

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Georgia Southern University
Engineering & Research Building
Room 3000
4012 Forest Drive
Statesboro, GA 30458

Tuesday, April 26, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Patrick Denney, Chair
Dee Yancey, Vice Chair
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Billy New
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Bill Jones, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Randy Dellinger
Tim Lowe

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Agriculture Council
Dr. Ryan McNutt, Georgia Southern University
Dr. Matthew Compton, Georgia Southern University
M. Jared Wood, Georgia Southern University
Jason Metzger, GA EPD

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Alexandrea Solomon
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Ted Will
Doug Haymans
Tina Johannsen
Antoinette Norfleet

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Karen Hays
Anna Truszczynski

The April 26, 2022 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Bill Jones, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Jones called on Mr. Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Mr. Denney called on Dr. Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief of Game Management, for a briefing on proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Rules 391-4-2-.12 and 391-4-2-.31.

Dr. Johannsen stated that complete hunting regulation proposals are developed on a 2-year cycle. She further stated that occasionally the WRD presents proposed regulations for establishing hunting seasons on newly acquired properties; housekeeping changes; and high impact, special critical issues with significant Board and public input.

Dr. Johannsen stated the proposed rules are responsive to statutory changes by the General Assembly that expand the opportunity to hunt and trap raccoon and opossum. She further stated that, specifically, for raccoon and opossum, the proposed amendments provide for year-round trapping and hunting on private lands, expands hunting opportunity on wildlife management areas by 60 days, and removes bag limit restrictions.

Dr. Johannsen stated this proposal will be given widespread distribution to the public and a virtual public hearing will be held on May 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. She further stated that instructions for the public meeting will be publicly noticed through the website and by direct electronic mail to those persons who have indicated an interest in hunting regulations. She added the proposed amendments will be presented to the Board for consideration and adoption at the June board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.