

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

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Board Members

Dwight Davis, Chair
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Charles DePriest
Dan Garcia
Mark Hennessy
Kevin Jackson
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Tim Lowe
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Harley Yancey

Guests

Mark Osterhaus, Coral Hospitality
Danielle Torres, Coral Hospitality
John Eberhart, GA Earth Alliance
Brent Churchwell, Senate Budget & Evaluation Office
Reaganne Hart, Governor's Office
Will Bentley, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Angie Johnson
Tina Johannsen
Scott Robinson
Richie Golden
Thom Little

Richard Dunn, Director
James Boylan
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski

The June 27, 2023 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwight Davis.

Chairman Davis recognized Robert D. Leebern, Jr. and presented him with a resolution honoring him and expressing appreciation for his years of service on the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Davis announced that the June Employee Spotlight will include a special video presentation honoring Commissioner Mark Williams.

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 May 23, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on May 23, 2023.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on a meeting with Stakeholders about modifications to the current moratorium on groundwater and surface water withdrawals in Southeast Georgia and on tire fee point of collection change to distributors to implement SB 95.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked the Board for a wonderful send-off dinner and generous gift on Monday evening. He thanked his wife Pam for her unwavering support over the years.

Commissioner Williams recognized Mr. Davis Knox, the great grandson of Georgia Governor Lamartine Griffin Hardman, and thanked him for attending the board meeting.

Commissioner Williams recognized Mr. Charles Burton, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Lake Lanier Island Development Authority and North Georgia Mountains Authority.

Commissioner Williams welcomed Mr. Harley Yancey, the newly appointed Board member representing the 14th District.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the DNR Career Academy on July 16-22, 2023, and invited the board members to attend the great programs at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and Jekyll Island.

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

Colonel Barnard updated the Board on the new wakeboarding/wakesurfing law, a Lake Jackson boating incident, Operation State Park Bandits, and Boating Season Outreach.

Colonel Barnard stated this concluded his report.

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

Director Cown updated the Board on the Annual Interpretive Training at Red Top Mountain from May 15-17, the 20th Annual Roger Bruce Family Fun Day at Sweetwater Creek State Park, the “Remember the Removal” riders hosted by the Chief Vann House staff and Friends on June 5, the “Rosie the Riveter” program at Roosevelt’s Little White House on June 3, the Vogel Fishing Rodeo with WRD on June 10, and the Summer Junior Ranger Camps at Crooked River, Fort King George, Skidaway Island and Panola Mountain.

Director Cown state this concluded his report.

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

Director Haymans updated the Board on the habitat enhancement and Bird Island shell deployment, the living shoreline demonstration at CRH, the milestone marks of the subtidal oyster lease, the coastal road-stream crossing survey, the opening of shrimp season, and the Golden Isles Kids Fishing Event on June 3.

Director Haymans stated this concluded his report.

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

Director Will updated the Board on Chronic Wasting Disease. He stated that earlier this month CWD was confirmed in Holmes County, Florida. He further stated that CWD has not been

found in Georgia to date. He added that since 2002, DNR has tested over 10,000 deer, and sampling intensity increased in 2019 with the latest scientific developments. He added that the DNR currently collects about 1,500 samples per season and sampling intensity in each county depends on risk factors such as captive deer facilities, number of taxidermists and processors, past sampling effort, and distance to known CWD areas. He further added that the goal is early detection of CWD, determine the prevalence and geographic extent, and minimize the spread or even eradicate, if possible.

Director Will updated the board on boating access enhancements projects including a ramp at Miller's Lake and two other ramps on Tuckahoe WMA on the Savannah River in East Georgia.

Director Will congratulated Dr. Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief of Game Management, for her graduation from the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

Director Will stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. (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. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendment to Rule 391-4-2-.47, Pertaining to Ducks.

Mr. Denney stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 5.19± acres by the State Properties Commission and General

Assembly to Georgia Power, at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 6,230 feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Trenton Telephone Company at Cloudland Canyon State Park, Dade County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the extension of an existing lease agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of up to 142± acres at Stephen C. Foster State Park, Charlton County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve to enter into a third lease amendment until 2073 for the 1,361± acres Lake Lanier Islands with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and to enter into a fourth sublease amendment with the Lake Lanier Island Development Authority, Gwinnett County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 300 feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power at Jack Hill State Park, Tattnall County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Lowe stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Davis stated the final item on the agenda, under Other Business, is a resolution honoring Commissioner Mark Williams. He stepped to the podium to read the resolution and stated the item will require a vote by the full Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to Commissioner Mark Williams.

Chairman Davis invited Commissioner Williams to the podium for comments.

Commissioner Williams began by introducing his family and thanking them for attending. He thanked the Board for their service and support over the years. He thanked Cathy Barnette, Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon, Director of Administrative Services Artica Gaston, the DNR

Division Directors, and all the DNR staff for their hard work and support over the years. He thanked the partners of DNR who were in attendance from The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Wildlife Federation and Georgia Conservancy. He thanked Mr. Rick Dunn for his work as Director of the EPD and for his support of the DNR.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Davis called on Reagane Hart, Office of the Governor, to present a commendation from Governor Brian Kemp, expressing appreciation to Mark Williams for his service as the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Chairman Davis stated the North Georgia Mountains Authority will meet immediately following the Board of Natural Resources meeting.

Chairman Davis stated the next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on August 22, 2023, in the DNR Boardroom, in Atlanta.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwight J. Davis, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gary Vowell, Secretary