

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Middle Georgia State College
Professional Sciences Conference Center
Room 211
100 College Station Drive
Macon, GA 31206

May 20, 2015

Attending:

Board Members

Ray Lambert, Chairman
William Bagwell, Vice Chairman
Aaron McWhorter, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Dwight Evans
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Phyllis Johnson
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Matthew Smith, Georgia Farm Bureau
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Trip Addison
Walter Rabon
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Mary Kathryn Yearta
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Zachary Harris
Doralyn Kirkland
Terry West
John Martin
John Bowers
Keith Bentley
Jeff Weaver
Thomas Barnard

The May 20, 2015 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Ray Lambert.

Chairman Lambert called on Brother Stewart who introduced Dr. Christopher Blake, President of Middle Georgia State College, who delivered a moment of inspiration.

Chairman Lambert adjourned the Board Meeting to begin Committee meetings.

Chairman Lambert called the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Lambert called for a motion to approve the minutes for the April 2015 Board of Natural Resources Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes for the April 2015 Board of Natural Resources Meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Stewart for planning and hosting the May Board meeting in Macon.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the 2015 legislation session; changes in the House of Representatives Leadership; the peregrine falcon banding at SunTrust Plaza; and Lonice Barrett being named interim Executive Director of the Natural Resources Foundation.

Commissioner Williams called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel.

Mr. Pearson stated in the General Appropriations Act for FY 2015-2016, the General Assembly included items for DNR projects with a total value of \$36,100,000 that are to be funded by General Obligation Bonds. He further stated the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission determined 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. He added one of those sales is now scheduled for June 2015 and includes \$36,100,000 of DNR's money.

Mr. Pearson stated the projects that DNR will fund with the proceeds of this sale are: \$950,000 for replacement of vehicles with equipment for law enforcement, statewide; \$19,930,000 for facility major improvements and renovations, statewide; \$5,720,000 for miscellaneous new construction, statewide; and \$5,000,000 for the purchase of aircraft.

Mr. Pearson stated should the Resolution be adopted, the next agenda item will be asking for a redirection of \$525,000 of the \$5,000,000 aircraft bond for use in funding the Noyes Cut Study.

Discussion ensued on the adverse impacts resulting from the Noyes Cut.

Mr. Pearson stated he would request the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY2015-2016 General Appropriations Act. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Mr. Pearson said the Department requests to the Board's approval to seek the redirection of General Obligation Bond funds from the \$5,000,000 aircraft bond (DNR 123). He further stated this bond was added in order to allow the Department to purchase a new helicopter. He added the Department is requesting a redirection of \$525,000 from the aircraft bond to a new project number to fund the Noyes Cut Study.

Mr. Pearson stated the Noyes Cut Study is required to determine design alternatives to eliminate the adverse environmental and fisheries impacts resulting from the Noyes Cut, a manmade channel constructed through the marshland of the St. Andrew estuary in Camden County in the 1930's.

Mr. Pearson stated he would request the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilheit, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Redirect of General Obligation Bond Funds. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Lambert called on Philip Wilheit, Chairman of the Technology Committee, who recognized John Martin, Chief Information Officer, for the Georgia Outdoor Map Project being named one of the Top 100 Technology Projects by Information Week.

Commissioner Williams called on Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Forster updated the Board on wild nesting peregrine falcons in Tallulah Gorge; the "Aim for Success- Licensing Initiative"; and the customer service engagement efforts in partnership with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and Brant.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, who updated the Board on CRD's fishing license change.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on the Lake Blackshear boating incident rescue; the Satilla River boating incident rescue; and the Mt. Yonah aviation long line recovery.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for his report.

Director Crass updated the Board on the impact of HB 308; the archeology site at Ossabaw Island; and the DNR History project.

Commissioner Williams stated there being no further business, his report was concluded.

Chairman Lambert called on Trip Addison, Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Mr. Addison updated the board on EPD personnel changes and the Palmetto Pipeline.

