

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

August 27, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members

Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard, Chair
Nancy Addison, Vice Chair
Dee Yancey, Secretary
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Billy New
Paul Shailendra – Via Conference Call
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Meredith Linch, Georgia Power
Robin Lanier, Georgia Power
Tim Zorc, Terra Southern
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, Inc.
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Michael Power, Georgia Chemistry Council
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Melanie Johnson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Jon Ambrose
Charlie Killmaster
Ted Will
R. Clay George
Lacey Creech
Heidi Ferguson
Amanda Hrubesh
Aubrey Pawlikowski

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Donald Kirkland
James Cooley

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

Chairman Sinyard introduced Mr. Gary Black, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, as the Public Focus speaker.

Chairman Sinyard adjourned the Board meeting to begin the Committee meetings.

The meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Sinyard.

Chairman Sinyard called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2019 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the June 25, 2019 meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his Division Update.

Director Dunn addressed the concern of ethylene oxide as it relates to the EPA's 2014 National Air Toxics Advisory (NATA), which was released in August 2018 and identified three census tracts in Georgia that may have elevated cancer risks. He advised that EPD has been in the process of reviewing the data shared by EPA in the NATA as well as conducting additional modeling based on updated information regarding ethylene oxide emissions. This updated modeling performed by EPD indicated that no residential areas in Georgia exceed the maximum acceptable lifetime cancer risk. Director Dunn also briefed the Board on EPD's coordination with two companies, Sterigenics in Cobb County and BD Bard in Covington, who use ethylene oxide. EPD is reviewing voluntary plans to decrease emissions and will issue new permits to both companies that incorporate those plans and that achieve significant reductions of ethylene oxide emissions.

Mr. Johnson asked what other sources produce ethylene oxide, and Director Dunn stated that the scientific community is still identifying other potential sources of ethylene oxide, but that it is thought that combustion from diesel engines may be a contributor.

Director Dunn stated there being no further business, his report was concluded.

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

Commissioner Williams called on Melanie Johnson, Deputy Executive Council, to present an action item.

Ms. Johnson stated this item is a proposed Resolution approving the levy of the hotel/motel tax on Callaway Gardens for FY 2019-2020, as well as the 2019-2020 Contract governing expenditure of the tax revenue.

Ms. Johnson stated the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation is a charitable trust, and Georgia law requires the Board's advance approval for the tax levy on Callaway Gardens as well as the Contract governing expenditure of the funds.

Ms. Johnson stated she would request the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution approving Contract between the Pine Mountain Tourism Association and the Town of Pine Mountain, Georgia, for a hotel/motel tax on Callaway Gardens. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Commissioner Williams recapped recent events within the Department; highlighted banquets celebrating DNR Law Enforcement and Park Managers; updated the Board on budget instructions; and updated the Board on recent work done by the Grants Unit.

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

Director Haymans briefed the Board on Hurricane Dorian and preparations by the Division; updated the Board on the results of CRD's Dependent Survey Data Collection on Red Snapper Season (22 Team members, 409 hours); and stated the NOAA 312 Evaluation will be available soon.

Commissioner Williams called David Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for his Division Update.

Director Crass updated the Board on HPD's project in Savannah and rehabilitating Plant Riverside, which included details regarding the cost and timeline.

Commissioner Williams questioned when to expect the plant to be open? Director Crass stated in September.

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

Director Garrison introduced Ted Will, the new Chief of Game Management. He updated the board on the passing of Tom Patrick and recognized him for his outstanding work and for receiving the GPCA Lifetime Achievement Award. He also highlighted the recipients of the 2019 Association for Conservation Information National Award.

Director Garrison introduced Clay George, Senior Wildlife Biologist, for an update on the Pilot Whales in St. Simons. Mr. George provided the findings and results of the mass stranding. Commissioner Williams commended Mr. George for representing the DNR.

Commissioner Williams stated there being no further business, his report was concluded.

Chairman Sinyard called on Rob Leebern, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, for his report.

A motion on was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution regarding the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.16. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed grant criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-15.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution regarding the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1. (Resolution 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 regarding the Proposed FY 2020 Solid Waste Trust Fund Spend Plan. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called on Dwight Evans, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendment to Rule 391-4-2-.24, Pertaining to General Regulations for Hunting Deer.

Chairman Sinyard called on Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 4.94± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Diverse Power at Chickasawhatchee WMA, Calhoun and Dougherty Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Mobley, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement of up to 0.21± acres by the State Properties Commission to Taliaferro County at A.H. Stephens State Park. (Resolution 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 for the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.75± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Crisp County Power Corporation at Georgia Veteran's State Park, Crisp County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval

via Executive Order to demolish the Sunbury House at Sunbury Boat Ramp, Liberty County. (Resolution 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 for the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.0675± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to McDuffie County at the WRD Region 3 Office. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard announced the next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on September 24, 2019, in the DNR Boardroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Chairman

ATTEST:

Delos H. Yancey, III, Secretary