

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

August 26, 2014

Attending:

Committee Members

Mark Mobley, Chairman
Dee Yancey, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
Dwight Evans
Phyllis Johnson
Bill Jones
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Dwight Davis, via telephone
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mike Phelps

Visitors

Doug Cloud, Kazmarek Mowrey Cloud Laseter LLP
Dan Grogran, Georgia Brownfield Association
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Debra Elorich, State Properties Commission
Paul Melvin, GBA
Debbie Phillips, GIEC
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company
David Word, JTA
Leah Barnett, Georgia Conservancy
Harriet Langford, Ray C. Anderson Foundation

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Mary Kathryn Yearata
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Kyle Pearson
Zachary Harris
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Doralyn Kirkland
Chris Hodge
John Bowers
John Biagi
Jeff Cown
Jac Capp
Jeff Weaver
Mike Long
Terry West
Jim Laine
John Martin
Doug Haymans
Bill Donohue
Michael Chadwell
Stephanie Farmer
Kevin Lowery
Al Greer
Dominic Guadagnoli
Kelly Dudley
Jennifer Welte

Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeepers
Todd Hollbrook, Georgia Wildlife Federation
Jeffrey Harrey, Georgia Farm Bureau
Allie Kelly, Georgia Conservancy
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Ben Stowers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Holly Hill, Georgia Brownfield Association

The August 26, 2014 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Mark Mobley, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management, to present the proposed amendments to the Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations.

Mr. Bowers stated the Board was briefed on these proposals at the June meeting. He further stated the proposed amendments were based on the anticipated framework as proposed by the USFWS.

Mr. Bowers stated the USFWS framework concerning the canvasback bag limit was more restrictive than anticipated. He further stated the proposed rules were modified to reflect a bag limit reduction from two to one for canvasbacks.

Mr. Bowers stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Sinyard 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-.40, 391-4-2-.43 through 391-4-2-.56, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations, as presented.

Chairman Mobley called on John Biagi, Chief of Fisheries Management, to present the proposed amendments to Size Limit Regulations.

Mr. Biagi stated the proposed changes will replace the current protective slot length limit for largemouth bass from Lake Oconee with a minimum length limit; modify the current minimum length limit for largemouth bass from the lower Ocmulgee River between Macon, Georgia (Spring Street Bridge Crossing) and its confluence with the Oconee River; and modify the current minimum length limit of shoal bass from the upper Flint River (upstream of Warwick Dam).

Mr. Biagi stated the proposed rules were presented to the Board at the June meeting. He further stated three public meetings were held in June with 52 people attending. He added 6,600 total

comments were received during the public notice period with 83% of the comments being in favor of the Lake Oconee proposals, 71% in favor of the Ocmulgee River proposals, and 79% in favor of the Flint River proposals.

Mr. Biagi stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Mr. Mobley called on Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeepers, who signed up to speak on the proposed rules.

Mr. Rogers spoke in support of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3-.06, Size Limit Regulations, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.