

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

**March 25, 2015**

**Attending:**

**Board Members**

Ray Lambert, Chairman  
William Bagwell, Vice Chairman  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Walter Hudson  
Duncan Johnson, Jr.  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Paul Shailendra  
Bodine Sinyard  
Brother Stewart  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit  
Dee Yancey

**Visitors**

Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Church  
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network  
Bennett Weinstein, ARC  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner and Associates

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams  
Jud Turner  
Homer Bryson  
Dave Crass  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
Spud Woodward  
Steve Friedman  
Kyle Pearson  
Lauren Curry  
Cathy Barnette  
Taylor Brown  
Zachary Harris  
John Biagi  
John Bowers  
Mike England  
Jon Ambrose  
Mark Walker  
Trip Addison  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Keith Bentley  
Jac Capp  
Thom Litts  
Mary Pfaffko  
John Jenson  
Antoinette Norfleet  
Wally Woods  
DeLana Powell  
Loren Moore  
Bill Donohue  
Michael Chadwell  
Terry West  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Weaver  
Mark Whitney

The March 25, 2015 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Ray Lambert.

Chairman Lambert introduced Dr. Benny Tate, Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church, to deliver a moment of inspiration.

Chairman Lambert called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, to recognize exceptional DNR staff.

Commissioner Williams recognized John Jenson, Wildlife Resources Senior Biologist, who received the Alison Haskell Award for Herpetofaunal Conservation by the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.

Commissioner Williams recognized John Martin, Director of IT, and the IT Department for being honored by 'Information Week' ranking the "Georgia Outdoor Map" and Georgia DNR as one of the Top 100 IT projects in the country for 2014. He further thanked and congratulated Philip Wilheit for his work on this project.

Commissioner Williams stated DNR received two competitive National Coastland Wetland Grants for 2015, totaling \$2 million in federal money for land acquisition along the Altamaha River. He recognized Jacob Thompson, Eammon Leonard and Jason Lee for their exceptional work on these grant applications.

Chairman Lambert called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2015 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the February 2015 Board meeting.

Chairman Lambert called on Jud Turner, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Turner discussed EPD's Rule briefings during the March 24, 2015 Environmental Protection Committee and updated the Board on the legislative session.

Chairman Lambert called on Commissioner Williams for his report.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the legislative session and the current state of DNR's two agency bills.

Chairman Lambert called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites, for her Division update.

Director Kelley informed the Board of First Lady Deal's "Read Across Georgia" initiative and the DNR Rivers Alive Clean-Up Day at Sweetwater Creek State Park.

Director Kelley called on Loren Moore for a presentation of the 2014-2015 Funding Cycle for The Recreation Trail Grant Program.

Ms. Moore stated The Recreation Trails Program assists in the creation and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized uses. She further stated 87 applications were submitted for the 2014 funding cycle, totaling in \$9 million in requested funds.

Ms. Moore presented the recommended award recipients to the Board.

Mr. Sinyard asked Ms. Moore to explain the criteria used in selecting the award recipients.

Ms. Moore explained that Parks look at many aspects of the proposed trail applications including partnerships municipalities are forming in the community, plans for ADA accessibility and proposed trails in protected areas.

Director Kelley presented Ms. Moore with a Five Years of Faithful Service Award. She thanked Ms. Moore for her dedication to the Parks, Recreation and Historic Site Division and the Department of Natural Resources.

Chairman Lambert called on Homer Bryson, who was presented with a framed Resolution commending him for his service; expressing gratitude for his efforts to conserve and protect Georgia's natural resources; and thanking him for his help and cooperation he has given the Board during his career at the Department of Natural Resources.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Colonel Eddie Henderson, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, presented Mr. Bryson with his gun and badge he was issued during his time at the Law Enforcement Division of DNR. He expressed his gratitude for everything Mr. Bryson did for the Law Enforcement Division and the Department.

Chairman Lambert called on Mark Whitney, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for a division report.

Mr. Whitney congratulated Mr. Jenson on receiving the Alison Haskell Award for Herpetofaunal Conservation.

Mr. Whitney updated the Board on WRD's partnership with the Coastal Resources Division and outdoor recreation industry; Sportsmen's Day; National Archery in the Schools Program; performance audits; and the five year old golden eagle outfitted with a transmitter.

Chairman Lambert called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his division report.

Mr. Woodward updated the Board on the Oyster Reef Restoration Project and CRD's training and use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

Chairman Lambert called on Colonel Eddie Henderson for his division report.

Colonel Henderson introduced Major Thomas Barnard, who will be replacing Walter Rabon as the new Major of Field Operations.

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on 2015 drowning incidents and LED's involvement in the Outdoor Dream Foundation.

Chairman Lambert called on Dr. Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for his report.

Dr. Crass updated the Board on HPD's move to their new office at Panola Mountain State Park and the state tax program for developing communities.

Chairman Lambert called on Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Land Committee, for his Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Shailendra and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a twenty-five (25) year Lease Agreement for 1.5± acres, Oconee River, Shady Field Boat Ramp, Laurens County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof) **This action, however, was invalid as the Land Committee's recommendation was invalid due to the absence of a quorum of the Land Committee when the Committee's vote on the recommendation was taken.**

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License and Permanent Easement of 0.3± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to the Georgia Power Company to install and maintain underground power lines at Laura S. Walker State Park, Ware County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof) **This action, however, was invalid as the Land Committee's recommendation was invalid due to the absence of a quorum of the Land Committee when the Committee's vote on the recommendation was taken.**

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the disposition (conveyance) of up to 30± acres of real property to the Georgia Forestry Commission, Oconee Wildlife Management Area, Wooten Tract Barn Area, Greene County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof) **This action, however, was invalid as the Land Committee's recommendation was invalid due to the absence of a quorum of the Land Committee when the Committee's vote on the recommendation was taken.**

Chairman Lambert called on Dr. Watt, Chairman of the Law Enforcement, for his Committee report.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Adoption of the Interstate Boating Violator Compact Regulations. (Proposed Regulations attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Dr. Watt called on Lt. Patrick Estapa of the Adairsville Police Department who presented the Board and the Law Enforcement Division with an Appreciation Plaque.

Chairman Lambert called on Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3-.03, Seasons and Trout Water Designations. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Lambert stated it is the duty of this Board to support legislation presented by Department staff. He encouraged Board members to work with staff on issues and questions that they have.

Chairman Lambert stated the next Board meeting would be held April 21 and 22, in the DNR Board Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Ray Lambert, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Aaron McWhorter, Secretary