

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

**February 23, 2011**

**Attending:**

Board Members

Earl Barrs, Chairman  
Bill Archer  
Dennis Billew  
Gene Bishop  
Warren Budd  
Joe Hatfield  
Walter Hudson  
Mabel Jenkins  
Ray Lambert  
Robert Leebern  
Mark Smith  
Loyce Turner  
Jim Walters  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit

Visitors

State Representative John Burns  
Steve McWilliams, Georgia Forestry Association  
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation  
Steven Hart, Atlanta Environmental Management

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Allen Barnes  
Todd Holbrook  
Spud Woodward  
Becky Kelley  
Marlin Gottschalk  
Dan Forster  
Emily Hitchcock  
Kyle Pearson  
Lauren Curry  
Candy Henderson  
Steve Friedman  
Suzanne Burnes  
Linda MacGregor  
Jac Capp  
Jim Ussery  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Lisa Mehalko  
Homer Bryson  
Antoinette Norfleet  
Sarah Dearman  
Cathy Barnette  
Ben Stowers  
Connie Buck  
Linda Patrick  
Nathan Schaub  
Mary Ann Evans  
Hellen Harris

The February 23, 2011 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs called on Mabel Jenkins, who introduced State Representative John Burns, Chairman of the Game, Fish and Parks Committee in the Georgia Legislature. Representative Burns lead the Board in a time of inspiration and reflection on always doing what's right.

Chairman Barrs thanked Representative Burns for taking time to bring a devotion to the Board, and encouraged other Board Members to sign up to be responsible for bringing a time of inspiration and reflection at a future meeting.

Chairman Barrs called on Steve McWilliams, President of Georgia Forestry Association, for a presentation.

Mr. McWilliams stated the Georgia Forestry Association and the Georgia Forestry Foundation constantly educate citizens on the value of forests in the state of Georgia. He further stated that there are 24 million acres of forestland, 22 million of which are privately owned. He added that the economic impact of the forestry industry is well documented by studies done by Georgia Tech that illustrate a \$27.2 billion flow out of the manufacturing of wood and fiber products in Georgia.

Mr. McWilliams stated that the missing piece of the puzzle in trying to express the value of forests is putting a monetary figure on or quantifying the value of the eco-system services that forests provide. He further stated that eco-system services are ecological functions that nature provides that are of benefit to the citizens of a particular area. He added that the Georgia Forestry Foundation commissioned a study at the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources to quantify the value of the eco-system services on Georgia's 22 million acres of privately owned forest.

Mr. McWilliams showed a video from the Georgia Farm Bureau and stated that a forestry event took place at the State Capitol with Governor Deal speaking.

Mr. McWilliams stated that the eco-system services include, but are not limited to greenhouse gas and climate regulation, water quality and supply, flood control, soil formation and stability, pollination, habitat refuge and esthetic and cultural values. He further stated that a broad group of stakeholders advocate for private forests in Georgia and showed a slide naming those partners.

Mr. McWilliams stated that the work done by the University of Georgia's Warnell School will be extremely useful in the coming years to those who are attempting to initiate programs

and efforts to conserve private forests in the state. He further stated that it is a critical tool in the advocacy toolkit.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Barrs thanked Mr. McWilliams for making this presentation to educate the Board on this topic.

Chairman Barrs called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2011 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the January 2011 Board meeting.

Chairman Barrs called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to present the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner Williams presented Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division, with a 25-year Faithful Service Award.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on current legislation of importance to DNR and the status of the Amended FY-2011 and FY-2012 budget.

Commissioner Williams announced that Sarah Dearman, Communications Specialist, would be leaving DNR to accept a position with Coca-Cola effective February 28. He stated that Mrs. Dearman has been a valued member of the public affairs team and will be greatly missed. He further stated that he wished her well in her new endeavor.

Chairman Williams announced that Board members would find notebooks at their place containing briefing information on each of DNR's divisions and other updated information that would be helpful.

Chairman Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director, Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD), for an update.

Director Kelley briefed the Board on the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Trail Grant programs, and announced that Antoinette Norfleet, Grants Program Manager, was in attendance, should Board members have questions.

Director Kelley stated that March 2 would be State Parks Day at the Capitol and invited Board members to attend. She further stated that Andy Fleming, President of Friends of Georgia State Parks, would offer support on that day.

Director Kelley stated that May 8 would be Golf Day at the Capitol and PRHSD would showcase golf courses within the state park system.

Director Kelley stated that an archery range at Panola Mountain State Park would open on April 7, and encouraged Board members to attend the grand opening.

Director Kelley stated that Vogel State Park Manager David Foot and staff received a Customer Service Award from Governor Nathan Deal. She further stated that Mr. Foot also received the Manager of the Year Award.

Director Kelley called attention to an article in *Atlanta Wedding Magazine* regarding weddings being held at Georgia State Parks.

Dr. Turner commended Andy Fleming on the work of Friends of Georgia State Parks and encouraged Board members to become a member of the organization.

Commissioner Williams called on Candy Henderson, Chief of Operations for Historic Preservation Division (HPD), for an update.

Mrs. Henderson stated that Dr. Crass, Director of HPD, was attending a workshop in Washington, D. C., and that she would like to update the Board on seven properties that were recently review and approved by the National Register Review Board. She further stated that after the properties are approved by the Georgia National Register Review Board, they are then forwarded to the National Park Service for consideration in listing on the National Register of Historic Places. She gave a PowerPoint presentation of the properties and gave background information.

Mrs. Henderson updated the Board on the ongoing Economic Benefits Study and the Weekend for Wildlife discovery of the 1820 Lightkeeper's House at Sapelo.

