

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

**Tuesday, May 23, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Board Members**

Dwight Davis, Chair  
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair  
Gary Vowell, Secretary  
Nancy Addison  
Patrick Denney  
Charles DePriest  
Dan Garcia  
Kevin Jackson  
Duncan Johnson  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Paul Shailendra

**Guests**

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club  
Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council  
Debbie Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition  
Lindsay McVicar, GA Senate Budget and Evaluation Office  
John Eberhart, GA Earth Alliance  
Reaganne Hart, Office of the Governor

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Kate Iannuzzi  
Donald Kirkland  
Cathy Barnette  
Artica Gaston  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Steve Friedman  
Ted Will  
Mark Patterson  
Mike England  
Stephen Adams  
Tina Johannsen  
  
Richard Dunn, Director  
James Boylan  
Chuck Mueller  
Anna Truszczynski  
Laura Williams  
DeAnna Oser  
Sarah Visser

The May 23, 2023 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwight Davis.

Chairman Davis introduced Lt. Mark Patterson, as the Employee Spotlight speaker, for a special permits overview.

Chairman Davis thanked Lt. Patterson.

Chairman Davis recognized Billy New 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 Bill Donohue and presented him with a resolution honoring him and expressing appreciation for his years of service.

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 April 25, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Addison, to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on April 23, 2023.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on EPD potentially opening opportunities for frost protection permits within the Southwestern portion of the State. Chuck Mueller, Chief of the Land Protection Branch, presented to the Board an overview of the Land 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 called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel, to present the Sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY2023-2024 and FY2022-2023 General Appropriations Acts.

Mr. Pearson stated that the General Appropriations Act for FY2023-2024, the General Assembly included items for DNR projects with a total value of \$27,325,000 that are to be funded by General Obligation bonds. He further stated that in the General Appropriations Act for 2022-2023, the General Assembly included items for Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority projects with a total value of \$10,000,000 that are to be funded by General Obligation bonds. He added the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) determined that it would be most advantageous to sell the bonds for these projects, along with bonds for other agencies and authorities, in several sales spread throughout the year.

Mr. Pearson stated one of those sales is now being considered and includes all \$27,325,000 of DNR's money and all \$10,000,000 of the money for projects for Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority. He further stated the projects the DNR will fund with the proceeds of this sale are: \$25,550,000 for facility major improvements and renovations; \$1,775,000 for vehicles and equipment; and \$10,000,000 for projects for Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority. He added that all \$10,000,000 for projects for Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority, as well as \$6,000,000 for DNR projects, will be issued as federally taxable bonds. He further added that this means they can be used for projects at state owned facilities that are privately operated.

Mr. Pearson stated the State Law Department has prepared two Resolutions concerning these bonds for consideration by the Board. He further stated that one Resolution deals with the bonds for the \$27,325,000 for DNR projects, and the other Resolution deals with the bond for the \$10,000,000 for Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority projects. He further added that in the Resolutions, the Board requests the issuance of the bonds.

Mr. Pearson stated if there are no questions, he requests the Boards favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY2023-2024 and FY2022-2023 General Appropriations Acts – Department of Natural Resources Projects. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY2023-2024 and FY2022-2023 General Appropriations Acts – Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority Projects. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Williams began his update by welcoming the newest board member, Harley Yancey, and stated that he looked forward to meeting him at the June board meeting.

Commissioner Williams stated the next session of the DNR Leadership Academy will be held on June 13-15 at Cloudland Canyon State Park and invited everyone to attend.

Commissioner Williams stated the second DNR Career Academy will be held on July 16-22. He further stated that this is a week-long resident course offered to high school students to entice them to work for the department. He added that we look forward to having these outstanding students for a busy week.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the 37<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Academy Graduation, Turkey Season, Inservice Training, Promotion Test/Power DMS, Awards, and a boating incident on the Satilla River.

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 the FDR Warm Springs Memorial Advisory Committee and the recent appointment of Mr. Judd Smith, who retired last year as the Parks Historian, the I-95 Visitor Center and the new Richmond Hill kiosk that features Fort McAllister, Park Manager Desmond Timmons, Park Manager of the Year in 2022, for completing the Indiana University Executive Development Program, Birding Bootcamps in the Mountains and Piedmont, Coastal Birding Bootcamp and World Migratory Bird Festival, Friends Helping Friends event at Richard B. Russell State Park, and Lake Sampling at the park lake at Jack Hill State Park.

Director Cown 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 Great Outdoor Days on the Atlanta BeltLine, a Game Management update including turkey season and a Bear Incident Response workshop at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, a Wildlife Conservation update including the SWAP Advisory Committee meeting on May 16, and a Fisheries Management update including the annual electrofishing surveys at Lake Allatoona, channel catfish spawning time at Cordele Fish Hatchery, and the Boating Access Program improvements at Tuckahoe WMA ramps and a ramp rebuild on the Alapaha River.

Director Will stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams announced to the Board that he had accepted an offer to be the new executive director of the Jekyll Island Authority. He stated that the Jekyll Island Authority board was currently meeting and if his appointment is affirmed, the job is proposed to begin on July 1, 2023. He further stated it has been an absolute honor to serve as the Commissioner. He thanked the Board and staff for their hard work and dedication and for supporting him and his family.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his remarks.

Chairman Davis thanked Commissioner Williams and stated that his set of skills in the private sector and the legislature, as well as his love for the outdoors, are exceptional and will be difficult to replace. He further stated it has been an honor to work with him and the Board will plan a formal gathering to celebrate his tenure with the Department.

Chairman Davis called on Ray Lambert, Chairman 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 Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, Pertaining to Non-attainment Area New Source Review and Emission Statement Removal. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

Mr. Lambert stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Davis called on Mr. Denney, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Mr. Vowell, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2 and Sale of Alligator Meat and Products, 391-4-13.

Mr. Denney stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Davis called on Mr. DePriest, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from ASF Georgia Holdings, LLC 1,488± acres as an addition to Providence Canyon State Park, Stewart County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from Double Rails Properties, LLC, 215± acres as an addition to Providence Canyon State Park, Stewart County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from Hewlett H. Weaver Living Trust 104± acres as an addition to Sprewell Bluff State Park, Meriwether County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. 2,409± acres as an addition to Sansavilla WMA, Wayne County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from the Corley Family 42± acres as an addition to the Paulding Forest WMA, Paulding County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the purchase from Jupiter Timberlands, LLC 386± acres as an addition to Dugdown Mountain Corridor, Tallapoosa River VPA, Haralson and Polk Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to accept the donation from The Nature Conservancy 375± acres as an addition to Morgan Lake WMA, Wayne and Long Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to enter into a Ground Lease with Paulding County, Paulding Forest WMA. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. DePriest stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Davis called on Mr. Lambert for action on establishing the salary of the Director of the Environmental Protection Division.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the salary for the Director of the Environmental Protection Division at \$190,000 per year.

Chairman Davis stated the next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, in the DNR Boardroom, in Atlanta.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Dwight J. Davis, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Gary Vowell, Secretary