

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

August 24, 2011

Attending:

Board Members

Earl Barrs, Chairman
Dennis Billew
Warren Budd
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Smith
Loyce Turner
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Cathy Cox, President, Young Harris College
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Corporation
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Maggie Lee, Freelance Reporter
Philip & Meredith Potter
Candler Budd

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Dan Forster
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Brad Gane
Doug Haymans
Steve Friedman
John Bowers
Jac Capp
Linda MacGregor
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Lauren Curry
Ben Stowers
Connie Buck
Cathy Barnette
Eddie Henderson
John Martin
Lisa Mehalko
Leigh Burns
Daniel Boone
Jim Hakala
Steven Smith
Jim Laine
Becky Marshall
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The August 24, 2011 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs called on Ray Lambert, who introduced Cathy Cox, President of Young Harris College, who gave a time of inspiration and reflection, and encouraged the Board regarding their awesome responsibility of service to the State of Georgia.

Chairman Barrs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2011 Board meeting, which included the July 15, 2011 Rock Howard Award Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the June 2011 meeting, which includes July 15, 2011 Rock Howard Award Committee meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams recognized the following DNR associates, who are participating in the Field Manager's Day program:

- Leigh Burns, Community Service Planning Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division
- Daniel Booke, Wildlife Technician 4, Wildlife Resources Division (Calhoun, GA)
- Jim Hakala, Fisheries Biologist 2, Wildlife Resources Division (Calhoun, GA)
- Steven Smith, Historic Site Manager 1, Parks & Historic Sites Division (Darien, GA)

Commissioner Williams called on Emily Hitchcock, Executive Counsel, for presentation of the proposed Resolution approving the renewal of the contract between the Pine Mountain Tourism Association and the Town of Pine Mountain, Georgia with the consent of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation for an additional one-year period beginning July 1, 2012, as provided in Georgia Section 48-13-55.

Mrs. Hitchcock gave background on the request and stated that she would like to ask for the Board's approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the renewal of the contract between the Pine Mountain Tourism Association and the Town of Pine Mountain, Georgia, with the consent of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation, for an additional one-year period beginning July 1, 2012, as provided in Georgia Code Section 48-13-55. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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

Director Kelley briefed the Board on the Tons of Fun Fitness Challenge Launch Event at the Governor's Mansion, State of State Parks Legislators briefing, Governor and Mrs. Deal's visit to several state parks, and PRHSD's Direction 2015.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director, Historic Preservation Division (HPD), for an update.

Dr. Crass briefed the Board on the addition of a sustainability specialist to the federal/state tax programs, award of a grant to HPD by the Digital Archaeological Record for a pilot program in digitizing project data, and the award of additional monies to HPD by the National Park Service to engage local communities in Section 106 Reviews.

Commissioner Williams gave background information and presented a PowerPoint on the FY-2012 Amended and FY-2013 Budget for DNR, and Jim Ussery, Assistant Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), presented EPD's Budget recommendations.

Commissioner Williams requested that the Board approve the Resolution to transmit the Budget to the Office of Planning and Budget.

Discussion ensued regarding seeking outside funding for "Georgia Outdoors."

A motion was made by Mr. Billew, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to direct the Commissioner to officially transmit the FY-2012 Amended and the FY-2013 Budget request as presented, to the Office of Planning and Budget (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)

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Billew and carried unanimously that the Board form a Sub-Committee to investigate outside funding sources for the "Georgia Outdoors" program.

Chairman Barrs stated that he would like to appoint Dr. Watt as Chairman of the Sub-Committee that will investigate outside funding sources for the "Georgia Outdoors" program, and encouraged Board Members to let him know if they would like to serve on that Committee.

Chairman Barrs called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Grant Program Description, Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapters 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18. (Resolution 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 Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of acquisition (donation) of 84.3± acres of real property, Burnside-View Subdivision, C. L. Lewis tract, Chatham County, Georgia, and directs staff to investigate the possible wetlands mitigation opportunity on this property. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Barrs called on Philip Watt, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Dr. Turner and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapters 391-4-2-.46, 391-4-2-.52 and 391-4-2-.55 through 391-4-2-.58, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations. (Copy of proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations 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. Billew and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed Grant Criteria for Railroad-Related Emission Reductions Program, Phase 2 for Atlanta, Macon, Middle Georgia Region, and Floyd County, Chapter 391-3-21-.14. (Proposed Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Hudson 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 requirements for Engineering Reports, Plans, Specifications, and Environmental Information Documents. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Lambert stated that EPD had provided Quarterly Reports at the Committee meeting and thanked staff for their efforts in pulling this information together in a timely manner.

Chairman Barrs called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Rock Howard Award Committee.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she would like to thank Mabel Jenkins, Philip Watt and Steven Woodruff for serving on the Committee, and Earl Barrs, who served as ex-officio.

Mrs. Johnson presented the proposed changes to the criteria, nomination and selection process and the possible renaming of the award, and asked Board members to communicate any changes or suggestions they may have. She further stated that the Committee would take any suggestions into consideration and present the final proposal at the September Board meeting for action.

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Discussion ensued regarding the DNR Foundation Board's possible funding of the award, as well as having a reminder at every June Board meeting regarding consideration of the award.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Earl D. Barrs, Chairman

ATTEST

Mabel C. Jenkins, Secretary