

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Brasstown Valley Resort & Lodge
6321 U. S. Highway 76
Cedar Knob A & B
Young Harris, GA 30582

April 25, 2012

Attending

Board Members

Philip Watt, Chairman
Philip Wilheit, Jr., Secretary
William Bagwell
Dennis Billew
Bill Carruth
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Smith
Loyce Turner
Jim Walters

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Judson Turner
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Lauren Curry
Linda MacGregor
Kyle Pearson
Zachary Harris
Jeff Weaver
Mary Ann Evans

Visitors

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club

The April 25, 2012 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Watt. Chairman Watt thanked everyone for traveling to Brasstown for the meeting, and expressed appreciation to all those who helped make the meeting such a success.

Chairman Watt called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2012 meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the February 2012 meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams gave an update of the past Legislative Session and how DNR fared in both legislation and the budget.

Commissioner Williams called on Jud Turner, Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), who gave an update EPD's legislation and budget.

Commissioner Williams recognized Senator Don Balfour, Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, who briefly stopped by. Senator Balfour expressed appreciation to the Board for their service to the State of Georgia.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division (HPD), who briefed the Board on the recent shift of the Cultural Resources Unit of Parks to HPD, the State Preservation Conference, and the Mary Jewett award that had been given to staff member Jeanne Cyriaque by the Georgia Trust.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division (CRD), who briefed the Board on the Jointer Creek Oyster Restoration Project, upcoming Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Conference, and the return of Telemetered Tripletail to the Ossabaw Estuary.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD), who briefed the Board on the 2012 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Awards, First-time Campers Program, and Tons-of-Fun Instant Recess (video shown).

Commissioner Williams referenced the DNR Capital Outlay Status Report for April that was in the Board package and the Weekly Updates that are sent via e-mail.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to Swine Feeding Operations and Animal Feeding Operations, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Lambert gave an update on a composting operation in Stephens County that recently experienced some concerns, stating that EPD is currently working with the facility to correct those issues.

Chairman Watt 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 and General Assembly approval to grant a revocable license and permanent easement to the Georgia Power Company for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating overhead utility lines providing power to the newly-constructed campground sites and R. V. Dump Station at Cloudland Canyon State Park, Dade and Walker Counties. (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 seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into an encroachment agreement with Atlanta Gas Light Resources for use of a right-of-way extending in part through State property, Chattahoochee River, Don Carter State Park, Hall County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission and General Assembly approval for acquisition (donation) of 0.964± acres known as Pennyworth Island in Chatham County from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and granting of a permanent easement by the State Properties Commission to GDOT over 5.848± acres for the replacement and maintenance of the State Route 404 Spur/U.S. 17 Bridge over the Back River, Chatham County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Hatfield stated that he would be happy to conduct a tour of the composting operation in Stephens County that Mr. Lambert had referenced earlier. He further stated that Board Members could contact him, if they would like to tour the facility.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Watt, Chairman

ATTEST:

Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Secretary