

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via Teleconference

Attendees:

Board Members

Dee Yancey, Chair
Bill Jones, Vice Chair
Dwight Davis, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Gary Vowell

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Josh Hildebrandt
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The February 23, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dee Yancey.

Chairman Yancey called on Captain Mike Burgamy to give the invocation.

Chairman Yancey called on Cathy Barnette for roll call and declaration of quorum.

Chairman Yancey adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

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

Chairman Yancey called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on EPD's newly appointed Deputy Director John Eunice, the oral argument in the Florida v. Georgia Supreme Court case, the approval of the amended budget, and a public meeting on Sterigenics draft permit.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams welcomed Mr. Randy Dellinger to the Board of Natural Resources.

Commissioner Williams called on Kate Iannuzzi, Deputy Executive Counsel, to present the Proposed Amendments/Repeal to the Department of Natural Resources' Rules to Reflect the Historic Preservation Division's Move to the Department of Community Affairs.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated effective July 2020 the General Assembly moved the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Community Affairs. She further stated that with this move it necessitated some rule changes removing HPD from the DNR's rules, since the Department of Community Affairs has already promulgated HPD's rules for their department. She added that on December 1, 2020, she briefed the Board on the proposed rules changes and public notice was disseminated on December 14, 2020. She further added that the deadline for submitting comments was January 13, 2021, no comments were received, and there were no changes to the proposed rules.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated the proposed rules changes are procedural in nature, not complex or controversial, should have no impact on public health or natural resources, and should have no financial impact on the community. She further stated there is no less expensive alternative, as there should be virtually no cost to implement these rules.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments/Repeal to the Department of Natural Resources' Rules to Reflect the Historic Preservation Division's Move to the Department of Community Affairs.

Commissioner Williams called on Artica Gaston, Director of Administrative Services, to provide an overview of the DNR Leadership Academy.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the 2021 Weekend for Wildlife virtual event and congratulated Lyndy Saparow, Amber Carter and the entire WFW team and DNR family for doing an excellent job in a year with many difficult circumstances. He stated the unofficial tallies show \$750,000 was raised with only \$32,000 in expenses. He further stated the 2022 Weekend for Wildlife will be held on January 28-29, 2022 and encouraged everyone to mark their calendar.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the 2021 Legislative Session and the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship grant program.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Wildlife Resources Division, including evaluating the turkey population in Georgia and the appointment of Scott Robinson as the new Chief of Fisheries Management.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Coastal Resources Division, including the oyster mariculture planning process and the preparation of the first sub-tidal leases going out, and the jellyballs trawling season, which will open on March 1. He stated the Georgia Climate Conference, which is administered by the CRD, has been rescheduled from April to August 12-13.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Golden Ray removal and stated it is continuing slowly, yet steadily.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Law Enforcement Division, including the 35th Game Warden Academy, aviation rappel training in north Georgia, and the 2020-2021 hunting season.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the State Parks and Historic Sites Division, including the volunteer program and "A Year to Volunteer" partnership, the visitor center at Skidaway Island State Park, COVID-19 vaccination sites at Magnolia Springs and Jack Hill State Parks, the Junior Ranger program, and the interpretive panels installed at the Little White House museum. He stated the division's Resources Management Unit, site staff and interagency partners burned 417 acres across five sites over the last month.

Commissioner Williams congratulated Director Jeff Cown for 30 years of faithful service to the state of Georgia.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Yancey 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 Public Water Systems to Improve Water Supply Efficiency, Chapter 391-3-33. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Vowell, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Chapter 391-3-20. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Yancey called on Dwight Evans, Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval via Executive Order to demolish 3 lake cabins, a storage shed, and a pole barn on Panola Mountain State Park, Rockdale County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Delos H. Yancey, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dwight J. Davis, Secretary