

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
A. W. Jones Heritage Center
610 Beachview Drive
St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

**January 28, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Board Members

Dee Yancey, Chairman
Bill Jones, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard
Gary Vowell

Guests

Duane Harris
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Jared DiVincent
Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network
Chris Bertrand, Satilla Riverkeeper
Dr. Bill Clark, Okefenokee Swamp Park
Ben Wall
Maggie Van Cantfort, Altamaha Riverkeeper
Tom Wheeler
Brooks Schoen, The Environmental Resources Network
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Donald Kirkland
Thomas Barnard
Taylor Brown
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Karl Burgess
Tyler Jones
Kathy Knowlton

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The January 28, 2022 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dee Yancey.

Chairman Yancey called on Cathy Barnette for a declaration of quorum.

Chairman Yancey adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

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

Chairman Yancey called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Natural Resources meeting on December 7, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board of Natural Resources meeting on December 7, 2021.

Chairman Yancey called on Richard Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn updated the Board on the FY 2022 and 2023 budget, including a proposed raise for all state employees and replacing fleet vehicles and lab equipment, and House Bill 893, which will provide for the reauthorization of fees in the Solid and Hazardous Waste Trust Fund. He further updated the Board on the Golden Ray executed consent order, the status of Twin Pines Mining, and coal ash.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams called on Taylor Brown, Chief of Grants, to present the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Fund 2021-2022 Approved Proposal of Projects.

Ms. Brown stated the first item is a request for approval of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Fund 2021-2022 Approved Proposal of Projects. She further stated the GOSP provides grants and loans to local governments, non-profit organizations, and state agencies for recreation and conservation projects. She added the pre-application cycle opened in August and closed in October, and the projects were reviewed and ranked by the review team.

She further added that she would like to thank Kathy Knowlton for her assistance in reviewing and scoring projects.

Ms. Brown stated in January the GOSA Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the slate of projects. She further stated that once approved the projects will now be transmitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees for approval and would then enter the second-level application phase.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously to approve the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Fund 2021-2022 Approved Proposal of Projects.

Ms. Brown continued with a presentation of the 2021-2022 Recreational Trails Program and the slate of projects that ranked highest. She stated the program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and funds trail projects and trail-related amenities for local governments and state agencies. She further stated that following this presentation, the list will be presented to the trail advisory committee. She added that once the projects are approved the applicants will be notified and then enter the second-level application phase.

Commissioner Williams thanked Ms. Brown and the grants team for their great work on the proposal of projects.

Commissioner Williams provided a legislative update and stated the Department has no legislation but will closely monitor and track bills.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on Keep Georgia Wild Day at the Capitol on January 13, and Governor Kemp's budget report, which includes \$18,620,000 for George T. Bagby State Park and \$5,000 in cost-of-living adjustments for all full-time employees.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the Winter Storm Izzy response, staff vacancies and new hires, the 36th Annual Game Warden Academy, Hunting Season, Atlanta Crime Suppression, and Chronic Wasting Disease.

Commissioner Williams called on Jeff Cown, Director of State Park & Historic Sites, for his report.

Director Cown provided an update on First Day Hikes around the state, the All-Terrain Georgia Program, Winter Storm Izzy Response, including snowfall accumulation, power outages and flooding.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on Shellfish Mariculture in McIntosh and Chatham Counties, a \$20,000 endowment presented to Coastal Pines Technical College for Basic Commercial Fisherman Program and \$5,000 to immediately fund the scholarship, and the Golden Ray wreck site and debris removal.

Commissioner Williams called on Ted Will, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Will provided an update on Chronic Wasting Disease, deer harvest totals for the 2021 season, and a new state record Shoal Bass.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Yancey called on Tim Lowe, Acting Chairman of the Coastal Committee, in the absence of Chair Miki Thomaston, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mrs. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Yancey called on Dwight Davis, Acting Chairman of the Land Committee, in the absence of Chairman Dwight Evans, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25-year lease agreement with Wayne County, GA to lease

Upper County Boat Ramp Landing, Wayne County, 2.90+ acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25-year lease agreement with City of Abbeville, GA to lease Half Moon Boat Ramp Landing, Wilcox County, 1.14+ acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Yancey called on Bodine Sinyard, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Lambert, and carried unanimously to elect the following Officers for 2022: Bill Jones, Chairman; Dwight Davis, Vice Chairman; and Duncan Johnson, Jr., Secretary.

Chairman Yancey stated that it had been an honor and privilege to serve as Chairman in 2021 and thanked the members of the Board for their confidence him and for their continued service. He thanked his wife, Molly Yancey, who was in attendance. He further stated that he would like to thank the Commissioner and staff at DNR and Director Dunn and staff at EPD for their exceptional hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A. W. Jones, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Secretary