

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

**October 22, 2019**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members**

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

**Guests**

Bryan Tolar, Tolar Capitol Partners  
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club  
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy  
Jennette Gayer, Environment Georgia

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Terry West  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Wes Robinson  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Artica Gaston  
Courtney Hall  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Jill Andrews  
Taylor Brown  
Major Mike England  
Richie Golden  
Rhonda Henslee  
Ashley Moon, CIA  
Vonnetta Pryor  
Lt. Chad Welch  
Tim Wright

Richard Dunn, Director  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Karen Hays  
Chuck Mueller

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

Chairman Sinyard introduced Mr. Jimmy Allgood as the Public Focus speaker.

Chairman Sinyard adjourned the Board meeting to begin the Committee meetings.

The meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Bodine Sinyard.

Chairman Sinyard called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Mobley, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019 meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, for a statement.

Mr. Lambert notified the Board there is pending litigation regarding a facility in Newton County, and as such, no questions on the matter can be addressed.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on three sterilization facilities in Newton, Cobb, and Fulton county, EPD's level 1 drought response in 103 counties, and upcoming Florida vs. Georgia litigation hearings.

Mr. Hatfield asked if there were any measures that could be taken to protect industry from increased water prices during a drought. Director Dunn responded that since new rules were passed in 2015, there have been no mandated water system drops that would affect industries.

Director Dunn stated his report was concluded.

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

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the campground at Evans County PFA; the golfer cabin next to Brazell's Creek Golf Course at Gordonia Alatomaha State Park; the opening of rifle season; and leaf watchers at the state parks.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on the 2019 Leadership Academy and their vision, mission and values statement. He stated the graduation ceremony and luncheon will be held on November 6, 2019, at Smithgall Woods.

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

Colonel Barnard updated the Board on the WMA burglaries case. He stated there are three suspects and charges are pending. He thanked Major Mike England, Lt. Chad Welch, and CIA Ashley Moon for their meticulous work to break the case.

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

Director Garrison updated the Board on the mass stranding of approximately twenty-eight short-finned pilot whales on St. Catherine's Island and one on Cumberland Island. He stated no human interactions caused the stranding.

Director Garrison updated the Board on the discovery of the snakehead fish. He stated the division is working to determine the cost to fisheries and ways to eradicate the aquatic invasive species. He further stated the fish were not found in the Yellow River, as reported.

Director Garrison provided an update on National Hunting and Fishing Day; Hunting Season figures; WRD's involvement in the Golden Ray shipwreck. He also thanked Major Mike England and his team for their work to arrest the WMA burglary suspects and recover the stolen equipment.

Director Garrison called on Lacey Creech, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Wildlife Resources Division, for an update on the new marketing campaign.

Ms. Creech updated the Board on the "Game Day in Georgia" marketing campaign to promote hunting and angling in Georgia. She presented a video by country music star Luke Bryan, where he shares his enthusiasm for hunting and the outdoors, and a video by David Blanton of Realtree with hunting safety tips.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease agreement with Golden Triangle RC&D for approximately 1,100 sq. feet of office space at the State – Owned Hooks Hanner Building, in Terrell County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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 via Executive Order to demolish the Group Shelter at Mistletoe State Park, Columbia County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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

Chairman Sinyard appointed the following individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2020 Board of Natural Resources Officers: Ray Lambert, Chairman; Mark Mobley; Duncan Johnson; Rob Leebern; and Miki Thomaston.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Delos H. Yancey, III, Secretary