

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Ogeechee Technical College
Jack Hill Building, Oak Room
20 Joe Kennedy Boulevard
Statesboro, GA 30458

December 7, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Board Members

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

Guests

Russell Kent, Public
John D'Andrea, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Lyndy Saparow, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Taylor Brown
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Bill Donohue
James Hamilton
Brenda McMillian

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

The December 7, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dee Yancey.

Chairman Yancey introduced Ms. Lori Durden, President of Ogeechee Technical College.

Chairman Yancey called on Captain Mike Burgamy for the invocation.

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 Board of Natural Resources meeting on October 26, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board of Natural Resources meeting on October 26, 2021.

Chairman Yancey called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Nominating Committee meeting on November 22, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Nominating Committee meeting on November 22, 2021.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on new water and sewer infrastructure projects in partnership with the Governor's office, and new developments regarding the Golden Ray salvage project, continued assessment and monitoring, and a proposed agreement with the responsible party.

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 recognized Director Rick Dunn for 20 years of service to the State of Georgia and presented to him a Faithful Service Award and 20-year service pin. Commissioner

Williams stated that Director Dunn is a valuable member of the DNR family and has been a consummate public servant. He congratulated him and thanked him for his dedication and service.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the 2021 Leadership Academy; the DNR Career Academy; and the 2022 Weekend for Wildlife.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the Division's highlights from around the state; Atlanta Crime Suppression Detail; the Army PaYS Signing Ceremony; and Thanksgiving week activity.

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

Director Cown provided an update on the 2021 Association of Southeastern State Park Directors Conference at Brasstown Valley Resort; George T. Bagby State Park's transition from Coral Hospitality on November 1; National FootGolf Championship at Brazell's Creek at Jack Hill State Park; Indian Springs Workday on November 9; Fort Yargo Workday on November 18; Magnolia Springs Workday on November 18; and Fire Training at Plains Welcome Center.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on Marine Fisheries; Habitat News; Research Vessel Glynn; and the removal of the Golden Ray.

Commissioner Williams called on Ted Will, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his update.

Director Will provided an update on the Wildlife Conservation staff's work to save endangered North Atlantic right whales and to raise awareness and reduce the risk of vessel strikes by charter boats and boats under 65 feet; debut of the ActionTrack Wheelchairs at state properties across Georgia; opening of Two Rivers Gun Range on November 12; Construction and sanitation at Buford Hatchery; Delayed Harvest Streams Stocked; and Next Year Class of Trout Underway at Burton and Summerville Hatcheries.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Yancey called on Miki Thomaston, Chair of the Coastal Committee, for her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Lowe, and carried unanimously to approve the reappointment of Mr. Chad Barrow to the Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee and Shore Protection Committee.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Davis, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the of the conveyance (donation) from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 6,960± acres, Townsend WMA in Long County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the conveyance (donation) from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 685± acres, Black Creek in Taylor County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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 conveyance (donation) of property from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 142± acres, Neyami Savannah Natural Area in Lee County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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 conveyance (donation) of property from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 1,007± acres, Raleigh Joyce Mitigation Tract, Montgomery County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Lambert, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the conveyance (donation) from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 2.5± acres, Raleigh Joyce Mitigation Tract, Montgomery County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (donation) of a 3,028+ acres conservation easement, Rosemont Plantation, Treutlen County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Lambert, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 1,200 feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Canoochee EMC at Morgan’s Bridge Boat Ramp, in Bryan and Chatham Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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 granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 6,000± square feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Yancey called on Bodine Sinyard, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

Mr. Sinyard stated the Nominating Committee met via conference call, on November 22, 2021, to discuss the slate of officers for 2022. He further stated that the consensus of the committee was to offer the following nominations: Bill Jones, Chairman; Dwight Davis, Vice Chairman; and Duncan Johnson, Secretary.

Chairman Yancey thanked the Committee for their work and added that slate of officers will be voted on at the January meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Delos H. Yancey, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dwight J. Davis, Secretary