

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

September 22, 2009

Attending:

Committee Members

Bill Carruth, Chairman
David Allen
Bill Archer
Earl Barrs
Gene Bishop
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Warren Budd
Joe Hatfield
Mabel Jenkins
Ray Lambert
Bob Rutland
Loyce Turner
Jim Tysinger
Jim Walters
Tom Wheeler

Visitors

Ron Bradford, Music Visions
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy
Walter Jones, Morris News Service
Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy
Shirl Parsons, Georgia Wildlife Federation
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Aaron Estis, The Estis Group
Lee Lemke, Georgia Mining Association
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Jackie Jackson Teel, Savannah Metro Planning Commission

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Carol Couch
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Susan Shipman
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Ray Luce
Dave Crass
Jill Andrews
Susan Reeves
Brad Gane
Steve Friedman
Jennifer Kaduck
Linda MacGregor
Lauren Curry
Emily Hitchcock
Jeff Weaver
Homer Bryson
Terry West
Doralyn Kirkland
Jim Ussery
Lon Revall
Bill Donohue
Ronnie Phillips
Mary Ann Evans
Yolanda Fanning

The September 22, 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 August 2009 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

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

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

Commissioner Clark called for Ray Luce, Director of Historic Preservation Division (HPD), to come forward and stated that Dr. Luce would be retiring after serving for 10 years as Director of HPD. He further stated that Dr. Luce was instrumental in developing the African American Heritage Program and the State Stewardship Program, and worked tirelessly with the General Assembly to initiate increased tax benefits for tax credits. He added that Dr. Luce helped to develop the Historic Preservation license plate and the Underwater Archaeology Program.

Commissioner Clark stated that he would like to request adoption of the Resolution honoring Ray Luce for his years of service to the State of Georgia.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Tysinger and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution honoring Ray Luce on his retirement. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Clark and Chairman Carruth presented Dr. Luce with the Resolution, and a photo was taken.

Dr. Luce addressed the Board and stated that it had been a privilege to work for DNR and the State of Georgia in his capacity as Director of HPD, and thanked them for recognizing the importance of their heritage.

Commissioner Clark announced that Dave Crass, State Archaeologist and Deputy Division Director, would assume the role of Acting Director of HPD.

Commissioner Clark called on Emily Hitchcock, Executive Counsel, and Jim Laine, Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, for a presentation.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that Deputy Executive Counsel, Kyle Pearson, is currently deployed to Afghanistan with the 48th Brigade of the Georgia Army National Guard. She further stated that she had provided Board Members with Major Pearson's website and personal e-mail and encouraged them to visit the website.

Mrs. Hitchcock read an excerpt from the website which gave background information for the gift that Major Pearson has asked to be presented. Afterwards, Mrs. Hitchcock called on Jim Laine for the presentation, stating that Mr. Laine was a Veteran of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Laine stated that he would like to present the framed American flag to the Board and the Department and that it would be displayed in the Board Room.

Commissioner Clark stated that he would like to request a motion from the Board to ratify the appointment of Marlin Gottschalk as Director of the Sustainability Division effective April 1, 2009.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Rutland and carried unanimously that the Board ratify the appointment of Marlin Gottschalk as Director of the Sustainability Division effective April 1, 2009.

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on the search and rescue efforts by DNR's Law Enforcement, as well as State Park damage estimates with regard to the current flooding.

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on the Legislative Listening Session that was held on September 14 -15 at Charlie Elliott Conference Center. He expressed appreciation to Jenny Lynn Bradley, Ray Lambert, Bob Rutland and Loyce Turner for their attendance at the session. He stated that many legislators attended and that he had received a multitude of compliments on the presentations that were given.

Commissioner Clark thanked all of the sponsors of the Legislative Listening Sessions for their help in making it a great success. He stated that the next Listening Session would be November 5 – 6 at Unicoi State Park and encouraged Board Members to attend.

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on the State Park golf courses, and operation of the lodges. He stated that the process is ongoing and that he would report to the Board in December as to progress made in these areas.

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on the new Youth Hunting and Fishing Initiative that has been developed, stating that the Governor will launch the initiative in November. He further stated that if Board Members were interested in being involved in the effort to contact Mary Ann Evans, Executive Assistant to the Board.

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on DNR's land management program and how he plans to maximize efficiency of operations, as well how these properties are marketed and positioned.

Commissioner Clark called attention to the FY-2010 Budget, Revenue and Expense Comparison and Capital Outlay Status Reports that were in the Board package. He also called attention to the Commissioner's Activity Report, which had been handed out.

Commissioner Clark gave an update on the Go Fish Center, stating that Phase I had been completed under budget and that Phase II was in process.

Commissioner Clark stated that Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources (WRD), would like to give an update on Alligator Season. Mr. Forster stated that Alligator Season began five years ago, and has been one of the most exciting opportunities offered by WRD. He further stated that 700 permits are allowed to take alligators in the month of September and that it is a three-year process to be chosen. He handed out a photo of Board Member David Allen and the 11 foot alligator that he restrained.

Chairman Carruth called on Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Coastal Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Bishop and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding the proposed amendments to the Cycle XIII Coastal Incentive Grant Program Criteria, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Carruth called on Warren Budd, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Budd, seconded by Mr. Bishop 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 1,205.8± acres of real property, Conasauga River, Dellinger Conservation Easement. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Carruth called on Jim Walters, Acting Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Rutland and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed FY-10 spending plan for the Solid Waste Trust Fund. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Carruth called on Vice Chairman Jenny Lynn Bradley for comments.

Mrs. Bradley stated that three nominations had been received for the 2009 Rock Howard Award, and that the Nominating Committee would meet via telephone to discuss the nominations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Carruth, Chairman

ATTEST:

Earl D. Barrs, Secretary