

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

June 23, 2010

Attending:

Board Members

Jenny Lynn Bradley, Chairman
Bill Archer
Earl Barrs
Dennis Billew
Warren Budd
Bill Carruth
Dwight Davis
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Loyce Turner
Jim Walters
Philip Watt
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Representative Bob Lane
Pat Harris, Assistant to Representative Bob Lane
Ben Harris, Georgia Power Company
Jennifer Whitmire, Georgia Power Company
Steve Ewald, Georgia Power Company
Maggie Lee, Freelance Reporter
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Corey Babb, Metro North Georgia Water Planning Dev.
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Aaron Estis, The Estis Group
Carroll Allen, Retired DNR employee
Chuck Hans, Retired DNR employee

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Allen Barnes
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dan Forster
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Steve Friedman
John Bowers
John Biagi
Lauren Curry
Homer Bryson
Brittany Flood
Paul Nelson
Mark Whitney
John Martin
Suzanne Burnes
Cathy Holtzclaw
Rusty Garrison
Doralyn Kirkland
Linda Patrick
Sarah Dearman
Antoinette Norfleet
John Bearden
Mallory Granitz
Brian Nichols
Mary Ann Evans

The June 23, 2010 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Jenny Lynn Bradley.

Chairman Bradley stated that the agenda had been amended, since two very distinguished guests were attending, and that she would like to call the Board Meeting to order and ask for a motion to adopt the Resolutions honoring State Representative Bob Lane and Mr. Ben Harris for their significant contributions to natural resources.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolutions honoring State Representative Bob Lane and Mr. Ben Harris, Georgia Power Company for their significant contributions to natural resources. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Bradley and Chris Clark, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approached the podium for presentation of the Resolutions.

Chairman Bradley presented a Resolution to Representative Bob Lane, after reading some of the highlights, stating that the Board of Natural Resources expresses its sincere appreciation to Representative Lane for the countless times over the years that he has demonstrated his love and concern for Georgia's natural resources and for the legacy of his stewardship.

Representative Lane stated that he was honored to accept the Resolution and that it would be placed in a prominent area in his home.

Commissioner Clark presented Representative Lane with a bronze statue depicting a man and a young boy fishing, and thanked him for his help for many years in the Georgia General Assembly.

Spud Woodward, Director of Coastal Resources Division (CRD), presented Representative Lane with a photo of his catch of a Tripletail.

Chairman Bradley presented a Resolution to Mr. Harris, after reading some of the highlights, stating that the Board of Natural Resources expresses appreciation to Ben Harris for his work in conservation and preservation in the great State of Georgia and for the legacy of stewardship that he was worked to establish for our children and grandchildren, and wishes him well in his retirement.

Mr. Harris stated that he was humbled to accept the Resolution and appreciated the privilege of partnering with DNR on important matters affecting the conservation of land and outdoor recreation.

Commissioner Clark presented Mr. Harris with a bronze statue depicting a man and a young boy fishing, and thanked him for his support of the programs of DNR, especially Weekend for Wildlife, Go Fish and Hardman Farm.

Mr. Archer stated that he had the privilege of working with Mr. Harris for 11 years at Georgia Power, and that Mr. Harris was the conscience of conservation, a calm and silent leader.

Chairman Bradley adjourned the Board meeting, in order to call the Committees to order.

Chairman Bradley called the Board meeting back to order after the Committee meetings, and called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes from the May 2010 meeting.

Chairman Bradley called on Commissioner Chris Clark for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner Clark presented the Haiti Relief Team with the Danny Creel Award, which is presented each year to an outstanding DNR associate or team of associates who have distinguished themselves in the community. The Haiti Relief Team is comprised of the following current and former DNR employees: Rusty Garrison, Assistant Chief of Game Management; John Bearden, Area Manager at Dilane WMA; Mallory Granitz, Wildlife Technician IV in the Thomson Regional Office; Brian Nichols, Park Superintendent at Moccasin Creek State Park; Carroll Allen, retired WRD associate; and Chuck Hans, retired WRD associate. Photos were taken with Commissioner Clark and Chairman Bradley.

Mr. Garrison thanked the Commissioner and the Board for the award and spoke of the reward they felt from helping provide food and medical supplies to orphans and others in Haiti after the devastating earthquake.

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on the recent oil spill in the Gulf, stating that DNR is continuing to work with the Coast Guard, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), the Department of Community Health and other agencies as needed.

Commissioner Clark updated the Board on the upcoming hurricane season, the Department's Youth Initiative, and the ongoing budget issue.

Commissioner Clark called attention to the FY-2010 Budget, Revenue & Expense Comparison Through May, the Capital Outlay Status Report for June, the Commissioner's Activities Report, and the Weekly Updates, which are sent via e-mail.

Commissioner Clark called on Deputy Commissioner Todd Holbrook for an informational briefing on the DNR Land Management Steering Committee process and alternatives.

Mr. Holbrook provided a PowerPoint presentation on the subject and stated that a Steering Committee has been developed to consider the way DNR approaches the management of lands, specifically in the arena of classification of lands, how they are named, and how the public understands those names. He further stated that another topic of discussion the Steering Committee is considering is how user fees are approached.

Mr. Holbrook gave a brief description of the names currently used by DNR for lands under their management, and provided several questions the general public asks regarding those names.

Mr. Holbrook stated that revenues necessary for quality management are limited, and, therefore, a change in the fee structure is needed on Wildlife Management Areas and Public Fishing Areas.

Mr. Holbrook briefed the Board on the planning process of the Steering Committee and listed names of individuals serving on the Committee. He stated that this process would be ongoing and that he would come back to the Board in the future with updates.

Chairman Bradley called on Earl Barrs, Acting Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrs, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to renew License No. DACW01-3-85-238 for fish and game management purposes (25-year License Agreement), U. S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (COE), 17,015± acres of real property at Lake Seminole Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Decatur County.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrs, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to execute the two amendments to an Agreement providing for an observatory and recreational programs of Georgia State University (GSU), Georgia Board of Regents, Hard Labor Creek State Park, Morgan County.

Chairman Bradley called on Earl Barrs for comments regarding the Rock Howard Award. Mr. Barrs stated that Board members were being handed several documents relating to the 2010 Rock Howard Award, and that he would request nominations be sent to Mary Ann Evans no later than September 15. He further stated that the Rock Howard Nominating Committee would meet in September and that one candidate would be presented to the Board in October for action. He added that the recipient would receive their award at the December meeting.

Mr. Barrs stated that the 2010 Rock Howard Award Nominating Committee consists of himself as Chairman, Dwight Davis, Mabel Jenkins, Loyce Turner and Philip Watt. He further stated that the Committee was appointed by Chairman Bradley.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jenny Lynn Bradley, Chairman

ATTEST:

Warren C. Budd, Secretary