

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

February 27, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Board Members

Joe Hatfield, Chair
Gary Vowell, Vice Chair
Lesley Reynolds, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Kevin Jackson
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Brent Layton
Bodine Sinyard

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Alice Keyes, One Hundred Miles
Trust for Public Land Board
Aldon Ortego, Samsara

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Artica Gaston
Cathy Barnette
Alexus Thompson
Mike England
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Angie Johnson
Ted Will
Lyndy Rogers
Jill Andrews
Tina Johannsen

Jeff Cown, Director
James Boylan
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski
Katie Hegarty

The February 27, 2024 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Hatfield.

Chairman Hatfield welcomed Mr. Brent Layton to the Board of Natural Resources, representing District 5.

Chairman Hatfield called on Corporal Clint Jarriel for a moment of inspiration.

Chairman Hatfield thanked Corporal Jarriel for attending the meeting and providing words of inspiration to the board.

Chairman Hatfield called on Ms. Lyndy Rogers, Executive Director of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, for an update on the 2024 Weekend for Wildlife.

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

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

Chairman Hatfield called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on January 23, 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on January 23, 2024.

Chairman Hatfield called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Cown updated the Board on issuing draft permits for the Twin Pines mining project near the Okefenokee swamp, discussing the new federal standard for PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), and reviewed the 2023 Fish Consumption Guidelines, as a follow up to the last Board meeting.

Director Cown stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Hatfield called on Walter Rabon, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Rabon began his report by welcoming Mr. Brent Layton to the Board of Natural Resources.

Commissioner Rabon thanked Lyndy Rogers for her Weekend for Wildlife update and announced that 3 million dollars was raised during the annual event. He publicly thanked each of the sponsors and attendees for continuing to help the weekend grow and acknowledged the hard work of the staff who do an amazing job each year. He congratulated Lyndy Rogers for a great weekend and for ensuring the Weekend for Wildlife is a success.

Commissioner Rabon provided an update on DNR's new Adaptive Hunting and Fishing Program and announced that \$460,000 was raised for this new initiative.

Commissioner Rabon provided a legislative update and stated that work continues with members of the General Assembly to provide educational information and feedback on a host of proposed bills and issues.

Commissioner Rabon called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his update.

Director Haymans provided an update on reef deployment and updates to the division's website.

Director Haymans stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Rabon called on Colonel Mike England, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his update.

Colonel England provided an update on the Game Warden Academy; Special Operations Group (SOG) training; the arrest of a South Georgia nuisance trapper for conducting illegal, guided hunts of alligator and deer (Operation Gatorman); the new Lieutenant of Special Projects - Lt. Adam Loudermilk; and the new Game Warden K-9 named "Kamo".

Colonel England stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Rabon called on Angie Johnson, Director of the State Parks & Historic Sites Division, for her report.

Director Johnson provided an update on the trolleys at Wormsloe, the 25th Annual Colonial Faire & Muster; Super Museum Sunday; Weekend for Wildlife; National Plan for Vacation Day; a Resolution for Ranger Steve Hadley; a legislative update from the Natural Resources Committee and Game, Fish and Parks Committee; and the February projects at Florence Marina Cottages, Reed Bingham Comfort Station, Jack Hill Visitor Center Expansion, and Magnolia Springs Linen Building.

Director Johnson stated this concluded her report.

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

Director Will provided an update on the success of the Weekend for Wildlife; a special Beyond Bow Squirrel Hunt opportunity for women hunters at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center; a game management update including the retirement of Game Management Chief, Alan Isler, Game Management Award Winners, Lori Downs, Ryan Mekel, Josh Aldridge, and Theron Menkin, and the 2025-2031 Statewide Deer Management Plan; a wildlife conservation section update including Forestry Day at the Capitol, the removal of structures from the area known as Twin Palms, an illegal camping site, and the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program of 2024; and a fisheries management update including Spring fish production at the hatcheries and the collection and spawning of black crappie.

Director Will stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Rabon stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Denney, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division, Regulation of Upland Component of a Project, Chapter 391-2-3-.02.

Ms. Addison stated this concluded her report.

Chairman Hatfield called on Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement by the State Properties Commission to the Georgia Department of Transportation at Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog, Colquitt County.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Granting of a Twenty-Five Year Lease by the State

Properties Commission and General Assembly to Camp Twin Lakes on Fort Yargo State Park, Barrow County.

Mr. Dellinger stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Hatfield called on Nancy Addison, Acting Chair of the 2023 Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award Nominating Committee, for her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve Mr. Lindsay Thomas as the recipient of the 2023 Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Joe Hatfield, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lesley Reynolds, Secretary