

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

September 24, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members

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

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Agriculture Council
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Jim Renner, Southern Ionics Minerals
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Jake Tench, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katie Gregory, McGuire Woods
Ronny Just, GA Power
Jason Wilhelm, Office of the Governor
Leah Dixon, GA Conservancy

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Carolyn Belcher
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Chuck Mueller
Donald Kirkland
Dika Kuoh

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

Chairman Sinyard introduced Mr. Sonny Deriso, 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 August 27, 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 August 27, 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 updated the Board on ethylene oxide and air quality monitoring, removal of the low Reid Vapor Pressure gasoline requirement in Atlanta metro area, and the current “flash drought” in south metropolitan Atlanta.

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 updated the Board on the Golden Ray shipwreck in St. Simons, National Hunting and Fishing Day, a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 3, at the Evans County Public Fishing Area for the event center and campground, and a ribbon cutting at Gordonia-Altamaha State Park on October 3, for the opening of a new golfer cabin.

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

Director Haymans provided information about the Golden Ray shipwreck in the Port of Brunswick, staff involvement at the Unified Command Center, the rescue of four crew members from the engine and control room, extinguishing the fire on the vessel, the removal of vehicles onboard the vessel, reports of minimal oil leakage and ideas to mitigate the transferability to animals, and the salvage plan and anticipated timeline for removing the vessel.

Discussion ensued.

Director Haymans extended an invitation to attend the 25th Anniversary of CoastFest on October 5, 2019.

Commissioner Williams called on Colonel Thomas Barnard, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his division update.

Colonel Barnard updated the Board on the boating stats, Dove Season’s opening weekend, and Hurricane Dorian.

Colonel Barnard announced that Corporal Quinn Fogle was named the 2019 Game Warden of the Year at the Sixth Annual Game Warden Awards Banquet in Savannah, GA. Game Warden First Class Patrick Gibbs received the James R. Darnell Award, as the runner-up for the award.

Colonel Barnard updated the board on WMA thefts that started back in May. He stated that eleven WMAs had been hit, some twice, and equipment was stolen. He further stated five search warrants have been executed and two subjects are in jail. Half of the equipment has been recovered, including ATVs, guns, etc. Colonel Barnard stated he will provide a full report at the October board meeting.

Commissioner Williams called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, for his division update.

Director Cown gave an update on Dog Splash & Luau at the Liberty Bell Pool at F. D. Roosevelt State Park and stated there were 658 dogs at the event, the rally in Dahlonga, GA, Hurricane Dorian evacuees, which included 60 horses, Leaf Watch 2019, Your State Parks Day event, and National Hunting and Fishing Day.

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

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 Acquisition (purchase) of 1,914.6+ acres of real property, Moody Forest WMA, Appling County and Sansavilla WMA, Wayne and Brantley Counties, Rayonier Tracts. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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 and Permanent Easement of up to 0.75± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power at Fort Yargo State Park for Victor Lord Park, Barrow County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Sinyard announced the next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on October 22, 2019, in the DNR Boardroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Chairman

ATTEST:

Delos H. Yancey, III, Secretary