

**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**September 27, 2017**

**Attending:**

Board Members

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman  
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman  
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary  
Nancy Addison  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Paul Shailendra  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Watt

Guests

Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy  
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council  
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council  
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Maya Prabhu, Atlanta Journal Constitution  
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Terry West  
Kyle Pearson  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Rusty Garrison  
Col. Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
Spud Woodward  
Dave Crass  
Melanie Johnson  
John Biagi  
Bill Donohue  
John Erbele  
Steve Friedman  
Maj. Thomas Barnard  
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver  
John Martin  
Richard Dunn  
Sydney Brogden  
Jac Capp  
Jeff Cown  
Dika Kuoh  
Chuck Mueller  
Erin Ruoff  
Sarah Visser

The September 27, 2017 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson, Jr.

Chairman Johnson called on Nancy Addison to give the Invocation.

Chairman Johnson called on Director Dave Crass to introduce the Public Focus speaker.

Director Crass introduced Mr. Doug Young.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mr. Young.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the board meeting to move into committee meetings.

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

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Watt to approve the minutes of the August board meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn updated the Board on the Hurricane Irma response, the drought response and Lake Lanier, the agriculture water metering program, and the GEOS or e-permitting system.

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

Commissioner Williams called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel, for an action item.

Mr. Pearson stated that from 1990 to 2014, the town of Pine Mountain, Georgia; the Pine Mountain Tourism Association; and the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation have agreed to the levy and collection of an excise tax on the furnishings of rooms, lodgings, and accommodations – also known as the hotel/motel tax – at Callaway Gardens, a public garden and resort operated by the Foundation. He further stated that the agreement governs the expenditure of the tax revenue, which is used to fund the Association's promotion of tourism, conventions and meetings, and general commerce in the Pine Mountain area. He added that because the Foundation is a charitable trust, the Board of Natural Resources must approve the levy of the tax and the agreement governing expenditure of the funds.

Mr. Pearson stated that he requests the Board's approval of the levy and collection of the hotel/motel tax on Callaway Gardens, as well as the 2017/2018 contract governing expenditure of the tax revenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Watt, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Contract between Pine Mountain Tourism Association and the town of Pine Mountain, Georgia for a Hotel/Motel Tax Levy.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the Hurricane Irma response, retirements in the agency, a Garden Club award, and the GNRFF reception.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on development projects in Atlanta.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on boating season, dove season opening weekend, the Hurricane Irma response, the LED license plate, the hiring process, and national awards.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division, for her report.

Director Kelley updated the Board on the Hurricane Irma response, the 2017 Your State Park Day, the new educator guide textbook, and the 2017 Leaf Watch.

Commissioner Williams called on Rusty Garrison, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Garrison updated the Board on the Hurricane Irma response, archery season, and the Ocmulgee PFA opening.

Chairman Johnson called on Ray Lambert for the Environmental Protection Committee 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 Rules for Underground Storage Tank Management, Chapter 391-3-15. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Paul Shailendra for the Land Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Mobley, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval via Executive Order to demolish an office building at Walton Fish Hatchery, Walton County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Jones, 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 0.5± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Transmission Corporation at George T. Bagby State Park in exchange for the Georgia Transmission Corporation to relinquish an existing easement of 1.5± acres, Clay County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, 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 Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.05± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Coastal Electrical Cooperative at Fort Morris Historic Site, Liberty County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Evans, 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 0.4± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Power Company at Indian Springs State Park, Butts County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, 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 0.003± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Power Company at Chief Vann House Historic Site, Murray County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Mr. Johnson reminded the Board that there would be an Executive Session of the Land Committee following the Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary