

**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources**  
Brasstown Valley Resort  
Salon 1-2  
6321 US-76  
Young Harris, GA 30582

**December 5, 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.  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Tim Lowe  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Billy New  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston  
Dee Yancey

**Guests**

Bryan Tolar, Tolar Capitol Partners  
Matthew Taylor, Safari Club International Foundation  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeepers  
John Fortuna, King & Spalding

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Terry West  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson – Via Conference Call  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Artica Gaston  
Houston Webb  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Eddie Henderson  
Eric Bentley  
John Bowers  
Karl Burgess  
Mark Whitney  
Jeff Weaver  
Adam Hammond  
Nathan Klaus  
Bob Sargent  
  
Richard Dunn, Director  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Chuck Mueller

The December 5, 2018 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Aaron McWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter introduced Colonel Eddie Henderson as the Public Focus Speaker.

Chairman McWhorter thanked Colonel Henderson for his many years of dedicated service to the Department of Natural Resources and to the state.

Chairman McWhorter called for a motion on the appointment of Major Thomas Barnard.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the appointment of Major Thomas Barnard as the Colonel and Director of the Law Enforcement Division, as presented.

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

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

Chairman McWhorter called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2018 Board meeting, the minutes from the November 19, 2018 Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award Selection Committee Meeting, and the minutes from the November 20, 2019 Nominating Committee Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2018 Board meeting, the minutes from the November 19, 2018 Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award Selection Committee Meeting, and the minutes from the November 20, 2019 Nominating Committee 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 stated he is requesting Board approval for the Environmental Protection Division to do two things: to enter into contracts with the Federal government for storage space in Lake Lanier to meet the State's current and projected 2050 municipal and industrial water supply needs, and to enter into subcontracts for current and potentially future political subdivisions and public utilities of the State, referred to as water supply providers, to make use of that same storage. Director Dunn further stated that Lake Lanier is a multipurpose federal

reservoir, and when Buford Dam was completed in the 1950's, Gainesville and Buford were the only cities explicitly granted permission to withdrawal from the Lake, and in the 1970's, the Army Corps granted permission for Gwinnett County, and later Cumming and additional withdrawals for Gainesville to withdrawal from the lake, and that these withdrawals were authorized via time-limited contracts between the Army Corps and water supply providers. He added in 2013 and 2015, the State of Georgia updated its water withdrawal request to the Army Corps, and in 2017 the Army Corps approved Georgia's updated request to allow for withdrawals from the Chattahoochee to meet water needs through 2050, and the Army Corps' decision in 2017 to grant Georgia's water supply request is the reason we are requesting this item.

Director Dunn stated the contracts are currently under negotiation, and key provisions include: the amount of water storage space, storage accounting procedures, easements or right of ways for user to construct infrastructure necessary for water withdrawals or returns to the Lake, payment for storage, and remedies in the event withdrawals exceed available storage space. Director Dunn further stated the individual contracts between the State and water supply providers will address similar issues as the prime contract, and details include: subcontracts with water supply providers will be for a specified percentage of the overall storage as previously discussed based on our 2015 request, the allocated cost for storage to water supply providers, length of contract terms, incentives for water supply providers to return water to the Lake, and how storage is allocated in the future to meet changing water supply needs. Director Dunn added that he requests favorable consideration of the proposed action item.

Mr. Leebern stated that this is a big issue and he commends EPD for working through it.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution on Surface Water Resource Management Storage Contract and Sub-Contracts for Lake Lanier (Proposed Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

Mr. Lambert thanked John Allen, special assistant attorney general, for all his hard work.

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

Commissioner Williams introduced the recipient of the Bill Boyer Natural Resource Professional of the Year Award, Nathan Klaus, to the Board.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the newest graduates of the Leadership Academy.

Commissioner Williams acknowledged Colonel Thomas Barnard as the new Director of the Law Enforcement Division.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the Special Legislative Session. He informed the Board that the General Assembly passed two bills to aid in Hurricane Michael recovery efforts.

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

Director Haymans updated the Board on the Georgia Coastal Management Program's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; the Georgia Coastal Nonpoint Source Program, which aims to manage pollution issues in the coastal region; the Red Snapper and Red Drum Conservation Project, which encourages environmentally safe fishing practices; the CRD's Telemetry Array Expansion, which will be expanded 24 miles off the coast; the F/V Miss Frankie, a stranded boat of the coast of Brunswick, Georgia.

Mr. Stewart asked who monitors Gray's Reef. Director Haymans stated that Gray's Reef has its own scientific staff in charge of monitoring that reef.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on the history of Native Americans and their relations between non-native populations.

Director Crass informed the Board of DNR's involvement in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990). He stated this act's purpose is to ensure that Native American remains and associated burial items are treated with the same respect as non-native remains.

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

Col. Barnard updated the Board on the division's recent operations.

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

Director Garrison updated the Board on the division's hurricane response; the black bear issues and management plan; hunting season statistics; and the opening of the Richmond Hill fishery.

Mr. Stewart asked about woodpecker cavities being built to restore habitats after the hurricane. Director Garrison clarified WRD's work with these.

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

Director Cown introduced the new Assistant Director, Eric Bentley, to the Board; updated the Board on the flooding in south Georgia; the hurricane response; and the First Day Hikes on January 1, 2019.

Chairman McWhorter called on Nancy Addison, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, for her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the reappointment of Zachary Harris, to the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and Shore Protection Committee, as presented.

Chairman McWhorter called on Dwight Davis, 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 authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (purchase) of 650.14± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, D.B Warnell Estate Tract, Bulloch County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Stewart, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (purchase) of 292.24± acres of real property, Sheffield WMA, Jones Company, LTD Tract, Paulding and Polk Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Mobley, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (purchase) of 7,051± acres of conservation easement, Bullard Creek WMA, The Conservation Fund Conservation Easement, Jeff Davis and Appling Counties. (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 of the acquisition (purchase) of 1.137± acres of real property, Sunbury Boat Ramp, Brogdon Tract, Liberty County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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 33.208± acres of conservation easement and access easement, City of Vienna, The Conservation Fund Conservation Easement, Dooly County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. New, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the lease agreement for Chattahoochee River Boat Ramp, City of Chattahoochee Hills Tract, 1.325± acres, Fulton 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 of the Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve for up to 6± acres to widen SR 25/ US 17 and SR 99, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site, Glynn County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. New, and carried unanimously that 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 6± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site, Glynn County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Addison, and carried unanimously that 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 3.551± acres across the Altamaha River by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Department of Transportation to widen SR 135/ US 221 and replace the bridge, Jeff Davis and Montgomery Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman McWhorter called on Amber Carter, for her report on Weekend for Wildlife.

Ms. Carter updated the Board on the status of Weekend for Wildlife.

Chairman McWhorter called on Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award Nominating Committee, for his report.

Mr. Davis updated the Board on the nomination of Emily Knobloch for the Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award.

Chairman McWhorter called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 2019 Officers, for his report.

Mr. Lambert updated the Board on the following slate of officers for 2019: Mr. Bodine Sinyard, Chairman; Ms. Nancy Addison, Vice Chair; and Mr. Dee Yancey, Secretary.

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