

**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources**  
**Fort McAllister State Park**  
**Group Shelter**  
**3894 Fort McAllister Road**  
**Richmond Hill, GA 31324**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Board Members**

Bill Jones, Chair  
Dwight Davis, Vice Chair  
Duncan Johnson, Secretary  
Nancy Addison  
William Bagwell  
Randy Dellinger  
Patrick Denney  
Dwight Evans  
Joe Hatfield  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Tim Lowe  
Billy New  
Bodine Sinyard  
Miki Thomaston

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Donald Kirkland  
Cathy Barnette  
Steve Friedman  
Doug Haymans  
Lt. Brian Adams  
Brett Albanese  
Jon Ambrose  
Brad Ballard  
Tim Barrett  
Jason Carter  
Ellen Graham  
Major Bob Holley  
Thom Litts  
Londa Moates  
Clint Peacock

Richard Dunn, Director  
John Eunice  
Karen Hays

The October 25, 2022 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Jones.

Chairman Jones thanked Nancy Addison for arranging a great visit to the Ford Field and River Club.

Chairman Jones stated that Director Jeff Cown could not be in attendance, but he wanted to publicly thank him, Park Manager Jason Carter, Ellen Graham, and staff for hosting the October Board of Natural Resources meeting at Fort McAllister State Park.

Chairman Jones introduced Tim Barrett, Region VI Fisheries Supervisor, for a moment of inspiration.

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

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 September 27, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on September 27, 2022.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the execution of contracts for the storage of water supply in Lake Lanier and EPA's approval of Georgia's request to have Atlanta nonattainment-area redesignated as attainment for the 2015 ozone NAAQS standard. 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 began his report by welcoming everyone to Fort McAllister State Park. He thanked Director Jeff Cown, Ellen Graham, Region Manager Brad Ballard, and Park Manager Jason Carter for hosting the October meeting.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the GOSA application process and stated that 55 applications were received, requesting more than \$107 million in funding. He further stated that last week, one of the previous projects, the Beltline Westside Trail Segment 3, had a ribbon cutting with Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens and is now fully open.

Commissioner Williams stated that Donald Kirkland, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, was featured on 11Alive to discuss Indigenous People's Day and the challenges specific to Native Americans in Georgia. He further stated that, as you can imagine, Donald will have a busy November as he and the Council work with partners around the state to celebrate Native American Heritage month. He added that they are finalizing a date for a proclamation with Governor Kemp and will participate in a tree planting on Capitol grounds on November 10, as a result of Senate Resolution 504.

Commissioner Williams stated that he is pleased to announce that Katherine Darsey has been selected to fill the Chief of Administrative Services position for the State Parks and Historic Sites Division. He further stated that Katherine has been employed by the DNR for 11 years, starting as a seasonal clerk. He added that Katherine has come a long way, and I know she will do a great job.

Commissioner Williams called on Major Bob Holley, Law Enforcement Division, in the absence of Colonel Thomas Barnard, his report.

Major Holley updated the Board on the Hurricane Ian Response, Use of Force and De-escalation S.W.A.T. Training, FBI National Academy, and Special Operations Group – ATV and Protest/Riot Training.

Major Holley stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams called on Ellen Graham, State Parks & Historic Sites Division, in the absence of Director Cown, for her report.

Ms. Graham updated the Board on Leaf Watch 2022, PHSD at the Georgia National Fair, East Rim Campground Renovation at Cloudland Canyon State Park, the Kirbo Center Museum Dedication at Florence Marina, GPB Filming at Cloudland Canyon State Park, National Footgolf Championship at Jack Hill, and the 2022 Board of Natural Resources meetings that were hosted by the Parks & Historic Sites Division.

Ms. Graham stated this concluded her report.

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

Director Haymans updated the Board on the cancellation of CoastFest 2022 and announced the make-up date is Saturday, April 22, 2023, which is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. He further updated the Board on the new saltwater record for a record-tying Florida Pompano, which was landed on St. Simons Island on October 9.

Director Haymans stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams called on Thom Litts, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, in the absence of Director Ted Will, for his report.

Assistant Director Litts updated the Board on National Hunting and Fishing Day, Archery Season Harvest Data 2021-2022, Alligator Harvest Data 2022 Season, Fisheries Structure and Program Improvements, the robust population of the gopher tortoise, and testing the use of a “ropeless” sea bass trap, which would enable fishermen to resume fishing for sea bass during the right whale calving season.

Assistant Director Litts stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Grant Criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-.15.

Mr. Lambert stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Jones called on Mr. Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously, that the Committee recommends the Board approve the Proposed Amendment to Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-4-3.

Mr. Denney stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for Conveyance (Donation) of one property from the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), approximately 98+ acres, in Murray County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Acquisition (Purchase) of 40.8+ acres as an addition to Sheffield Forest WMA, Paulding County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Mr. Lowe stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Jones appointed the following individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2023 Board of Natural Resources Officers: Ray Lambert, Chairman, William Bagwell, Duncan Johnson, and Dee Yancey.

Chairman Jones stated the Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award recognizes someone who has made significant contributions to support the DNR's mission. He further stated the award wasn't given during COVID and he would like to see this be resumed this year.

Chairman Jones appointed the following individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2022 Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award: Tim Lowe, Chairman, Dwight Evans, Patrick Denney, and Randy Dellinger.

The Land Committee was not reconvened, and the Executive Session was not held.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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A. W. Jones, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Secretary