

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Mercer University
President's Dining Room
1501 Mercer University Drive
Macon, GA 31207**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Board Members

Dwight Davis, Chair
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair
Gary Vowell, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Charles DePriest
Dan Garcia
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Tim Lowe
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Major Bob Holley
Angie Johnson
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director
Karen Hays
Jim Boylan
Anna Truszczynski

Guests

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble
Seth Clark, Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Governmental Relations
Joshua Andrews, Georgia Power Company
Rosa Chi, Georgia Power Company
Shelley Cartwright, Georgia Power Company
Wayne Fuller, Reed Bingham State Park

The April 25, 2023 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwight Davis.

Chairman Davis welcomed everyone to Mercer University and thanked President Bill Underwood and his staff for hosting the April meeting on their beautiful campus.

Chairman Davis introduced Seth Clark, Executive Director of the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative and Mayor Pro Tem of Macon-Bibb County, as the guest speaker to update the Board on their work to expand the current site of the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park into Georgia's first National Park and Preserve.

Chairman Davis thanked Mr. Clark for the informative presentation.

Chairman Davis recognized Dwight Evans and presented him with a resolution honoring him and expressing appreciation for his years of service on the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Davis recognized Karen Hays and presented her with a resolution honoring her and expressing appreciation for her years of employment with the Environmental Protection Division.

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

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

Chairman Davis called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on March 28, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on March 28, 2023.

Chairman Davis called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn updated the Board on two EPA draft rules for commercial sterilizers and PFAS that are on public notice for public comment, Pinova facility, and Twin Pines draft mining land use plan. Ania Truszczynski, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, presented to the Board an overview of the Watershed Protection Branch.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked President Bill Underwood and staff for hosting the April board meeting at Mercer University.

Commissioner Williams welcomed Mark Hennessy as the newest member of the Board of Natural Resources and stated that he will be a great addition to the board.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the new charging stations at Tallulah Gorge State Park, the 37th Game Warden Graduation Ceremony, the success of 2023 CoastFest, the DNR's Leadership Academy, and encouraged everyone to purchase tickets to attend the first Night for Wildlife.

Commissioner Williams called on Major Bob Holley, Special Operations, Law Enforcement Division, for his report.

Major Holley provided an update on the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, the FARO scanner, the Rock Doctor – Investigative Unit and the illegal excavation and sale of Native American artifacts, and the new K-9 training progress.

Major Holley stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams called on Angie Johnson, Assistant Director of State Parks & Historic Sites, for her report.

Assistant Director Johnson provided an update on the Georgia Park Ranger Academy Graduation, the Wilderness First Responder Class, Black Rock Mountain Partnership with Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forest to work on their prescribed fire program, new yurts at Skidaway Island, clean up at High Falls, Savannah Harbor Artifacts, Roosevelt's Little White House Ceremony, and the First EV Charger in Georgia State Parks.

Assistant Director Johnson stated this concluded her report.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on public access improvements in Village Creek and Darien, the Georgia Saltwater Game Fish Record of a 5 lbs. 5.56 oz. Vermillion Snapper, the Ecosystem Report Card and overall score of 74 percent (B) in 2022, and the success of 2023 CoastFest.

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 a Game Management update on the prescribed burn season, statewide turkey harvest and public meetings on proposed regulations. He provided a Fisheries Management update on a new angler recognition program: The Trout Slam, and the Georgia Fish Art Competition sponsored by Wildlife Forever, and the warm-water fish hatcheries. He provided a Wildlife Conservation update on the installation of red-cockaded woodpecker cavity inserts on Warbick Farms in Thomas County.

Director Will stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, Pertaining to Asset Management Plans.

Mr. Lambert stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from Thomasville National Bank Financial Services, Trustee of Wight Residuary Marital Trust of 874± acres as an addition to the Lake Seminole WMA, Seminole County.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Denney, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from The Conservation Fund of 2,057± acres as an addition to Dawson Forest WMA, Dawson County.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Ayers, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.54± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Heron Mill, at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglass County.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.13± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power, at Jack Hill State Park, Tattnall County.

Mr. Lowe stated this concluded his report.

Mr. Lowe stated there will be an Executive Session of the Land Committee at the conclusion of the Board meeting.

Chairman Davis stated the next board meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, in the DNR Boardroom, at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., S.E., 1252 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwight J. Davis, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gary Vowell, Secretary