

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

February 24, 2016

Attending:

Board Members

William Bagwell, Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Phyllis Johnson
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert, Jr.
Mark Mobley
Matt Sawhill
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt (via conference call)
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Guests

Ross Smith, PotashCorp/PCS Nitrogen
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner and Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Jonathan Harding, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Mary Kathryn Yearata
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Steve Friedman
Eddie Henderson
Spud Woodward
Terry West
Jud Turner
Mary Walker
Jeff Cown
Chuck Mueller
Doralyn Kirkland
Karen Hays
Jenifer Wisniewski
Robin Hill
Wally Woods
Ellen Graham
John Martin
Bill Donohue
Mike Burgamy

The February 24, 2016 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell stated that the Moments of Inspiration would be done differently this year. He further stated that at each Board meeting the Board will hear from a DNR Employee and that this portion of the Board meeting will be known as the Employee Focus.

Chairman Bagwell called on Becky Kelley to introduce the Employee Focus speaker. Becky Kelley thanked the Chairman and introduced Ellen Graham, Chief Naturalist of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division.

Chairman Bagwell thanked Ellen Graham and Becky Kelley.

Chairman Bagwell stated that Philip Watt was participating in the Board meeting via conference call.

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

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

Chairman Bagwell called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting.

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

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

Director Turner updated the Board on the Georgia, Florida, Alabama water wars; the congressional omnibus budget from December of 2015; and that while there is no EPD specific legislation before the General Assembly there are a number of issues that will impact the Division.

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

Commissioner Williams stated that Robin Hill and Jenifer Wisniewski from the Wildlife Resources Division were present to receive appreciation for their hard work in making a successful Weekend for Wildlife. He further stated that the event would also not have been possible without Chairman Bagwell's efforts. He added that \$1,060,000 was raised that weekend and thanked the Board for their support in getting to that number.

Commissioner Williams stated that wildlife biologist Bobby Bond was awarded the Joe Kurz Wildlife Manager of the Year Award at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention in Nashville. He further stated that the award is named after a former DNR employee.

Commissioner Williams stated that the General Assembly had just finished Day 27 of the legislative session. He further stated that Monday, February 29, would be crossover day so any bills that will move this session need to cross from one chamber to the other. He added that DNR has completed all budget hearings for both the House and the Senate.

Commissioner Williams stated that House Bill 840, which authorizes wildlife exhibition permits for use by the film industry has passed out of the House. He further stated that the bill was read by the Senate and has passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee. He added that the license restructuring bill was pulled for the time-being due to a number of questions from stakeholders that needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Williams stated that a new program was being developed called the DNR Leadership Academy. He further stated that the Leadership Academy was the brainchild of Director Crass and would seek to strengthen DNR's organizational structure and prepare employees to assume leadership positions.

Commissioner Williams called on Dan Forster, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Forster gave an update on the electrical fire at the WRCC building; the construction progress on the new headquarters building in Social Circle; and a forecast on the spring turkey season.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Director Woodward updated the Board on the 2015 food shrimp season report and the Georgia Coastal and Marine Planner program.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on the House of Representatives recognition of two national award winners, Corporal Jason Roberson and Corporal Greg Wade, and the Safari Club recognition of the Investigative Ranger of the Year, Corporal Casey Jones.

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

Director Crass updated the board on the upcoming national board meeting and Capitol Hill visits in Washington, DC.

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

Director Kelley updated the Board on their strong mid-year financials; the state operations of the campground at Tallulah Gorge which was formerly operated by Georgia Power; the operation of Resaca Battlefield by Gordon County; Panola Mountain lakes; and the Park Law Enforcement Association conference.

Mr. Sawhill congratulated Director Kelley on an excellent event at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25 year lease agreement for 1.938± acres of real property with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mistletoe State Park, Columbia County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25 year lease agreement for 447± acres of real property with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Elijah Clark State Park, Lincoln County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25 year lease agreement for 103± acres of real property with Barrow County, Fort Yargo State Park, Barrow County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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 and Georgia Assembly approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.03± acres to Flint Energies, Chattahoochee Fall Line Wildlife Management Area, Marion County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Bagwell stated that the next Board meeting is Tuesday, March 29 for Committee day and that the Board meeting is Wednesday, March 30. He further stated that the Employee Focus would be from the Air Protection Branch of the Environmental Protection Division. He added that Bill Donohue was present and thanked him for attending.

Chairman Bagwell stated that today is Phyllis Johnson's last Board meeting. He further stated that Phyllis was sworn in on July 3, 2003 and served as chairman in 2008. He added that she chaired the Coastal Committee for four years, the Historic Preservation Committee for two years, and the Wildlife Resources Committee for one year.

Chairman Bagwell thanked Ms. Johnson for her service to the Board and presented her with a gift.

Ms. Johnson thanked the Board and the DNR and EPD staff for their support during her tenure on the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

William A. Bagwell, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Bodine Sinyard, Secretary