

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources

Unicoi State Park Lodge
Master's Hall 3 & 4
1788 Highway 356
Helen, GA 30545

May 25, 2011

Attending:

Board Members

Earl Barrs, Chairman
Dennis Billew
Warren Budd
Bill Carruth
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Mabel Jenkins
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Loyce Turner
Jim Walters
Philip Wilheit
Steven Woodruff

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Todd Holbrook
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Dave Crass
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Homer Bryson
John Bowers
Steve Friedman
Jim Ussery
Linda MacGregor
Lauren Curry
Cathy Barnette
Paul Nelson
Wally Woods
Mary Ann Evans

Visitors

Wanda Barrs, Chair, Board of Education
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Karl Ledford, Georgia Transmission
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

The May 25, 2011 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs called for a motion to approve the April 2011 minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes from the April 2011 meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to thank the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) and the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), for all their help in organizing the field trips and making the meeting at Unicoi such a success.

Commissioner Williams gave a moving tribute to the late Marlin Gottschalk, referring to his impressive career with DNR, and stating that Dr. Gottschalk's funeral would be held on Friday.

Commissioner Williams announced that Colonel Homer Bryson would become the new Deputy Commissioner effective July 1, stating that Colonel Bryson has over 28 years with DNR. He further stated that Colonel Bryson will be responsible for PRHSD, as well as Historic Preservation Division (HPD), and will also oversee Information Technology (IT), contracts, grants, and bonds.

Commissioner Williams gave an update on the DNR Foundation, stating that former Atlanta Falcons Quarterback Steve Bartkowski and comedian Jeff Foxworthy are new members.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of Coastal Resources Division, who briefed the Board on the tripletail research project, the white shrimp population status and prognosis for opening food shrimp season, and announced the upcoming Golden Isles Family Fishing Event.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of HPD, who briefed the Board on archaeological activities on Ossabaw Island, Georgia Regional Commission's Economic Development Conference, and his presentation at Little St. Simon's Island relative to Cannon's Point Plantation conservation efforts.

Commissioner Williams called on Paul Nelson, Assistant Director of PRHSD, who briefed the Board on the status of Cloudland Canyon, Black Rock Mountain and F. D. Roosevelt State Parks in regard to the recent tornados, the status of the fire at Stephen C. Foster State Park, Governor's Service Day at Red Top Mountain State Park on June 11, Direction 2015 Initiative, Southeast Regional Outdoor Nation Youth Summit, upcoming Memorial Day weekend activities at state parks, summer outlook activities at state parks, and Engineering and Construction project highlights.

Commissioner Williams called on Todd Holbrook, Deputy Commissioner, for a briefing on the Sustainability Division.

Mr. Holbrook briefed the Board on the status of restructuring the Sustainability Division, stating that Deputy Director Suzanne Burnes had accepted another job, and that the restructuring would continue as planned.

Chairman Barrs called on Joe Hatfield, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Dr. Turner and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, and Firing Ranges, Rule 391-4-09-.02. (Hunting Regulations and Firing Ranges Rule attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously that the Board approve the adoption of the proposed Rules for the Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass, Chapter 391-4-9-.06. (Rules for the Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the disposition of 300± acres of real property, owned by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coosawattee – Carters Lake Wildlife Management Area, Murray and Gilmer Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to transfer via Quit Claim Deed 97± acres of real property from the Department of Natural Resources to the Oconee River Greenway Authority, Berry Farm Conservation Area, Baldwin County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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 and General Assembly approval to issue a revocable license and permanent easement over 0.057± acres of real property to the Georgia Power Company for construction and maintenance of an early warning system, Altamaha River Moody Forest Wildlife Management Area, Appling County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission and General Assembly approval to issue a revocable license and permanent easement over 0.03± acres of real property to the Department of Transportation for the purpose of reconstructing the interchange improvement at I-75 and SR-136, Resaca Battlefield Historic Site, Gordon County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed Grant Criteria for Award of Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants for FY-2012. (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs handed out a Petition for Rulemaking from Kids versus Global Warming, stating that there would be a special called Board Meeting conference call on Friday, June 17, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. for action the issue.

Chairman Barrs handed out the new organizational chart for the Department, showing the new Deputy Commissioner and his area of responsibility.

Chairman Barrs handed out information concerning a tour for Board Members of Plant Vogtle Nuclear Facility on November 7, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Earl D. Barrs, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mabel C. Jenkins, Secretary