

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

August 26, 2009

Attending:

Board Members

Bill Carruth, Chairman
Bill Archer
Earl Barrs
Gene Bishop
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Bob Rutland
Loyce Turner
Jim Tysinger
Jim Walters
Philip Watt
Tom Wheeler

Visitors

Clayton Doherty, Georgia Transmission Corporation
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Karl Ledford, Georgia Transmission Corporation
Melissa Bystedt, CH2M HILL
Ashley Harris, McGuire Woods Consulting
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Steve Ewald, Georgia Power
Shirl Parsons, Georgia Wildlife Federation
Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Susan Shipman
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Ray Luce
Karl Burgess
Mark Whitney
Jim Ozier
Steve Friedman
Jennifer Kaduck
Jac Capp
Mark Smith
Linda MacGregor
Doralyn Kirkland
Jim Ussery
Emily Hitchcock
Lauren Curry
Sarah Dearman
Dave Crass
Jan Simmons
Dick Swanson
Terry West
Jeff Weaver
Mary Ann Evans
Yolanda Fanning

The August 26, 2009 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Bill Carruth. Chairman Carruth called for approval of the minutes of the June Board meeting.

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

Chairman Carruth called on Chris Clark, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for his report.

Commissioner Clark recognized Terry West in his appointment as Interim Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), and Homer Bryson in his appointment as Interim Chief of Law Enforcement.

Commissioner Clark presented a 30-year faithful service award to Deputy Commissioner Paul Burkhalter for 30 years of service to the State of Georgia.

Commissioner Clark presented the Amended FY-2010 and FY-2011 Budget Recommendations to the Board via PowerPoint presentation. (PowerPoint attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Clark stated that the Budget Recommendation would be continually updated as he works through the process with the Governor's Office and the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). He further stated that the proposal presented today would be sent to OPB upon the Board's approval today. He added that he would keep the Board informed of any changes to the document over the coming months.

Commissioner Clark presented the Budget for all Divisions of DNR with the exception of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), which was presented by Jim Ussery, Assistant Director of EPD. (EPD Budget Recommendation PowerPoint attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Rutland and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to direct the Commissioner to officially transmit the Budget Request as presented to OPB and to work with OPB and the Governor to seek its passage, and as a part of that process, to keep the Board informed of changes made to the approved request. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Clark called attention to the Capital Outlay Status Reports, and the Budget Comparison Reports that were mailed in the Board package, along with the Commissioner's Activity Report that had been handed out.

Commissioner Clark demonstrated a new website for the Conserve Georgia Program and invited Board members to access the website at their convenience.

Commissioner Clark reminded Board members about the Legislative Listening Sessions that would be held September 14 – 15 at Charlie Elliott Conference Center and November 5 – 6 at Unicoi State Park Lodge and encouraged their participation.

Chairman Carruth called on Bill Archer, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Archer, seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to rules 391-4-2-.13, Wildlife Management Area License; 391-4-2-.62, Alligators; 391-4-2-.70, Wildlife Management Areas and other State Lands; and 391-4-3-.09, Public Fishing Areas. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Archer, seconded by Mr. Rutland and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapters 391-4-2-.46, 391-4-2-.52, and Chapters 391-4-2-.55 through 391-4-2-.58, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Archer, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Rule 391-4-10-.07, Exceptions, Protection of Endangered, Threatened, Rare or Unusual Species, to Allow the Take of Peregrine Falcons for Falconry Purposes. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Carruth called on Bob Rutland, Acting Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee in the absence of Chairman Warren Budd.

A motion was made by Mr. Rutland, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for acquisition (donation) of a conservation easement over 80.6± acres of real property, Ichawaynochaway Creek, Boring/Kirkman Conservation Easement, Baker County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Rutland, seconded by Mr. Barrs and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission and to draft appropriate legislation for the 2010 General Assembly requesting the granting of a non-exclusive right-of-way easement for a maximum of 12.86± acres of real property for installation and maintenance of an aerial transmission line over state-owned marsh and tidal water bottoms in Liberty County to Georgia Transmission Corporation. (Resolution 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. Walters and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution approving the proposed amendments to Rules for Underground Storage Tank Management, Chapter 391-3-15 pertaining to training requirements for operators of underground storage tanks. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Grant Criteria for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Georgia Truck Stop Electrification and Green Corridors Grant Program. (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Rutland and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Grant Criteria for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) State Clean Diesel Grant Program. (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Carruth reminded the Board of the change in the dates of the September meetings. He stated that the Committee would meet on Monday, September 21, at 1:00 p.m., and the Board would meet on Tuesday, September 22, at 9:00 a.m. He further stated that Ray and Mary Lynn Lambert would host the Board for dinner at their home on Monday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Carruth called on Vice Chairman Jenny Lynn Bradley for comments. Mrs. Bradley reminded the Board that nominations for the Rock Howard Award are due by September 15 to Mary Ann Evans.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Carruth, Chairman

ATTEST:

Earl D. Barrs, Secretary