

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

June 25, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members

Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard, Chair
Nancy Addison, Vice Chair
Dee Yancey, Secretary
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis – Via Conference Call
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan N. Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley – Via Conference Call
Paul Shailendra – Via Conference Call
Brother Stewart – Via Conference Call
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Jim Renner, Southern Ionics Minerals
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Ag Council
Doug Miell, Georgia Chamber
April Lipscomb, Southern Environmental Law Center
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Nick Johnson, Georgia Conservancy
Chad Smalls, Georgia Conservancy
Will Bentley, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
Blake Raulerson, Georgia Farm Bureau
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson – Via Conference Call
Wes Robinson
Melanie Johnson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Houston Webb
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Cassidy Gerstorff
Tina Johannsen
Karl Burgess
Robert Stokes
Larry Blankenship
Jeremy Bolen
Rachel Rice
Sam Cox
Jay Howell
Kaitlin Goode

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

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

Chairman Sinyard introduced Game Warden Cassidy Gerstorff to accept an honorary resolution. Chairman Sinyard stated that Gerstorff was traveling southbound over the Sidney Lanier Bridge in Brunswick when he noticed a small sedan pulled over on the shoulder. Chairman Sinyard further stated that the individual in the sedan got out and moved over to the guardrail; Gerstorff pulled over to speak with him; the individual stated that he was going to attempt to kill himself; Gerstorff and another bystander worked together to distract him and bring him to safety.

Chairman Sinyard stated that the Board of Natural Resources hereby commends and honors Game Warden Gerstorff for his heroic actions.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the resolution honoring Game Warden Cassidy Gerstorff.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Addison, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2019 Board Meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof).

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the following: Georgia EPD's application to U.S. EPA for Georgia's CCR program, the South Fulton landfill fire, and U.S. EPA's final Affordable Clean Energy Rule.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked Georgia Power for the Dames Ferry Campground.

Commissioner Williams recognized Josh Hildebrandt, a Governor's Office policy advisor, for all of his help during the 2019 General Assembly.

Commissioner Williams called on Taylor Brown, DNR Grants Unit Supervisor, to discuss the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program.

Ms. Brown stated that she is requesting Board approval for the rules for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program. She further stated that there was a 30-day public comment period; a public meeting was held on May 30, 2019 at Panola Mountain State Park, where 19 people were in attendance and 8 people gave public comment.

Ms. Brown stated that during the public comment period, DNR received 37 public comments. She further stated that there will no changes to the rules from the May briefing. She thanked the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Coalition and the Georgia Conservancy.

Ms. Brown stated that she would request the Board approve the item as presented.

Mike Worley, the President and CEO of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, stated that the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program fulfills all the responsibilities we have with regards to conserving our natural resources. He further stated he would like to publicly recognize the hard work put into the rules by the DNR.

Thomas Farmer, of the Nature Conservancy, stated that the DNR did an excellent job in getting the program up and running as quickly as possible. He further stated he has received calls from numerous states inquiring about the details of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the action on the proposed rules for state and federal grant programs, Chapter 391-5-3, pertaining to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program, as presented.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the most recent Game Warden graduates; the renovations to Richmond Hill shooting range and Wilson Shoals shooting range; the Hilliard Tract ribbon cutting; a Troup County thank you luncheon dedicated to DNR fisheries staff; Lt. Colonel Weaver's retirement party; and upcoming GOSP workshops.

Commissioner Williams stated that June 25 is Field Managers Day at DNR, which is a day where the hard-working field managers of the DNR are recognized and given an opportunity to come to Atlanta and spend the day in the Commissioner's Office.

Commissioner Williams recognized Jeremy Bolen, Rachel Rice, Sam Cox, Kaitlin Goode, and Jay Howell.

Commissioner Williams also recognized DNR Human Resources Director, Larry Blankenship, for 30 years of service to the state.

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

Mr. Burgess updated the Board on the opening of the commercial and recreational shrimp harvest; the closure of the commercial and recreation oyster harvest; timing of the red snapper season; coastal wildlife surveys; live aboard legislation rule making; the 29th annual kid fishing event; the first annual Saltwater Slam; Beach Week; and the 25th anniversary of CoastFest.

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

Colonel Barnard played a video to highlight the Game Warden Academy training.

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

Director Cown updated the Board on National Trails Day, which had over 1,000 participants; a golfing program to teach and expose kids to play golf; Skidaway Island State Park being named the best park campsite in Georgia; and the Park Managers and Friends Conference in Savannah on August 15-18.

Commissioner Williams concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Oil and Gas and Deep Drilling, Chapter 391-3-13. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Certification of Environmentally Sensitive Property, Chapter 391-3-18. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called on Dwight Evans, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the action on proposed amendments to hunting regulations, Chapter 391-4-2-.22 pertaining to bears, as presented.

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

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 enter into a 25-year lease with Georgia Power Company over the 27.8 acres Dames Ferry Campground, Monroe County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Chairman

ATTEST:

Delos H. Yancey, III, Secretary