

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

June 27, 2018

Attending:

Board Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison, Secretary
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis – Via Conference Call
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson – Via Conference Call
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Billy New
Mike Phelps
Miki Thomaston
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council
Bill Hodges, Hodges Harbin Newberry & Tribble
Brant Lane, Hodges Harbin Newberry & Tribble
Alex Bradford, Farm Bureau
Deb Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition
Kathleen Bowen
Katrina Morris, GA DNR
Brett Albanese, GA DNR
Tom Johnson, Friends of GA State Parks
Maggie Lee, Saporta Report
Jill Nolin, Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc.
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
John Eberhart, GA Earth Alliance

Staff

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Matthew Smith
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Jeff Weaver
Thomas Barnard
James Hamilton
John Bowers
Frank Manning
Matt Thomas
Mark Whitney

Richard Dunn, Director
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Sydney Brogden
Dika Kuoh
Jim Cooley

Jason Metzger
Sarah Vesser

The June 27, 2018 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Aaron McWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter called on the Mr. Lonice Barrett, former DNR Commissioner, as the Public Focus speaker.

Chairman McWhorter thanked Mr. Barrett.

Chairman McWhorter adjourned the Board meeting to go into Committee meetings.

Chairman McWhorter adjourned the Committee meetings and called the full Board meeting to order.

Chairman McWhorter read a resolution honoring Frank Manning and asked for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously to approve the resolution honoring Frank Manning.

Chairman McWhorter asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2018 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes from the May 23, 2018 Board of Natural Resources Meeting.

Chairman McWhorter called on Commissioner Mark Williams for his report.

Commissioner Williams discussed recent ribbon-cutting events at Chattahoochee Bend State Park and Dahlonega Gold Museum Historic Sites.

Commissioner Williams mentioned the upcoming homecoming ceremony for federally recognized Native American tribes at New Echota Historic Site.

Commissioner Williams announced the retirement of State Parks Director Becky Kelley and thanked her for her years of dedicated service to DNR and the state of Georgia.

Commissioner Williams called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Director Haymans provided updates on shrimp season and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council activities.

Director Haymans discussed the Seven Seals Award presented to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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

Director Crass provided an update on the tabby ruins at Chocolate Plantation on Sapelo Island.

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

Colonel Henderson provided a briefing on the Smith-Page boating incident on May 23.

Colonel Henderson provided a briefing on a Rabun County search and rescue incident on May 20.

Colonel Henderson discussed the 2018 Memorial Day boating statistics.

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

Director Kelley provided updates on Sweetwater Creek being named the best place in Georgia to fish, the 10 year anniversary of the Parks and Libraries Partnership, and National Trails Day.

Director Kelley discussed the recent ribbon-cuttings at Chattahoochee Bend State Park and Dahlonega Gold Museum Historic Site.

Director Kelley discussed the PR&HS Division's involvement with the list of most Instagrammed places in Georgia.

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

Director Garrison discussed the Nongame Section name change to Wildlife Conservation Section.

Director Garrison provided an update on the WRD strategic plan.

Director Garrison briefed the Board on the launching of the Urban Wildlife Program.

Chairman McWhorter called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his update.

Director Dunn updated the Board on the Florida v. Georgia Supreme Court decision and called on Laura Williams, Director of Legal Services for the Environmental Protection Division, to provide additional information.

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Lambert for the Environmental Protection Committee report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Thomaston and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1 (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof).

Chairman McWhorter called on Dee Yancey for the Wildlife Resources Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2-.24, General Regulations for Hunting Deer.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board seek approval to enter into a sublease with the State Properties Commission for Law Enforcement Division radio tower space at 52 Hightower Road, Hoganville, Georgia, Troup County.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board seek the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 1± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power Company at Fort Yargo State Park, Barrow County.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board request approval via Executive Order to demolish the house at 306 B McAlpin Drive in Savannah, Chatham County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman

ATTEST:

Nancy A. Addison, Secretary