

**Minutes  
Coastal Committee  
Brasstown Valley Resort  
Creekside Pavilion  
6321 Highway 76  
Young Harris, GA 30582**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Nancy Addison, Chair  
Bill Jones, Vice Chair  
Randy Dellinger  
Charles DePriest  
Joe Hatfield  
Paul Shailendra  
Gary Vowell  
Dwight Davis, Board Chair, Ex-officio

**Board Members**

Patrick Denney  
Dan Garcia  
Penn Hodge  
Duncan Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Lesley Reynolds  
Bodine Sinyard  
Harley Yancey

**Guests**

J. D. McCrary, GA Forest Watch  
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Government Relations  
Alice Keyes, One Hundred Miles  
Brian Foster, Georgia Conservancy  
Bill Sapp, Southern Environmental Law Center

**Staff Members**

Walter Rabon, Commissioner  
Thomas Barnard  
Trevor Santos  
Kyle Pearson  
Cathy Barnette  
Artica Gaston  
Mike England  
Steve Friedman  
Doug Haymans  
Angie Johnson  
Ted Will  
Heather Abercrombie  
  
Jeff Cown, Director  
James Boylan  
Chuck Mueller

The December 5, 2023 meeting of the Coastal Resources Committee was called to order by Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Davis called on Nancy Addison, Chair of the Coastal Resources Committee.

Ms. Addison called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

Director Haymans stated the first item, Item A, is a proposed amendment that will reorganize the shark species section of the regulations table to address catch limits for Hammerheads and Shortfin Mako Sharks. He further stated that both measures are required for Georgia to remain in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. He added a public notice, background, synopsis statement and strike-thru version of the rule were presented for comment, and none were received. He further added that a public hearing was not requested.

Director Haymans requested favorable consideration.

**A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Vowell, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4-.04. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)**

Director Haymans stated that Item B is requesting the reappointment of Mr. Brad Brookshire to the Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee and Shore Protection Committee. He further stated that Mr. Brookshire was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the completion of Mr. Rick Gardner's second term of eligibility. He added that Mr. Brookshire's term of membership expires on December 31, 2023, and he has indicated to staff that he is interested in reappointment. He further added that Mr. Brookshire has been a member since 2020 and has shown himself to be a valuable, consistent member of the CMPC and SPC. He stated that if reappointed, Mr. Brookshire's term would be effective January 1, 2024, and extend through December 31, 2027.

Director Haymans requested favorable consideration.

**A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the board approve the reappointment of Mr. Brad Brookshire to the Coastal Marshland Committee and Shore Protection Committee, effective January 31, 2024, and extending through December 31, 2027.**

Director Haymans stated that Item C is a re-briefing on 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. He further stated that the revisions amend rules related to regulating of upland components of projects such as marinas, community docks, commercial docks, fishing piers, boat ramps, and bridges located over coastal marshlands. He added that these proposed amendments were revised as a result of public input and would clarify what type projects would be subject to the rule by modifying the definition of the upland component of the project.

Director Haymans stated a public hearing will be held on January 4, 2024, and written public comment will be received through Friday, January 19, 2024. He further stated that following the comment period, the proposed amendments will be brought before the board for consideration at the Board of Natural Resources meeting on February 27, 2024.

Ms. Addison stated there are three members of the public signed up to speak on the proposal and called on Alice Keyes, Vice President of Coastal Conservations, One Hundred Miles.

Ms. Keyes requested the board do not proceed with the rules as they are currently written. She recommended that the division retain responsibility for shoreline stabilization projects in the marsh buffer and that the agency reconvene the stakeholder group to further develop recommendations.

Ms. Addison called on Brian Foster, Communications Director, Georgia Conservancy.

Mr. Foster stated that the Georgia Conservancy agrees with the addition of fishing piers, boat ramps, and bridges to the definition of upland projects and to be subject to the upland rules. He requested that bulkheads, seawalls, and revetments also be included in this definition. He further stated that the stakeholders, comprised of representatives from the agencies, industry professionals, scientists, environmental groups, will be able to provide valuable input and perspective on future amendments.

Ms. Addison called on Bill Sapp, Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center.

Mr. Sapp stated that in 2006, the stakeholder group did not specifically identify those projects that the rule should apply to, and there has been confusion ever since. He suggested a meeting of the stakeholder group to get to the bottom of the issue of what the upland rule should apply to and include representatives from EPD because there is an overlap. He further stated that there are exceptions to the rules that EPD follows for their buffer, and those exceptions have to be part of the examinations.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Keyes, Mr. Foster, and Mr. Sapp for their time and comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.