

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

March 23, 2011

Attending:

Board Members

Earl Barrs, Chairman
Dennis Billew
Gene Bishop
Warren Budd
Bill Carruth
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Mabel Jenkins
Duncan Johnson
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Robert Leebern
Loyce Turner
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

State Senator Ross Tolleson
State Representative Jimmy Pruett
Bill Donohue, North Georgia Mountains Authority
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Allen Barnes
Becky Kelley
Dan Forster
Dave Crass
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Lisa Mehalko
John Bowers
Steve Friedman
Linda MacGregor
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
John Martin
Suzanne Burnes
Vonetta Pryor
Wally Woods
Linda Patrick
Becky Marshall
Doug Haymans
Tim Banks
Cathy Barnette
Arnie Paige
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The March 23, 2011 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs introduced State Representative Jimmy Pruett, who gave the time of inspiration and motivation.

Chairman Barrs introduced State Senator Ross Tolleson, who brought the Board up to date on current Legislation.

Chairman Barrs stated that he would like to entertain a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 2011 meeting and the Minutes from the Special Called Meeting on March 7, 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Minutes of the February 2011 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Minutes of the Special Called March 7, 2011 meeting.

Chairman Barrs called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner Williams presented Emily Hitchcock, Executive Counsel, with a 25-year Faithful Service Award, and commended her for her service.

Commissioner Williams presented Becky Marshall, Marketing Specialist, with a 35-year Faithful Service Award, and commended her for her service.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the Budget recommendation and pertinent legislation of interest to DNR.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director, Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division, for an update.

Director Kelley called on Wally Woods, Parks Operations Chief, who presented the following awards:

- Gary Thomas, Ranger of the Year, Jarrell Plantation Historic Site
- Devan Fountain, Golf Course Superintendent of the Year, Brazell's Creek Golf Course

- Karl Gross, Highland Walk Golf Course, Royston, Georgia
- David Foot, Park Manager of the Year, Vogel State Park

Mr. Woods also recognized Ronnie Eakins, Parks Region III Manager, for his upcoming retirement at the end of April.

Director Kelley briefed the Board on the announcement of the opening of the Archery Range at Panola Mountain State Park, funding for several other parks improvement projects, the launching of the Golf Club Card, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other budget recommendations to make the state parks more sustainable.

Commissioner Williams called on Doug Haymans, Policy Advisor, Coastal Resources Division (CRD), to give an update in the absence of Director Spud Woodward.

Mr. Haymans updated the Board on Federal Fisheries Management – Shrimp and Black Sea Bass, finished renovation of CRD Headquarters, Coastal Inventive Grants Program, and CRD's participation in the National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy meeting.

Commissioner Williams called on Suzanne Burnes, Assistant Director, Sustainability Division (SD), in the absence of Director Marlin Gottschalk.

Ms. Burnes updated the Board on SD's launch of their new website, the 6th Annual Georgia Environmental Conference August 24-26, the Green Hospitality stakeholder meeting in Savannah on April 1, and Earth Day 2011 events scheduled for April.

Commissioner Williams called attention to the FY-2011 Budget, Revenue & Expense Comparison through February, the DNR Capital Outlay Status Report for March, and noted that the Weekly Updates are sent via e-mail.

Chairman Barrs called on Warren Budd, Chairman of the Audit & Compliance Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Budd, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Audit & Compliance Committee Guidelines. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs called on Loyce Turner, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of a Conservation Easement over 1,000± acres, Canoochee River, Warnell Tract, Bryan County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Hudson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to amend a 2009 Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Darien and the Department to include Butler Plantation House and approximately 18± acres, Altamaha River Wildlife Management Area, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to renew an Intergovernmental Agreement with Dougherty County for the use of 0.81± acres for additional parking space and the use of the County's storage building adjacent to the Wildlife Resources Albany Regional Headquarters Office, Dougherty County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards, including Lake Allatoona. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs stated that he would like to appoint a Committee to study the future of the Rock Howard Award, which recognizes a conservationist of the year. He further stated that Phyllis Johnson had volunteered to serve on the committee and that he would encourage other Board Members to volunteer to serve on the Committee and to give their names to Mary Ann.

Chairman Barrs read a letter from former Board Member Jenny Lynn Bradley, thanking the Board for the Resolution honoring her and for the gavel commemorating her service as Chairman.

Chairman Barrs read the Resolution honoring former Board Member Bill Archer and called for a motion for its adoption.

A motion was made by Mr. Budd, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution honoring Bill Archer for his service on the Board. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs stated that Bill Archer, Dwight Davis, and Tom Wheeler would be honored at the dinner at Ray Lambert's house on April 26, and encouraged Board Members to attend. He further stated that a questionnaire regarding the dinner would be sent to Board Members in early April.

Chairman Barrs discussed the May Board Meeting, which will be held at Unicoi State Park, and stated that Board Members would receive a questionnaire concerning their participation in that meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Earl D. Barrs, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mabel C. Jenkins, Secretary