

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

**August 31, 2016**

**Attending:**

Board Members

William Bagwell, Chairman  
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman  
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary  
Nancy Addison  
Dwight Davis (via conference call)  
Dwight Evans  
Duncan Johnson, Jr.  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert, Jr.  
Rob Leebern (arrived during EPD Director's Report)  
Mike Phelps  
Matt Sawhill  
Paul Shailendra  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit

Guests

Brant Lane, HHNT  
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network  
Maggie Lee, Macon Telegraph  
Marilyn Weidenaar, Artist  
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Terry West  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Col. Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
Spud Woodward  
John Biagi  
John Bowers  
Karl Burgess  
Lt. Wayne Hubbard  
Jeff Bryant  
Chris Moore  
Jan McKinnon  
Chris Harper  
Dan Forster  
Jon Ambrose  
Mary Pfifka  
Maj. Stephen Adams  
Artica Gaston  
Tim Keyes  
Jenifer Wisniewski  
Robin Hill  
Larry Blankenship  
Cpl. Casey Jones  
Dan Roach  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Jeff Cown

Doralyn Kirkland  
Dika Kuoh  
Chuck Mueller

The August 31, 2016 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell called on Rusty Garrison to introduce the Employee Focus speaker. Mr. Garrison thanked the Chairman and introduced Tim Keyes, Wildlife Biologist.

Chairman Bagwell thanked Mr. Keyes.

Chairman Bagwell stated that in Tab H of the Board package there is a Resolution for Dan Forster and requested a motion to adopt the Resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Watt to approve the resolution honoring Mr. Dan Forster. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Bagwell read the Resolution honoring Mr. Forster and called on Mr. Forster to speak.

Mr. Forster thanked the Board and DNR staff.

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

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

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on process improvements; coal ash, the drought; new EPD branding; the Adopt a Stream award; and introduced the new EPD Human Resources Director.

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

Commissioner Williams called on Melanie Johnson, Deputy Executive Counsel, for an action item.

Ms. Johnson stated that from 1990 to 2014, the town of Pine Mountain, Georgia; the Pine Mountain Tourism Association; and the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation have agreed to the levy and collection of an excise tax on the furnishings of rooms, lodgings, and accommodations – also known as the hotel/motel tax – at Callaway Gardens, a public garden and resort operated by the Foundation. She further stated that the agreement governs the expenditure of the tax revenue, which is used to fund the

Association's promotion of tourism, conventions and meetings, and general commerce in the Pine Mountain area. She added that because the Foundation is a charitable trust, the Board of Natural Resources must approve the levy of the tax and the agreement governing expenditure of the funds.

Ms. Johnson stated that she requests the Board's approval of the levy and collection of the hotel/motel tax on Callaway Gardens, as well as the 2016/2017 contract governing expenditure of the tax revenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Contract between Pine Mountain Tourism Association and the town of Pine mountain, Georgia for a Hotel/Motel Tax Levy.

Commissioner Williams introduced Ms. Marilyn Weidenaar, an artist, who painted pictures of all of the state parks in Georgia and thanked her for sharing those paintings with the Department of Natural Resources.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on a Taylor's Law hunt; Rusty Garrison's efforts as a new Director; awards won by Communications staff at the Wildlife Resources Division; Colonel Henderson's 35 years of service; Field Managers Day; and the Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 Budget.

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

Director Woodward gave an update on Coast Fest; and reef material donation.

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

Director Crass gave an update on the DNR Leadership Academy.

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

Director Henderson gave an update on the LE Off the Pavement Banquet; the dove Enforcement Refresher; and the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Officer of the Year Award recipient, Corporal Casey Jones.

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 Park Managers Conference and award winners; the Fiscal Year 2016 Year-end report; and the Matt Muhmel Family Extended Care Project.

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

Director Garrison updated the Board on his leadership philosophy for WRD; the WRD office move; and hunting seasons.

Commissioner Williams gave an update on the rule promulgation by the Department of Agriculture for the Feral Hog legislation from the 2016 Legislative Session.

Chairman Bagwell called on Ms. Addison for the Coastal Committee report.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Bagwell called on Mr. Lambert for the Environmental Protection Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Shailendra and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Dam Safety, Chapter 391-3-8. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Grant Criteria for the Award of Regional Water plan Seed Grants.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed fiscal year 2017 Solid Waste Trust Fund Spend Plan.

Chairman Bagwell called on Mr. Johnson for the Law Enforcement Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to adopt the Wildlife Film Permit, Chapter 391-4-9-.08. (Proposed Rule attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. McWhorter, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations for WMAs and Other State Lands, Chapter 391-4-2-.70. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. McWhorter, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Fishing Regulations, Creel and Possession Limits, Chapter 391-4-3-.05. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease with Screven County for the Blue Springs Boat Ramp on the Savannah River, 1.04± acres, Screven County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease with Screven County for the Poor Robin Boat Ramp on the Savannah River, 2.35± acres, Screven County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 30 year lease agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 142±, Stephen C. Foster State Park, Charlton County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion as 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 and General Assembly approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 0.08± acres to Walton EMC, Wildlife Resources Headquarters: Law Enforcement Division Maintenance and Storage Building, Walton 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 purchase the .67± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 1102 Georgia Avenue, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the .34± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 1010 Georgia Avenue, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the .34± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 1100 Georgia Avenue, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the .34± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 1008 Georgia Avenue, Houston County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Mr. Wilheit thanked the DNR employees for their hard work and congratulated all award winners.

Mr. McWhorter reminded the Board members about a 1:00 p.m. Weekend for Wildlife meeting.

Mr. Sinyard complimented the new wall art designs in the boardroom.

Chairman Bagwell stated that the next Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 28 in Atlanta.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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William A. Bagwell, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Bodine Sinyard, Secretary