Commissioner Williams called on Dan Forster, Director, Wildlife Resources Division, for an update.

Director Forster updated the Board on the outcome of Weekend for Wildlife (WFW), stating that over \$630,000 had been raised for the Nongame Program. He gave a briefing of the trips that were taken during that time and stated that Governor and Mrs. Deal participated and seemed to enjoy their time. He encouraged Board members to become involved in next year's WFW, which will be held at the Cloister at Sea Island.

Director Forster updated the Board on Fresh Water Turtle Regulations, general Hunting Regulations, Whooping Crane Shootings, and the National Archery in the School Program tournament, which was won by Woodlawn Elementary School.

Director Forster updated the Board on the possible transition of Boat Registration, stating that discussions with the Georgia Department of Revenue are ongoing that may allow boats to be registered at County tag/tax offices. He further stated that he would keep the Board apprised of future happenings in this area.

Commissioner Williams called on Emily Hitchcock, Executive Counsel, to present a request to redirect General Obligation Bond proceeds.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the General Assembly authorizes General Obligation Bonds each year and the Board requested that DNR submit all requests to redirect bond proceeds to it for approval prior to forwarding the request to the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission and the Office of Planning and Budget. She further stated that DNR requests the Board's approval to seek the redirection of the bond proceeds from the following two projects that are no longer viable to capital repairs and maintenance:

1. The Sapelo bridge project (DNR 84) cannot be funded with the available money. It has been competitively bid multiple times over the past six years and bids have been in the neighborhood of \$1 million. The request is to redirect the entire \$200,000 to DNR 114 (capital repairs and maintenance statewide) to be used for Sapelo Island. The island desperately needs a new well to serve the Hog Hammock community and other island residents, road re-surfacing on the south end of the island and roof repairs to State-owned residences occupied by State employees. The breakdown of the expenditures is:

\$60,000 to install the new well, pump and storage tank;  
\$100,000 for road re-surfacing \*based on cost estimates from DOT); and  
\$40,000 to replace old roofs with shingles missing at staff residences 1 & 2.

The estimated costs are above average due to the isolation of Sapelo Island and the necessity to transport all equipment and materials by barge. The road re-surfacing monies will be added to other monies available to DNR to maximize the road miles that can be re-surfaced as a part of a single project.

2. The second request seeks to redirect funds remaining after the completion of the planning and assessment phase for a public fishing area in Bacon County (DNR 96) to augment the funding required for capital repairs and maintenance statewide. It does not appear that the construction of the proposed fishing area will move forward at any time in the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, capital repairs and maintenance needs for DNR's wildlife management areas and parks are underfunded, and redirecting the

\$35,729 remaining in DNR 96 to DNR 114 can further repairs and maintenance of the infrastructure necessary to properly serve the public.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Budd, seconded by Dr. Turner and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Department's submission of a request to redirect \$200,000 from DNR84 and \$35,729 from DNR 96 to DNR 114, and to permit the funds be used for repairs and maintenance statewide.

Chairman Barrs called on Loyce Turner, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for renewal of License No. DACW01-1-86-157 for public park and recreational purposes (25-year license agreement), U. S. Department of Army, Corps of Engineers, 1.10± acres of real property at Lake George Andrews, Odom Creek Boat Ramp, Early County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Bishop and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for a conveyance of a permanent easement and the Woodville Radio Tower located on Georgia Highway 77 to Greene County in consideration for a 50-year agreement allowing the installation and maintenance of communications equipment on the tower or any replacement tower and the State's retention of a reversionary interest in the easement in the event Green County ceases to operate and maintain a communications tower on the property. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs stated that the Land Acquisition Committee would temporarily adjourn and would reconvene in Executive Session immediately following the Board meeting in Suite 1454 East Tower to discuss future land acquisition items.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Watt 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 Notices of Intent (NOI) for non-stormwater permits. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed Grant Criteria for Diesel Engine Retrofit Grants – 2009 and 2010 Diesel Engine Retrofit Act (DERA). (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed Railyard Retrofit Grant Criteria for Rome – 2010 Congested Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ). (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Lambert gave an update on issues discussed at the Environmental Legislative breakfast, and stated that he handed out a supplement to the Quarterly Compliance and Permitting Report that had been given to Board members at the Committee meeting.

Chairman Barrs read a Resolution honoring former Board member Dwight Davis and called for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Billew and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution honoring Dwight Davis. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs stated that the next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution to create an Audit and Compliance Committee, and that he had asked Bill Archer to spearhead a subcommittee to determine what was needed to ensure compliance with Board By-Laws. He then called on Mr. Archer for comments.

Mr. Archer updated the Board on the process of forming the Audit and Compliance Committee and called attention to the memorandum and proposed Resolution that was in the Board package. He stated that the Chairman of the Board will appoint the Committee members and that those members will meet and report to the Board a set of guidelines that will incorporate the audit process review from the Board level. He further stated that this will take a couple of years to perfect and establish exactly what will make it an effective committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Archer, seconded by Mr. Budd and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to create an Audit and Compliance Committee. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs stated that he feels the make-up of the Audit and Compliance Committee would be best served with the Vice Chairman of the Board serving as Chairman of the Committee and the Secretary of the Board also serving on the Committee. He further stated that the By-Laws state that the Committee be comprised of three to five Board members

and that the first Audit and Compliance Committee will include Warren Budd, Chairman; Mabel Jenkins; and Bill Archer.

Chairman Barrs briefed the Board on changes to the travel expense voucher plans to correct the issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Earl D. Barrs, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Mabel C. Jenkins, Secretary