

**Minutes**

**Coastal Committee**

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

**September 28, 2016**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chair  
Duncan Johnson  
Bill Jones  
Bodine Sinyard  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Wilheit  
Dee Yancey  
William Bagwell, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Ray Lambert, Jr. (via conference call)  
Aaron McWhorter  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Matt Sawhill  
Brother Stewart  
Philip Watt

Guests

Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Adam Dye, Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Mary Kay Woodworth, Georgia Urban Agriculture Council  
Lewis Massey, Massey, Watson & Hembree  
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau

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  
John Martin  
Doug Haymans  
Jon Ambrose  
Karl Burgess  
Cpl. Bobby White  
RFC Patrick Gibbs  
Maj. Stephen Adams  
Maj. Thomas Barnard  
Mark Walker  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jeff Cown  
Karen Hays  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Chuck Mueller

The September 28, 2016 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell called on Nancy Addison, Chair of the Coastal Committee.

Ms. Addison called on Karl Burgess, Manager of the Marsh and Shore Management Program, to brief the Board on the proposed rulemaking, standards and conditions for Private Recreational Docks (PRDs).

Mr. Burgess stated that the biggest challenge with PRDs is that there are no standards or conditions specified in state law. He further stated that today he is briefing the Board on proposed rules intending to codify the standards that are currently being used. He added that the rules being proposed are under the Department's authority to manage public trust lands.

Mr. Burgess stated that the purpose under section 1 of the rule is to promulgate rules and regulations relative to issuance of Revocable Licenses (RL) by the department for PRDs located over state-owned tidal water bottoms of the 11 coastal counties. He further stated that the definitions included in Section 2 are consistent with definitions in the Protection of Tidewaters Act, the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, and existing regulations. He added that Section 3 of the rule details the eligibility criteria, which includes: 1) ownership of the upland property in which the dock will originate, 2) the properties must be riparian to the waterway in which a dock is requested, and 3) the application must meet the exemption defined in the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act.

Mr. Burgess stated that Section 4 of the rule lists the requirements for the Revocable License (RL) Application which includes: 1) Proof of ownership, 2) Parcel Plat, 3) Adjacent Owner Notification Form, and 4) Professional Drawings. He further stated that Section 5 of the rule states the standards and conditions for a new PRD. He added that PRDs are broken down into two subcategories: 1) Waterway with a width 20 feet or less, where no fixed deck or floating dock is allowed, and 2) A waterway with a width greater than 20 feet. He added that this section also details the PRD components necessary.

Mr. Burgess stated that Section 6 of the rule gives criteria for modification to existing PRDs and Section 7 states that maintenance or reconstruction of existing PRDs requires authorization from the Department. He further stated that Section 8 of the rule lists general conditions for the RL, which were stated in the presentation at the last Board meeting. He added that that Section 9 of the rule lists the penalties for revocation, suspension or modification of authorization.

Mr. Burgess stated that the public notice would be issued September 29, 2016 and the public comment period would close October 31, 2016. He further stated that he would return to the Board for action on December 13, 2016.

Mr. McWhorter asked if there would be a built-in appeal process.

Mr. Burgess stated that there are opportunities built in to address issues as they arise.

Mr. Jones commended the Coastal Resources Division for their consideration of both the state's interests and the needs of landowners.

Ms. Addison thanked Mr. Burgess

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.