Chairman Lambert called on Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his Committee Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Lambert called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, for his Committee Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board 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 thereof)

Chairman Lambert called on Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, for his Committee Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. McWhorter and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1,470± acres of real property, Paulding County Forest Wildlife Management Area, Johnny Monk Tract, Paulding County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Mr. Mobley stated Mr. Stewart would be recusing himself from the votes of Item B and C.

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt: the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1.06± acres of real property, Robins Air force Base Buffer Project, 201 Palmer Circle, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 12.14± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 10111 Hawkinsville Road, Houston County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.02± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to the Henry County Water Authority to maintain a waterline, vault, and meter at Panola Mountain State Park, Henry County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to approve to acquire 0.41± acres of an existing easement from the Walton Electric Membership Corporation in exchange for a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.5± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to the Walton Electric Membership Corporation at the Department's Wildlife Resources Division Headquarters to install and maintain power distribution lines, Walton County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Lambert asked for members of the Board to volunteer for the "Rock Howard Committee" which would be tasked with awarding the Rock Howard Award. He stated the Rock Howard Award is presented to a citizen who exhibits strong and farsighted leadership in managing, guiding and promoting the wise use of Georgia's natural, environmental, historical and recreational resources.

Mr. Wilheit stated a Technology Committee meeting would be held following the Board Meeting. He encouraged all members to stay and attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ray Lambert, Chairman

ATTEST:

Aaron McWhorter, Secretary

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Middle Georgia State College
Professional Sciences Conference Center
Room 211
100 College Station Drive
Macon, GA 31206

May 20, 2015

Attending:

Committee Members

Dee Yancey, Chairman
Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Philip Wilheit
Ray Lambert, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Phyllis Johnson
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Matthew Smith, Georgia Farm Bureau
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The May 20, 2015 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Ray Lambert.

Chairman Lambert called on Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management, to present the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2.

Mr. Bowers stated the changes include amendments to reflect statutory changes, adopt hunting regulations for the next two years, establish a uniform statewide deer season, expand hunting opportunity for alligators and bears, modify either-sex days to manage white-tailed deer, and regulate hunting and other activities on Wildlife Management Areas, other state lands, and federal areas.

Mr. Bowers stated the proposed amendments were discussed in detail at the March Board meeting. He further stated eight public meetings were held statewide and comments received during the public comment period were generally supportive.

Mr. Bowers stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
Middle Georgia State College
Professional Sciences Conference Center
Room 211
100 College Station Drive
Macon, GA 31206

May 20, 2015

Attending:

Committee Members

William Bagwell, Chairman
Dwight Evans, Vice Chairman
Walter Hudson
Phyllis Johnson
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mike Phelps
Ray Lambert, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Mark Mobley
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

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Jeff Weaver
Thomas Barnard

The May 20, 2015 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Ray Lambert.

Chairman Lambert called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, who called on Keith Bentley, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to permit fees.

Mr. Bentley stated the Permit Fee provision is being revised to specify the dollar-per-ton rate and reference the fee manual for Calendar Year 2014 fees. He further stated the dollar-per-ton rates remain the same as the previous year at \$37.34 for coal-fired power plants and \$35.50/ton for all other facilities. He added all other aspects of the fee manual remain unchanged from the previous year.

Mr. Bentley stated the Board was briefed on the proposed amendments in March and a public hearing was held in April. He further stated the public comment period ended April 29, 2015 and no comments were received for the rule revision.

Mr. Bentley stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve this item as presented.

Ms. Addison will be recusing herself from all EPD related matters for this meeting and all future meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. McWhorter and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to permit fees, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Land Committee
Middle Georgia State College
Professional Sciences Conference Center
Room 211
100 College Station Drive
Macon, GA 31206

May 20, 2015

Attending:

Committee Members

Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Walter Hudson
Rob Leebern
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Ray Lambert, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Phyllis Johnson
Aaron McWhorter
Bodine Sinyard
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Philip Wilheit
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Visitors

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The May 20, 2014 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Chairman Ray Lambert.

