

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

February 28, 2018

Attending:

Board Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison, Secretary
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley – Via Conference Call
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit

Guests

Ronnie Just, Georgia Power
Rosa Chi, Georgia Power
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Leon Watkins, Whitestone Valley Landfill
David Word, Tanner & Associates
Debbie Philips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Melanie Johnson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Steve Friedman
Thomas Barnard
Antoinette Norfleet
Larry Blankenship
Daniel Brown
Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Sydney Brogden
Erin Ruoff
Donald Kirkland
Bert Langley
Jim Cooley
Dika Kuoh
Sarah Visser
Elizabeth Munsey
Eric Cornwell

The February 28, 2018 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Aaron McWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter called on PRHSD Director Becky Kelley to introduce the Public Focus speakers, Mark and Timothy Fievet.

Director Kelley thanked Mark and Timothy Fievet.

Chairman McWhorter adjourned the Board Meeting to move into Committee meetings.

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

Chairman McWhorter called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Wilheit to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the Title V permit program, the legislative session, and the retirement of Dr. Bert Langley.

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

Commissioner Williams commented on the recent office renovations.

Commissioner Williams mentioned Crossover Day, which also occurred on February 28. He went on to discuss the progress of DNR related legislation.

Commissioner Williams thanked everyone for their work and support of the Weekend for Wildlife and gave a special thanks to Amber Carter for her work in putting the event together. He went on to mention the dates for the 2019 Weekend for Wildlife event on February 15-16, 2019.

Commissioner Williams mentioned Field Management Day and recognized the Field Managers in attendance at the Board meeting.

Commissioner Williams recognized Colonel Eddie Henderson for being elected President of the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs (NACLEC) for a two-year term and for receiving the Guy Bradley award, the highest national honor for a Game Warden in the United States.

Commissioner Williams recognized James and Sybil Maund and thanked them for their careers working at Reynold's Mansion on Sapelo Island. He went on to wish them the best in retirement.

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

Director Haymans recognized officials from McIntosh County and thanked them for partnering with DNR on many projects.

Director Haymans mentioned the Cobia update plan that was passed in January.

Director Haymans mentioned the request to the federal government to close coastal waters to shrimping due to low population numbers and acknowledged that the waters had been closed through February and that overall catch numbers were down significantly.

Director Haymans provided details on upcoming meetings within CRD and invited anyone to attend.

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

Director Crass mentioned the third season of the Leadership Academy was about to start.

Director Crass mentioned a dedication ceremony for the Revolutionary War Battle of Briar Creek.

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

Colonel Henderson mentioned the death of K9 Briar and talked about the significance of K9s within LED.

Colonel Henderson mentioned the Georgia chapter of the Safari Club and their annual banquet, where they recognized some LED officers and presented awards.

Colonel Henderson provided an update on the LED hiring process, which will be open until the end of May, 2018.

Colonel Henderson mentioned that Cpl. Brian Adams was recognized by the Georgia Legislature for being named Game Warden of the Year.

Colonel Henderson mentioned LED's efforts to increase the number of license tags sold, with an effort to sell 1000 by the end of the year.

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

Director Kelley mentioned the upcoming groundbreaking of the Fort Yargo Visitor Center and provided some history of the State Park.

Director Kelley mentioned a new line of toys that PRHSD was introducing to raise engagement among children and get them excited about State Parks.

Director Kelley mentioned the focuses for investments for PRHSD for the upcoming year.

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

Director Garrison commented on the end of deer season and said that WRD is analyzing the reporting data from hunters. He also mentioned that February 28 was the last day of small game season and that turkey season is about to begin.

Director Garrison mentioned the coyote challenge and updated the Board on changes to the challenge to make it easier on the hunters.

Director Garrison mentioned that the Federal Government has allowed DNR to extend dove season by rearranging the dates of the season itself. He added that any proposed changes will go through public comments starting next year.

Director Garrison mentioned that it is fishing season and commented on the work the hatcheries were doing to maintain fish populations.

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Lambert for the Environmental 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 Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Chapter 391-3-20. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incineration Units. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to Sewage Sludge Incineration Units. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Davis for the Land Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.08± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to North Georgia EMC at Arrowhead Wildlife Management Area, Floyd County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board grant a Revocable License Agreement of up to 0.3± acres by the State Properties Commission to White County at Smithgall Woods State Park to pave Joe Franklin Road, White County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman

ATTEST:

Nancy A. Addison, Secretary