

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

June 24, 2009

Attending:

Board Members

Bill Carruth, Chairman
Bill Archer
Earl Barrs
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Warren Budd
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Bob Rutland
Loyce Turner
Jim Tysinger
Philip Watt

Visitors

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Ashley Harris, McGuire Woods Consulting
Kelly Clark, Office of Planning and Budget
Shirl Parsons, Georgia Wildlife Federation
Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy
Josh Stancil, Georgia Forestry Association

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Carol Couch
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Susan Shipman
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Ray Luce
Marlin Gottschalk
Karl Burgess
John Bowers
Jim Ozier
Steve Friedman
Dave Crass
Jac Capp
Richard Swanson
Emily Hitchcock
Lauren Curry
Lindsey Young
Terry West
Suzanne Burnes
Jim Ussery
Jac Cap
Alexandra Cleary
Diana Trettin
Connie Buck
Doralyn Kirkland

The June 24, 2009 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Bill Carruth.

Chairman Carruth called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2009 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Rutland, seconded by Mr. Barrs and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the May 2009 meeting.

Chairman Carruth called on Chris Clark, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner Clark called on Emily Hitchcock, Executive Counsel, to present the proposed Resolution directing the Commissioner of DNR and the Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to periodically review the Department's procedures related to copying charges.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Board had been briefed at the April meeting on the proposal to increase the copying charges from the current 10 cents per page to the statutory 25 cents per page and eliminate the first 25 pages free. She further stated that this is consistent with the Georgia Open Records Act and would accomplish a number of goals. She added that it would defray the Department's increased costs for producing copies during the current budget reductions and would support DNR's commitment to foster sustainable practices by encouraging a paperless mechanism for accessing public documents. She further added that it will also reduce the burden on staff time during the current climate of position freezes and potential furloughs and layoffs.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the proposed Resolution would delegate that administrative function back to the Commissioner and Director. She further stated that the effective date of the proposed changes would be July 1, 2009.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the proposed changes were public noticed; and one comment had been received that is included in the board package, along with the summary and response of the Department, which states that the Commissioner and Director feel that the recommended increase in copying charges is appropriate and within the statutory guidelines as well as consistent with other agencies. She further stated that she would request approval of the proposed Resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Archer, seconded by Mrs. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution directing the Commissioner of DNR and the Director of EPD to periodically review the Department's procedures related to copying charges and make appropriate adjustments. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the next item for consideration was action on the proposed Resolution approving the renewal of the contract between the Pine Mountain Tourism Association and the Town of Pine Mountain, Georgia, with the consent of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation, for an additional one-year period beginning July 1, 2009, as provided in Georgia Code Section 48-13-55.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that this concerns statutory language related to charitable organizations that operate resorts, hotels/motels and the hotel/motel tax. She further stated that statutory requirements have been met and that she would request adoption of the proposed Resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Archer, seconded by Mr. Rutland and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution approving the renewal of the contract between Pine Mountain Tourism Association and the Town of Pine Mountain, Georgia, with the consent of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation, for an additional one-year period beginning on July 1, 2009, as provided in Georgia Code Section 48-13-55. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on the 2009 and 2010 budget, and commended Deputy Commissioner Todd Holbrook for his diligence in helping to spearhead the budget preparation. He stated that DNR has been directed to take an additional three percent reduction, which will bring the total agency cut to 23 percent. He added that he would continue to keep the Board informed on this issue.

Commissioner Clark stated that each Division within DNR has a different logo within the same brand family and he distributed a handout showing the new logos for each Division. He further stated that he would like to thank Board members for completing the survey that had been handed out at the May meeting. He added that the Employee Satisfaction Survey had been completed and results were very positive. He further added that a new Intranet service had been launched to allow DNR employees to share information.

Commissioner Clark stated that he has had a number of calls and meetings with members of the General Assembly and will have future listening sessions that Board members will be invited to attend. He further stated that strides have been made in the area of a better communications system for DNR Law Enforcement Officers.

Commissioner Clark called attention to the Capital Outlay report that had been placed in the Board package and to the Profit and Loss Statement that had been handed out.

Chairman Carruth called on Loyce Turner, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Rule 391-5-12, regarding permitting boat docks at High Falls State Park Lake. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Carruth called on Walter Hudson, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Lambert and carried with one abstention by Mr. Archer that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to Permit Fees and Miscellaneous Provisions. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Carruth called on Carol Couch, Director of Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for an update.

Dr. Couch stated that Governor Perdue provided a commendation to Jeannie Lewis-Rhodes in EPD's coastal office for excellence in customer service. She further stated that Ms. Lewis-Rhodes led an effort that resulted in an update to the state's storm water manual, which describes the best practices for coastal land development in relation to green practices.

Dr. Couch commended the Coastal Resources Division as well as the Wildlife Resources Division in relationship to quality of life issues on the coast.

Dr. Couch stated that she would like to commend the Georgia Concrete Products Association in their receipt of a national environmental award for exemplary performance in leadership. She further stated that the work of the Georgia Concrete Products Association was done in partnership with EPD's small business advisory program committee. She read a letter from the President of the Association.

Dr. Couch updated the Board on the Regional Water Planning Councils. She stated that each Council had appointed a Chairman and Vice Chairman and the names would be made available soon.

Dr. Couch stated that the State of Georgia is currently drought free but would encourage continued conservation and efficiency for the future.

Chairman Carruth stated that information on the Rock Howard Award was being handed out and the members of the Rock Howard Award Nominating Committee were as follows: Jenny Lynn Bradley, Chairman; Phyllis Johnson; Gene Bishop; Tom Wheeler; and Ray Lambert. He called on Jenny Lynn Bradley for further comments.

Mrs. Bradley stated that she would like to encourage Board members to complete the nomination form and return it to Mary Ann Evans, Executive Assistant, no later than September 15, 2009. She further stated that the Nominating Committee would meet after the September deadline either by conference call or at the September Committee Meeting day. She added that the Board would vote on the nominations at the October meeting and the award would be presented at the December meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Carruth, Chairman

ATTEST:

Earl D. Barrs, Secretary