Chairman Lambert called on Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item for consideration would be the acquisition of 1,470± acres of real property, Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area, Johnny Monk Tract in Paulding County.

Mr. Friedman stated the Johnny Monk Tract will add to the recreational value of the Paulding Forest WMA, improve management, protect frontage along Little Raccoon Creek, and allow the Department to restore more montane longleaf pine habitat. He further stated Paulding Forest has been identified as one of the Department's six priority focus areas for habitat and conservation in the State from Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1,470± acres of real property, Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area, Johnny Monk Tract, Paulding County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated Items B & C were both acquisitions in the Robins Air Force Base Buffer project. He further stated both properties would be purchased using funds from DNR Bond 123. He added both properties had been checked by the Historic Preservation Division and neither property was historically significant.

Mr. Friedman stated Item B is the acquisition of 1.06± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 201 Palmer Circle, Houston County. He further stated the purchase price of the property is \$18,000. He added the property contained a small building which would be removed.

Mr. Friedman stated Item C is the acquisition of 12.14± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 10111 Hawkinsville Road, Houston County. He further stated the purchase price of the property is \$152,000. He added the property is three separate tracts and contains five structures which will all be removed.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

Mr. Mobley stated Brother Stewart would be recusing himself from discussion and the voting of these items.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt: the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1.06± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 201 Palmer Circle, Houston County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 12.14± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 10111 Hawkinsville Road, Houston County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item for consideration would be the granting of a revocable license and permanent easement of 0.02± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Henry County Water Authority to maintain a waterline, vault and meter at Panola Mountain State Park.

Mr. Friedman stated a new Historic Preservation Division building was constructed at Panola Mountain State Park and Parks requests the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) receive a revocable license agreement and permanent easement to allow HCWA to maintain their underground waterline, vault, and meter near the right-of-way of Highway 155/Snapfinger Road. He added since this will benefit the Department, the Department is requesting the RLA and PE be granted at no cost.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hudson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.02± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to the Henry County Water Authority to maintain a waterline, vault, and meter at Panola Mountain State Park, Henry County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the final item for consideration would be the approval to acquire 0.41± acres of an existing easement from the Walton Electric Membership Corporation in exchange for a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.5± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to the Walton Electric Membership Corporation at the Department's Wildlife Resources Division Headquarters to install and maintain power distribution lines.

Mr. Friedman stated WRD intends to construct new office space, since the current WRD Headquarters building will soon become inadequate to support the staff. He further stated providing power to the construction site requires the existing easement with the Walton Electric Membership Corporation (WEMC) to be modified, and 0.41± acres of the existing WEMC easement to be returned to the State in exchange for a 0.5± acres easement. He added this new easement area will avoid the construction area, but the WEMC will be in a better position to provide power to existing and new facilities.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to acquire 0.41± acres of existing easement from the Walton Electric Membership Corporation in exchange for a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.5± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to the Walton Electric Membership Corporation at the Department's Wildlife Resources Division Headquarters to install and maintain power distribution lines, Walton County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Technology Committee
Middle Georgia State College
Professional Sciences Conference Center
Room 211
100 College Station Drive
Macon, GA 31206

May 20, 2015

Attending:

Committee Members

Philip Wilheit, Chairman
Dwight Evans
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson
Brother Stewart
Ray Lambert, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
John Martin

Board Members

Paul Shailendra

The May 20, 2015 meeting of the Technology Committee was called to order by Chairman Ray Lambert.

Chairman Lambert called on Philip Wilheit, Chairman of the Technology Committee.

Chairman Wilheit stated this purpose of this meeting was to brief the Committee on DNR's IT Department.

Chairman Wilheit called on John Martin, Chief Information Officer, who discussed the work going on in the DNR IT Department including awards received future projects and cost saving initiatives.

Discussion ensued concerning new ways for the Department to use innovative technology.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.