

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

**October 24, 2018**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members**

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman  
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chairman  
Nancy Addison, Secretary  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Joe Hatfield  
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Mark Mobley – Via Conference Call  
Billy New  
Paul Shailendra  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Wilheit

**Guests**

Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, Inc.  
Kevin Berry

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Terry West  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson – Via Conference Call  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Artica Gaston  
Jeff Cown  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Eddie Henderson  
Karl Burgess  
Brittney Tellencamp  
Mark Whitney

Richard Dunn, Director  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Karen Hays  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Sydney Brogden  
Dika Kuoh  
Jim Cooley  
Sarah Vesser  
Donald Kirkland

Staff from the Office of Human Resources

Chairman McWhorter called the Committee meetings of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman McWhorter adjourned the Committee meetings.

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

Chairman McWhorter called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2018 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2018 Board Meeting (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on EPD's response efforts to Hurricane Michael and thanked EPD staff and partners for their work.

Mr. Sinyard gave remarks on the effects of Hurricane Michael on Southwest Georgia.

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

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the Hurricane Michael response; Coast Fest; DNR Human Resources Award; the DNR Leadership Academy graduation; and the new GNRF Director.

Commissioner Williams called on Ronny Just, Georgia Power, to speak.

Mr. Just updated the Board on Georgia Power's response to Hurricane Michael and thanked everyone who aided in the clean-up of the storm.

Mr. Mobley gave remarks on the effects of Hurricane Michael on Southwest Georgia.

Commissioner Williams called on Karl Burgess, Assistant Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Assistant Director Burgess updated the Board on Coast Fest; thanked those who were involved in Coast Fest; recognized Nancy Butler's retirement at the end of the month; and the reopening of the harvest of recreational and commercial oysters.

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

Dr. Crass informed the Board of the HPD's response to the hurricane; the areas under HPD supervision affected; and the division's archaeological process for analyzing the affected sites.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on LED's Hurricane Michael response; HPD's request for the LED to provide basic security for some of HPD's personnel; the graduation of 31 new Game Wardens, as well as 1 pilot, from the Academy; and the State Charitable Contributions Program.

Mr. Sinyard asked for the number of Game Wardens in service, including the most recent graduates. Colonel Henderson stated there are 214 active officers.

Mr. Sinyard asked for the planned future number of active officers. Colonel Henderson stated the LED intends to have an active number between 230 and 235.

Commissioner called on Jeff Cown, Director of the State Parks & Historic Sites Division, for his report.

Director Cown updated the Board on Your State Parks Day, a state-wide opportunity for citizens to volunteer in a state park; the division's response to Hurricane Michael; and thanked Commissioner Williams, Colonel Henderson, the other DNR divisions, the city of Blakely, Board Member Miki Thomaston, and park managers for their help in the recovery process.

Commissioner Williams called on Mark Whitney, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Assistant Director Whitney updated the Board on WRD's response to Hurricane Michael and the status of several WMAs; thanked Ronny Just and Georgia Power for their help with recovery efforts; and updated the Board regarding hunting season.

Chairman McWhorter called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Grant Criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-21-.15. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (purchase) of 3,359± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills WMA, The Conservation Fund Tracts, Bulloch and Bryan Counties. (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 authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (purchase) of 4,373± acres of real property Lanahassee WMA, The Conservation Fund Tract, Webster County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Jones carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (purchase) of 1,201.9± acres of real property, Altamaha River Townsend WMA - Rist Tract, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman McWhorter appointed Ray Lambert, Chairman, William Bagwell, Duncan Johnson, Rob Leebern, and Miki Thomaston to serve as the Nominating Committee for the 2019 Officers of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman McWhorter appointed Dwight Davis, Chairman, Nancy Addison, and Bill Jones to the Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award Committee.

Chairman McWhorter reminded the Board that there would be an Executive Session of the Land Committee following the Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

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Aaron McWhorter, Chairman

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Nancy A. Addison, Secretary