

Minutes
Coastal Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

Phyllis Johnson, Chairman
Mark Smith, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Aaron McWhorter
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey
Rob Leebern, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Philip Watt

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Danny Johnson, Atlanta Regional Commission
Steve Caley, GreenLaw
Jimmy Kirkland, Womble Carlyle
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
Lea Kirschaw, GADA

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Eddie Henderson
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Taylor Brown
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
John Bowers
Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, who called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

Director Woodward stated the first item was appointing the new member to the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee.

Director Woodward stated current member Henry Williams Jr.'s term would end on December 31, 2013. He further stated Mr. Williams served on the committees for 16 years. He added Mr. Williams was an exemplary committee member and he thanked him for his service.

Chairman Johnson stated she would like to thank Mr. Williams for his service on this committee.

Chairman Johnson stated Henry S. Morgan has been nominated to serve as a member on this committee. She further stated the Board members were given information on Mr. Morgan at the October Board meeting. She added no other nominees were recommended.

Chairman Johnson stated the recommendation and qualifications of Mr. Morgan had been discussed by Commissioner Williams, Chairman Leebern, Director Woodward, and herself. She further stated based on this discussion she would recommend to the Coastal Committee that the committee request the Board's approval of Henry S. Morgan to serve a four year term on the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee. She added this term would be effective on January 1, 2014.

Mr. Smith stated he would highly endorse Mr. Morgan to serve as a member of this committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McWhorter and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the nomination of Henry S. Morgan to serve as a member of the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2014.

Chairman Johnson called on Spud Woodward to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4.

Director Woodward stated the purpose of the proposed amended Rule is to ensure Georgia's compliance with the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic coastal sharks. He further stated the primary features of the proposed amendments are the modification and creation of definitions for "Sharks," "Small Shark Composite," "Hammerhead Sharks," and "Prohibited Sharks," and the substitution of TL (total length) to FL (fork length).

Director Woodward stated the public notice period would begin on December 4, 2013. He further stated final action by the Board is anticipated for January 31, 2014. He added the Rules would become effective March 1, 2014.

Mr. Smith asked Director Woodward if he had received any public comment on this issue prior to the briefing.

Director Woodward stated he had not. He further stated most people who target these large sharks practice voluntary catch and release. He added he does not anticipate any resistance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.