

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Hard Labor Creek State Park
Golf Course Conference Room
1400 Knox Chapel Road
Social Circle, GA 30025**

**May 25, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Board Members

Dee Yancey, Chair
Bill Jones, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
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

Guests

Blake Raulerson, Governor's Office

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Josh Hildebrandt
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Ted Will
Doug Haymans
Tina Johannsen
John Bowers

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

The May 25, 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 April 27, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 27, 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 efforts to extinguish a recent fire on the Golden Ray. He further stated there were no air quality exceedances, no water quality exceedances, and no wildlife impacts in the aftermath.

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 the group to Hard Labor Creek State Park and thanked Director Jeff Cown and his team for hosting the May meeting.

Commissioner Williams stated the Georgia Public Safety Memorial Day ceremony was held on May 18, and the DNR honored two fallen officers in Georgia by adding their names to the Public Safety Memorial at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth: Captain Stan Elrod and Game Warden James Edward Morton. He further stated these two officers were the ninth and tenth Georgia Game Wardens killed in the line of duty, dating back to 1927. He thanked Lt. Judd Smith for serving as the chair for the Memorial Committee in Georgia. He also thanked board members, Mr. Bill Jones and Ms. Miki Thomaston, for attending the ceremony.

Commissioner Williams provided a legislative update and stated that in the recently approved FY22 budget the DNR was authorized to use \$14.8 million in 20-year bonds for capital projects throughout the system.

Commissioner Williams called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for an update.

Director Haymans provided an update on habitat enhancement; shellfish industry; community outreach; employee appreciation; fisheries; and removal of the Golden Ray.

Commissioner Williams called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, for an update.

Director Cown provided an update on the opening of the Skidaway Island Visitor Center; Georgia Cyber Academy Programs; volunteer group projects at Panola Mountain and Reed Bingham; Chief Vann House Archaeology Day; Resource Management activities; prescribed fire at Crooked River State Park; and upgrades to Red Top Mountain State Park cottages and campground.

Commissioner Williams called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel, for Action on the Sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY2021-2022 General Appropriations Act.

Mr. Pearson stated that in the General Appropriations Act for FY 2021-2022, the General Assembly included items for DNR projects with a total value of \$14,830,000.00, that are to be funded by General Obligation bonds, for facility major improvements and renovations, statewide. He further stated the General Assembly also included items for Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority projects with a total value of \$21,000,000.00, that are to be funded by General Obligation bonds, for projects for Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority, statewide. He stated all \$21,000,000.00 for projects for Lake Lanier Island Development Authority will be issued as federally taxable bonds, which means they can be used for projects at state owned facilities that are privately operated. He further added the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) determined that it would be most advantageous to sell the bonds for these projects, along with bonds for other agencies and authorities, in several sales spread throughout the year.

Mr. Pearson requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution to authorize the sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the

FY2021-2022 General Appropriations Act – Department of Natural Resources Projects.
(Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution to authorize the sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY2021-2022 General Appropriations Act – Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority Projects.
(Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Williams called on John Bowers, Special Projects Manager, Wildlife Resources Division, for Action on Proposed Repeals to Subject 391-1, Administration, Subject 391-4, Wildlife Resources, Subject 391-5, Historic Preservation, and to Rule 391-2-3-.03 Regulation of Marinas, Community Docks and Commercial Docks.

Mr. Bowers stated the proposed repeals are responsive to Governor Brian Kemp's Georgians First Commission's charge to the department to complete a review of its existing Rules and repeal those Rules, or parts of Rules, that are determined to be duplicative of statutory code, exceed statutory authority, irrelevant or redundant, or refer to programs that are no longer in effect.

Mr. Bowers requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Repeals to Subject 391-1, Administration, Subject 391-4, Wildlife Resources, Subject 391-5, Historic Preservation, and to Rule 391-2-3-.03 Regulation of Marinas, Community Docks and Commercial Docks.

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

Colonel Barnard recognized Ranger First Class Ryan Locke from Hall County and presented the Shikar Safari International's Wildlife Officer of the Year award.

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 Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Permit Fees. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Yancey called on Patrick Denney, Vice Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, in the absence of Nick Ayers, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Mr. Lowe, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, Pertaining to Hunting Regulations.

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 of the Acquisition (purchase) of 5,651± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, The Conservation Fund Phase 2, Camden County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, 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 6,011± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. Phase 2, Camden County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Delos H. Yancey, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dwight J. Davis, Secretary