

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

March 27, 2018

Attending:

Board Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison, Secretary
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Guests

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Langley
Linda MacGregor, City of Gainesville
David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates
Hutton Brown, Southern Environmental Law Center
Neill Herring, Sierra Club
Joe Cook, Georgia River Network
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeeper
Jen Hilburn, Altamaha Riverkeeper
Randy Quintrell, GMA & GA Paper & Forest Products Assn.
Clay Jones, GA Association of Manufacturing
Andrew Morris, Metro Water District
Tim Perkins, Forsyth County Water
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Ronny Just, GA Power
Leon Watkins, Whitestone Landfill
Megan Huynh, Southern Environmental Law Center
Calista Moore, Wayne County High School Senior

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Melanie Johnson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Matt Smith
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Jeff Weaver
Will Smith
Ricky Boles
Jon Ambrose
John Bowers
Kathy Knowlton
Jodie Gardner

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Sydney Brogden
Erin Ruoff
Dika Kuoh
Jim Cooley
Sarah Vesser

Debbie Phillips, GIEC
Doug Mrell, Georgia Chamber
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
John Eberhart, GA Earth Alliance

The March 27, 2018 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Aaron McWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter called on Duncan Johnson to introduce the Public Focus speaker, Mr. Levi W. Hill, IV.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Hill.

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

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

Chairman McWhorter called for a motion approving the Resolution recognizing and honoring the career of Bert Langley with the Environmental Protection Division.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Resolution recognizing and honoring the career of Bert Langley with the Environmental Protection Division.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the February 28, 2018 Board of Natural Resources Meeting.

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

Director Dunn provided a legislative update to the Board, which included: HB 792 (Hazardous Waste Trust Fund); SB 451 (agricultural water metering); HB 879 (CCR dewatering); HB 885 (agricultural burning); HB 205 (fracking); and budget issues. Director Dunn also discussed drought response.

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

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the 2018 legislative session and mentioned that Sine Die was Thursday, March 29.

Commissioner Williams mentioned the new visitor center groundbreaking at Fort Yargo State Park.

Commissioner Williams discussed the NASP Georgia State Archery Tournament, which he attended.

Commissioner Williams presented a “Life Saving” award to Corporal Will Smith in Cobb County.

Commissioner Williams presented “Years of Service” awards to Walter Rabon (25 years), Artica Gaston (10 years), and Cathy Barnette (25 years).

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

Director Haymans called on Kathy Knowlton to share the results of a survey regarding recreational angler and fishing guides.

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

Director Crass provided an update on a series of historic sites and briefly discussed the upcoming Leadership Academy class.

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

Colonel Henderson provided an update on law enforcement involvement so far during the 2018 turkey season.

Colonel Henderson gave an update on hiring within the Law Enforcement Division.

Commissioner Williams called on Jon Ambrose for the Wildlife Resources Division update.

Mr. Ambrose discussed the current statistics of the 2018 turkey season and the 2018 coyote challenge.

Mr. Ambrose gave an update on fishery hatcheries throughout the state and stated the goal for 2018 was to have 12 species and more than 5 million fish produced for stocking in public waters.

Mr. Ambrose provided an update on the Gopher Tortoise Initiative.

Commissioner Williams called on Jodie Gardner to give an update on the Recreational Trails Grant program.

Jodie Gardner discussed the Recreational Trails Grant Program and the breakdown of funding, as well as upcoming dates and deadlines for 2018.

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Bagwell for the Environmental Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6. Ms. Thomaston and Mr. Davis abstained from the vote. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Yancey for the Wildlife Resources Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Fresh-water Turtle Regulations, Chapter 391-4-16, as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that an Executive Session of the Land Committee will be held upon adjournment of the Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman

ATTEST:

Nancy A. Addison, Secretary