

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

August 22, 2018

Attending:

Board Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Billy New
Mike Phelps
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bill Hodges
Jim Reyner
Bryan Tolar
Ronny Just
Dan Grogan
Andy Fleming
Chris Manganiello
Brant Lane
Deb Phillips
Kelly Jordan

Staff

Terry West, DNR Deputy Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Matthew Smith
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Jon Ambrose
John Bowers
James Hamilton
Matt Thomas
Karl Burgess
Alan Isler
Michael Staton
Phillip Spivey
Dallas Ingram
Amanda Hrubesh
VJ Nandiraju
Farida Lammari
Gary Beale

Richard Dunn, EPD Director
Lauren Curry
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays

Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Sydney Brogden
Jim Cooley
Jason Metzger
Sarah Vesser
Erin Ruoff
Shannon Alexander

The August 22, 2018 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Aaron McWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter called on the Public Focus speaker, Harold Reheis, Former Director of the Environmental Protection Division.

Chairman McWhorter thanked Mr. Reheis.

Chairman McWhorter adjourned the Board meeting to go into Committee meetings.

The Board meeting was called to order by Chairman McWhorter.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes from the June 27, 2018 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

Chairman McWhorter called on Terry West, Deputy Commissioner of the DNR, to deliver the Commissioner's Report.

Deputy Commissioner West discussed the 2018-2019 hunting season and mentioned the newest edition of the hunting regulations were now available.

Deputy Commissioner West congratulated everyone involved in the DNR SPLASH Campaign for a successful summer season and highlighted some of SPLASH's major success stories, including a donation from Georgia Power that allowed for the purchase of 550 life jackets.

Deputy Commissioner West mentioned the Office of Planning and Budget's 2% budget increase to DNR and the benefits department-wide that this increase will bring in the coming year.

Deputy Commissioner West announced that the conference center project at Indian Springs State Park was nearing completion and that a ribbon-cutting event will be held at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, September 15, 2018. The new conference center will be named the IdleWilde Event Center.

Deputy Commissioner West mentioned the upcoming retirement of Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, and thanked her again for her years of dedicated service to the DNR and the State of Georgia.

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

Director Haymans mentioned the upcoming 2018 Coast Fest and discussed the change in location for this year's event. He added that he believes this location change will bring in new visitors to the event and he anticipates it being a big success.

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

Dr. Crass provided a briefing on 9CH155, an archaeological dig site on Ossabaw Island, including the history of the site and the objectives of the current dig, which include fully delineating the site boundaries and defining unique features of the site.

Dr. Crass mentioned the involvement of DNR's Field School, a program intended to weed out graduate students who think they want to be archaeologists from those who actually have the ability to handle the workload and commitment. Dr. Crass further added that DNR maintains partnerships with UGA, UT-Chattanooga, GA Southern, and UKY for this program.

Dr. Crass stated that a main reason for this dig is to ensure that untold strands of history are brought to life and that the stories can be told. He added that it is a positive relationship-building opportunity with federally recognized tribes in the area.

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

Colonel Henderson provided an update on a drowning incident in Lake Lanier, congratulated Corporal Brian Adams and Game Warden Chris Kernahan on receiving NAWEOA Awards for excellent service in conservation law enforcement, and provided an update on the ongoing Region III artifacts investigation.

Colonel Henderson mentioned the completion of LED's transition period, which began in 2013 and was finished on August 1, 2018. This transition has streamlined operations, created a clearer chain of command, standardized training, provided better equipment and operational guidance, and reduced liability across the Division.

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

Director Kelley discussed the Friends of Georgia State Parks program and the work that the program does in partnership with DNR and other organizations to continue to make Georgia's outdoors the best in the country.

Director Kelley discussed fund support for Georgia's State Parks and discussed a variety of projects that the Division is working on, including the enhancement of overnight lodgings and the renovations of both cabins and traditional campsites.

Director Kelley also thanked everyone for supporting her during her time as Parks Director and discussed her bright hopes for the future of Georgia's State Parks system.

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

Director Garrison talked about the beginning of hunting season and mentioned the new 2018-2019 hunting regulation guide.

Director Garrison congratulated WRD staff members who recently won the Firebird Award for Landscape Restoration for their work across four WMAs in southwest Georgia.

Director Garrison mentioned the awards that WRD Public Affairs staff had won for creating and maintaining one of the most active and engaging conservation social media pages in the country.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on: the Florida v. Georgia Supreme Court litigation, the EPA Region 4 compliance and enforcement audit, gasoline, Air Branch awards, and the EPA's proposed replacement to the Clean Power Plan.

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Leebern, Vice Chair of the Coastal Committee, for the committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18 (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Lambert for the Environmental Protection Committee report.

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 the Rules for Hazardous Site Response, Chapter 391-3-19. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed FY 2019 Solid Waste Trust Fund Spend Plan. (Resolution 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 Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations for WMAs and Other State Lands, Chapter 391-4-2-.70 (Resolution 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 Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) of 1,318.9± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, Warnell Timber and Land, L.P. Tract, Bulloch County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) of 695.5± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, D.B. Warnell Estate Tract, Bulloch County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) of 670.2± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, Bunce Tract, Bulloch County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) of 10.04± acres of real property, F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc. Tract, Harris County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Lambert, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to Request a Change of use of a Heritage Preserve to widen SR 52 ALT up to 0.194± acres at Town Branch, Chief Vann House Historic Site, Murray County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek 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 Department of Transportation, Chief Vann House Historic Site, Murray 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