

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Banquet Room – Dining Hall
543 Elliott Trail
Mansfield, GA 30055**

**Tuesday, August 23, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Board Members

Bill Jones, Chair
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Gary Vowell

Guests

Andrea White, Georgia River Network
Max Brown, Georgia Audubon, Sierra Club
Lyndy Saporow, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Ted Will
Doug Haymans
Brett Albanese
Alan Isler
Jon Ambrose
Taylor Brown
Daniel Brown
Lindsey Brown
Whitney Fenwick
Jared Flowers
Jennifer Gadson
Brock Hoyt
Jessica James-Weems
Casey Jones
Thom Litts
Soheila Naji
Mark Patterson

Richard Dunn, Director
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller

The August 23, 2022 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Jones.

Chairman Jones thanked Director Ted Will and staff for hosting the August Board of Natural Resources meeting at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

Chairman Jones introduced Alan Isler, Chief of Game Management, Wildlife Resources Division, for a moment of inspiration.

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

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

Chairman Jones called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on June 16, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on June 16, 2022.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the Twin Pines proposed mine in the Okefenokee Swamp, including a timeline of past events, current updates, and future public comment notice and comment periods.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams welcomed everyone to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and thanked Kim Morris-Zarneke and her team for hosting the August board meeting.

Commissioner Williams recognized Game Warden Brock Hoyt for being named the 2022 International Wildlife Crimestoppers (IWC) Game Warden of the Year and for receiving the 2022 Torch Award from the North America Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) at their annual meeting in Nashville. He stated that Brock is the third Georgia game warden in a row

to win the award. Commissioner Williams congratulated Brock on the awards and thanked him for the good work he is doing.

Commissioner Williams recognized and congratulated Denise Shepherd, Social Media Specialist at the Wildlife Resources Division, for winning First Place for the conservation post of the year. He stated that Ms. Shepherd also was awarded Second Place for the best social media campaign and that both are national awards that were presented at the Association for Conservation Professionals Conference in Nashville.

Commissioner Williams stated he would also like to congratulate the new Assistant Director of State Parks and Historic Sites, Angie Johnson.

Commissioner Williams stated that recently he was able to spend some time with all the parks managers at the Parks and Friends of Parks Managers Conference and recognize some of the Division's top performers.

Commissioner Williams asked everyone to be on the lookout for the Weekend for Wildlife letters and asked everyone to mark their calendars for the annual event on January 27-28, 2023.

Commissioner Williams thanked Ms. Taylor Brown, Mr. Lindsey Brown, and the entire staff that worked to make the first-ever Career Academy a huge success. He stated that the feedback received from the participants, parents, and staff was overwhelming. He called on Mr. Brown, who served as the Camp Director, to give a short presentation about the academy.

Mr. Brown provided an overview of the career academy. He stated there were more than 270 applicants and 21 Georgia high school students participated. He further stated the participants attended for 7 days and 6 nights and worked hands-on with boots-on-the-ground staff. The DNR Sites were Marben PFA, Clybel WMA, Hard Labor Creek SP, Fort King George HS, Jackson Lake Boathouse, Richmond Hill Hatchery, Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, and DNR Coastal Regional Office.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on Region Legislative Update Meetings, the Moultrie undercover investigation, July 4th weekend stats, Special Operations Group (SOG) training, an update on the 37th Academy hiring process, and the Ninth Annual Game Warden Awards Banquet.

Colonel Barnard stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams called on Jeff Cown, Director of the State Parks and Historic Sites Division, for his report.

Director Cown provided an update on Black Rock Mountain cottage renovations, Fort McAllister cottages 1-3 improvements, bear management at Fort Mountain, Inland Boat Operation Course at George T. Bagby State Park, storm damage response at Hard Labor Creek, renovations at Stephen C. Foster Eco-Lodge, and the 2022 Park Managers Conference.

Director Cown stated this concluded his report.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on the Summer of Fun at CRD, including Family Fishing Clinics, Fishing Camps, Reading Events, and specials such as COPS, PF/QF National Youth Leadership, Gateway Behavior Health, DEAR, and FACES. He stated there were 200 kid and one educator.

Director Haymans stated that the 47-foot Research Vessel, R/V Marguerite, was auctioned off this week and sold.

Director Haymans invited everyone to attend CoastFest 2022, on Saturday, October 1, 2022, at Mary Ross Waterfront Park.

Director Haymans stated this concluded his report.

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

Director Will provided an update on the Education Center Summer Camps at Go Fish and McDuffie Education Centers, North Georgia Resource Management surveying wild brook trout and GPS-monitoring of bears on central north WMAs, the kick-off of Hunting Season, Prescribed Fire with more than 75,000 acres burned on WMAs and state parks, the Dolphin Health Assessment Project, and recognized Social Media Specialist Denise Shepherd and the Public Affairs Team for winning two awards from the Association for Conservation Information: First Place for Conservation Post of the Year for her Creepy Critters Week: Hognose Plays Dead video, and Second Place for Best Social Media Campaign for her Mythbuster: Wildlife Edition social series.

Director Will stated this concluded his report.

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Chairman Jones called on Nancy Addison, Chair of the Coastal Committee for her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.15. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Miscellaneous Changes and Updates. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Open Burning. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Jones called on Tim Lowe, Chairman of the Land Committee, for is report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Acquisition (Purchase) of 236.9+ acres as an addition to Indian Springs State Park, Butts County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Vowell, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to Remove the Heritage Preserve Dedication of 5.98+ acres of the Paradise PFA, Berrien County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Ayers, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to Grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.026± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power at JL Lester WMA, Polk County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties

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Commission approval to Grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.009± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Satilla REMC at Bullard Creek WMA, Jeff Davis County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to Enter into an Eighteen (18) Year Sublease with Seminole County for the 60± acres Cummings Landing tract, Lake Seminole State Park, Seminole County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A. W. Jones, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Secretary