derek Dillard  
Doyte Chaffin  
Jeff Billups  
Cpl. Bart Hendrix  
John Martin  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Laura Williams  
Jeff Cown  
Karen Hays  
Donald Kirkland  
Dika Kuoh  
Erin Ruoff  
Sarah Visser  
Sydney Brogden

The October 25, 2017 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson, Jr.

Chairman Johnson called on Miki Thomaston to give the Invocation.

Chairman Johnson called on Director Rusty Garrison to introduce the Public Focus speaker.

Director Garrison introduced, Chip Madren.

Chairman Johnson thanked Chip Madren.

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

Chairman Johnson adjourned the Committee meetings and called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Ms. Addison to approve the minutes of the September 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 provided the Board with a petroleum pipeline update and discussed some of the highlights of HB 413. He stated that we released a draft of the rule on September 6<sup>th</sup> and expect to brief the Board on the new pipeline rules at our February Board meeting.

Director Dunn stated the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee is sponsoring an Environmental Policy Academy and we will be presenting on the Brownfields program and agricultural water permitting and metering. Additionally, Director Dunn provided an update on the Stream Buffer Study Committee, the Economic Development Lunch & Learn, and the District All-Hands meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on Game Warden recognitions, Coast Fest, Your State Parks Day, Sansavilla WMA acquisition, and the National Champion of the National Archery in the School's Program.

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

Director Woodward updated the Board on the South Atlantic Red Snapper Harvest, Cobia management decisions, and the Hurricane Irma response.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on the Georgia African American Heritage Preservation Network, the Centennial Farm Awards, the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division Leadership Retreat, and an outlook for the Leadership Academy.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on the Fall rifle training, SIM training, and Critical Incident training.

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

Director Garrison updated the Board on hunting season statistics, the Go Outdoors Georgia app, new hunting opportunities, and Ocmulgee PFA.

Chairman Johnson called on Ms. Addison for the Coastal Committee report.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Saltwater Fishing Regulations and Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4 and Chapter 391-4-3. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Bagwell for the Environmental Protection Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed grant criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-.15(4) (Proposed Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part thereof).

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 641.4± acres of real property and an access easement, Fall Line Sandhills Wildlife Management Area, U. Wall Plantation Tract, Taylor 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 Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 129.9± acres of real property, Sprewell Bluff Wildlife Management Area, Willoughby Tract, Upson County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Bagwell 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 Dodge County for the Ochise Landing Boat Ramp, 1.33± acres, Dodge County. (Resolutions 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 Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval via Executive Order to demolish the Red Top Mountain State Park Lodge, Red Top Mountain State Park, Bartow County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson stated that a Weekend for Wildlife Planning Committee meeting would be held upon adjournment of the Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary