

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

**April 26, 2017**

**Attending:**

Board Members

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman  
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman  
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Evans  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Matt Sawhill  
Paul Shailendra  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit  
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council  
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council  
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Terry West  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
John Martin  
Artica Gaston  
John Bowers  
Jeff Weaver  
Thomas Barnard  
Antoinette Norfleet  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Sydney Brogden  
Karen Hays  
Beth Blalock  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Erin Ruoff  
Thom Litts  
John Biagi  
Lt. Wayne Hubbard  
Dr. Tina Johannsen  
Larry Blankenship  
Bert Langley  
Allison Asbrock  
Christopher Semerjian  
Rose West  
James McLaughlin  
Michael Odom

The April 26, 2017 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson called on Rob Leebern to give the invocation.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the Board Meeting to move into Committee meetings.

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

Chairman Johnson called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management, Wildlife Resources Division, to introduce Jeff Young, the public focus speaker.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mr. Young.

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Wilheit to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the 2017 Legislative Session; the budget wrap up; Field Managers Day; drought conditions; Beth Blalock leaving EPD; and welcoming Sydney Brogden.

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

Commissioner Williams called on Terry West, Director of Administrative Services, to present the proposed amendments to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, Chapter 391-5-13-.02.

Director West explained that the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Program (SCORP) was recently updated and adopted by the Board for the period of 2017-2021. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) application criteria must be adjusted to correspond to the new SCORP before the commencement of the next funding cycle, which is scheduled for Fall 2017. The two recommended changes to the LWCF grant process were (1) pre-application criteria for the 2017-2021 funding cycles and (2) grant award percentages are 25% for acquisition projects, 25% for development projects and 50% for rehabilitation projects.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Yancey, to approve the proposed amendments to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, Chapter 391-5-13-.02, as presented.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on a Parks employee's memorial service; the signing of HB 208, the Senate Natural Resources and Environment committee visit on the coast, and the DNR Leadership Academy.

Commissioner Williams called on Dr. David Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for his report.

Director Crass updated the Board on the CSS Georgia artifacts; the upcoming statewide historic preservation conference; and the kick off for the Leadership Academy.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on Corporal Worth's injuries; the SPLASH campaign; the opening of Turkey Season; the 31<sup>st</sup> Game Warden Academy; and the wildfires.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division, for her report.

Director Kelley updated the Board on the West Mims fire; Stephen C. Foster State Park; and marketing initiatives.

Commissioner Williams called on Rusty Garrison, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Garrison updated the Board on Georgia fishing; WRD's fire response; the coyote challenge; turkey season; hunter surveys; and the Dixon Memorial Range opening.

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. McWhorter for the Wildlife Resources Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. McWhorter, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Shailendra for the Land Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 254± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Rentz, Davenport, and Toumbleston Tract, Jeff Davis County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 85± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Wright Tract, Jeff Davis County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 85± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Davenport Tract, Jeff Davis County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 85± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Hulett Tract, Jeff Davis County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Phelps and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 43.68± acres of real property, Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area, Hubble Timber, LLC Tract, Paulding County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 2.373± acres of real property, Cathead Creek Boat Ramp, Southeastern Bank Tract, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 376.15± acres of real property, Altamaha Wildlife Management Area, Possum Point Tract, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 25± acres of real property, Hooks-Hanner Environmental Resource Center, Terrell County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 50 year lease agreement with Georgia Power for Hickman Island, 40± acres of real property, Big Lazer Wildlife Management Area, Upson County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval and General Assembly approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.22± acres to Habersham EMC, Unicoi State Park, White County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Law Enforcement Committee**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**April 26, 2017**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

William Bagwell, Chairman  
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chairman  
Dwight Evans  
Bill Jones  
Rob Leebern  
Mark Mobley  
Paul Shailendra  
Philip Watt  
Dee Yancey  
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Ray Lambert, Jr.  
Aaron McWhorter  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Miki Thomaston  
Brother Stewart

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council  
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council  
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Terry West  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
John Martin  
Artica Gaston  
John Bowers  
Jeff Weaver  
Thomas Barnard  
Antoinette Norfleet  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Sydney Brogden  
Karen Hays  
Beth Blalock  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Erin Ruoff  
Thom Litts  
John Biagi  
Lt. Wayne Hubbard  
Dr. Tina Johannsen  
Larry Blankenship  
Bert Langley  
Allison Asbrock  
Christopher Semerjian  
Rose West  
James McLaughlin  
Michael Odom

Minutes – Law Enforcement Committee

April 26, 2017

Page 2

The April 26, 2017 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee was called to order by Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee. Chairman Johnson called on Lieutenant Wayne Hubbard who gave a presentation on Turtle Investigations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

**April 26, 2017**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman  
Dwight Evans, Vice Chairman  
William Bagwell  
Ray Lambert  
Mark Mobley  
Paul Shailendra  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit  
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Bill Jones  
Mike Phelps  
Rob Leebern  
Bodine Sinyard  
Brother Stewart  
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council  
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council  
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Terry West  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
John Martin  
Artica Gaston  
John Bowers  
Jeff Weaver  
Thomas Barnard  
Antoinette Norfleet  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Sydney Brogden  
Karen Hays  
Beth Blalock  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Erin Ruoff  
Thom Litts  
John Biagi  
Lt. Wayne Hubbard  
Dr. Tina Johannsen  
Larry Blankenship  
Bert Langley  
Allison Asbrock  
Christopher Semerjian  
Rose West  
James McLaughlin  
Michael Odom

The April 26, 2017 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell called on Aaron McWhorter, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Mr. McWhorter called on Dr. Tina Johannsen, Programs Operations Manager for the Wildlife Resources Division, to present the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Pertaining to Migratory Bird Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2.

Dr. Johannsen stated that under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the primary authority for regulating migratory birds. She further stated that the USFWS annually establishes a framework (opening and closing dates, maximum season length, and maximum bag limits) within which the states must set their migratory bird hunting seasons. She added that these frameworks are developed with the input of state wildlife agencies and are informed using biological population, harvest, and habitat parameters.

Dr. Johannsen stated that our proposed waterfowl hunting season dates are within the frameworks provided by the USFWS. She further stated that our proposal maximizes hunting opportunity within the approved frameworks. She added that she plans to request Board adoption of the enclosed proposals today.

A motion was made by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, as presented.

Mr. McWhorter called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management of the Wildlife Resources Division, to present the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, and General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, as presented.

Mr. Bowers stated that these are housekeeping changes that affect numerous chapters within the Department of Natural Resources Rules resulting from the passage of House Bill 208. He further stated that the first item is that the permit requirements for hunting deer with dogs had reference to a dog-deer hunting license, which will be removed as a result of the statutory changes from House Bill 208. He added that with the pursuit of bears with dogs on Wildlife Management Areas, Management Area trout stream rule, and Public Fishing Areas – there were references in those rules to a Wildlife Management Area license, which is no longer a license per House Bill 208.

Mr. Bowers stated that the last change involves the Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass, which was adopted several years ago by the Board, and created a pass for non-hunting or fishing related activities that occur on Wildlife Management Areas, Public Fishing Areas, and other designated sites. He further stated that with the changes from House Bill 208, it will become the WRD Lands Pass, which will be required for everyone 16 years or older. He added that anyone who has a hunting, fishing or combo hunting and fishing license is exempt from the WRD Lands Pass.



Mr. Bowers stated that these changes are responsive to public input. He further stated that he would return in June seeking action on these proposed amendments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes**  
**Land Committee**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**April 26, 2017**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Paul Shailendra, Chairman  
William Bagwell  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Brother Stewart  
Philip Wilheit  
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Dwight Evans  
Aaron McWhorter  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit  
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council  
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council  
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Terry West  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
John Martin  
Artica Gaston  
John Bowers  
Jeff Weaver  
Thomas Barnard  
Antoinette Norfleet  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Sydney Brogden  
Karen Hays  
Beth Blalock  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Erin Ruoff  
Thom Litts  
John Biagi  
Lt. Wayne Hubbard  
Dr. Tina Johannsen  
Larry Blankenship  
Bert Langley  
Allison Asbrock  
Christopher Semerjian  
Rose West  
James McLaughlin  
Michael Odom

The April 26, 2017 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Duncan Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Johnson called on Paul Shailendra, Chairman of the Land Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that the first four items will be presented together and one motion requested. He further stated that these are an addition to the Flat Tub WMA in Jeff Davis County. He added that the acquisitions will improve the management of the Wildlife Management Area, increase public outdoor opportunities, and protect habitat for species of concern. He added that the first tract is from Martha Rentz and is 254± acres.

Mr. Friedman stated that the second item is 85± acres from Lorie Ann Wright. He further stated that the third item is 85± acres from Michael and Tammy Davenport. He added that the fourth item is 85± from Brian Hulett.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 254± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Rentz, Davenport, and Tumbleston Tract, Jeff Davis County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 85± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Wright Tract, Jeff Davis County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 85± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Davenport Tract, Jeff Davis County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 85± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Hulett Tract, Jeff Davis County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item E is the proposed purchase of 43.68± acres in Paulding County from Hubble Timber, LLC, in addition to the Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area. He further stated that this tract will add recreational value and help with management by moving the boundary to the road.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 43.68± acres of real property, Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area, Hubble Timber, LLC Tract, Paulding County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item F is the proposed purchase of 2.373± acres, Cathead Creek Boat Ramp in McIntosh County. He further stated that there is a real shortage of public boating access on the coast. He added that there is a dilapidated boat ramp on the property that will need to be removed.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 2.373± acres of real property, Cathead Creek Boat Ramp, Southeastern Bank Tract, McIntosh County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item G is the proposed acquisition of the 376.15± acres, Possum Point Tract in McIntosh County. He further stated that this will become part of the Altamaha Wildlife Management Area. He added that this acquisition will eliminate an inholding in the Wildlife Management Area, increase recreational opportunities, improve management, and permanently protect wetland habitat.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 376.15± acres of real property, Altamaha Wildlife Management Area, Possum Point Tract, McIntosh County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item H is the acquisition via Executive Order of the Hooks-Hanner Environmental Resources Center from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He further stated that this is a 25± acre tract with an office building on it that is in good condition. He added that EPD will have custody of the property.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Lambert and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 25± acres of real property, Hooks-Hanner Environmental Resource Center, Terrell County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item I is seeking approval to enter into a 50 year lease with Georgia Power for the 40± acre Hickman Island, which will become a part of the Big Lazer Wildlife Management Area. He further stated that the island will be available for primitive camping to canoers traveling down the Flint River.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 50 year lease agreement with Georgia Power, 40± acres of real property, Big Lazer Wildlife Management Area, Upson County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item J is seeking approval to grant Habersham EMC a Revocable License and Permanent Easement over .22± acres in White County. He further stated that this is at Unicoi State Park in White County and this line will provide power to the new well house and will support public overnight lodging. He added that this easement area is designated a Heritage Preserve, but the use is allowable under the designation.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilheit, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval and General Assembly approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.22± acres to Habersham EMC, Unicoi State Park, White County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.