

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

September 28, 2011

Attending:

Board Members

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

Visitors

Jonathan Siskey, 101st Airborne Division Fort Campbell, Kentucky
Jonathan's grandfather (Dr. Pete Sharber)
State Senator Rick Jeffares
Walter Jones, Morris News Service
Michael Edgy, Brantley County Commissioner
Parrish Barwick, Brantley County Commissioner
Ronald Hamm, Chairman, Brantley County Commissioners
Chris Harris, Brantley County Commissioner
Wayne Morgan, Georgia Artist
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Gary Black, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture
Mary Kay Woodworth, Georgia Urban Agriculture Council

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Allen Barnes
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Wally Woods
Steve Friedman
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Lauren Curry
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Jim Laine
Ronnie Phillips
Eddie Henderson
Karl Burgess
Linda MacGregor
Connie Buck
Lisa Mehalko
John Martin
Paul Nelson
Cathy Barnett
Bill Donohue
Patti Lanford
Karl Gross
Holly Holdsworth
Kevin Chambers

The September 28, 2011 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs called on Phyllis Johnson to introduce the inspirational speaker and guest. Mrs. Johnson introduced Dr. Pete Sharber, retired Army Colonel; and his grandson, First Lieutenant Jonathan Siskey, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) based at Fort Campbell.

Lieutenant Siskey gave a very emotional and heartfelt testimony about the men in his Division and the Afghan children who inspired him on his recent tour of Afghanistan.

Chairman Barrs thanked Lieutenant Siskey for traveling from Albany to speak to the Board and recognized how touching and inspiring his speech was.

Chairman Barrs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2011 Board meeting, which included the September 7, 2011 Rock Howard Award Committee Conference call.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the August 2011 Board meeting, which included the September 7, 2011 Rock Howard Award Committee Conference call.

Chairman Barrs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 Board meeting conference call.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 conference call.

Chairman Barrs called on Ray Lambert, who introduced State Senator Rick Jeffares.

Senator Jeffares stated that this was his first year in the Senate and that he was proud to serve the State in this capacity. He presented his background and told of how he came to run for State Senate. He thanked the Board for their service and stated that he was available if they ever needed to call on him.

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

Commissioner Williams introduced Ron Hamm, Chairman of Brantley County Board of Commissioners; and Chris Harris and Mike Edgy, Brantley County Commissioners; along with Wayne Morgan, a Georgia artist who specializes in photography.

Mr. Morgan presented Commissioner Williams and the Board of Natural Resources a beautiful framed photo of the Great Satilla River – Gobbler's Nob.

Mr. Morgan stated that the Satilla River was one of the most beautiful in Georgia and it was his honor to present the photograph that he had taken to the Commissioner and Board, and thanked them for displaying it in the Board Room.

Commissioner Williams introduced Karl Burgess of the Coastal Resources Division (CRD), Patti Lanford of the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), and Karl Gross and Holly Holdsworth of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD), as Field Managers for the Day.

Commissioner Williams called on Emily Hitchcock, Executive Counsel, for presentation of the sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY-2011 General Appropriations Act and the FY-2012 General Appropriations Act.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission sells bonds periodically throughout the year related to bonds that have been authorized by the General Assembly. She further stated that one of the sales is now scheduled for November 1, 2011, and includes \$11,800,000.00 of DNR's money. She added that the projects that DNR will fund with the proceeds of this sale are: \$10,000,000.00 for capital repairs statewide and \$1,800,000.00 for the construction of new cabins and campsites.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she would request the Board's adoption of the Resolution for the sale of General Obligation Bond.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY-2011 General Appropriations Act and FY-2012 General Appropriations Act, which includes \$10,000,000.00 for capital repairs statewide and \$1,800,000.00 for the construction of new cabins and campsites. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Williams called on Dan Forster, Director of WRD, for a division update.

Director Forster gave an update on Weekend for Wildlife and encouraged Board members to look over the sponsor brochure that had been placed at their seats. He also gave updates on National Hunting and Fishing Day, the Sapelo Island Fire and the Ogeechee River Fish Kill.

Commissioner Williams called on Lauren Curry, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, for an update on fund raising efforts for the program "Georgia Outdoors."

Mrs. Curry stated that after passing the FY-2013 Budget, the Board directed staff to work to find private funding to make up for the \$67,000.00 cost of producing "Georgia Outdoors," which had been cut from the Budget request. She further stated that Georgia Public Broadcasting is required to keep the show on the air and that they are very appreciative of the Board's efforts to seek outside funding to help in this endeavor.

Mrs. Curry stated that Board Member Philip Watt was very instrumental in this effort and reported that to date \$20,500.00 has been raised. She further stated that there was also a possible

\$10,000.00 grant to be added in the near future. She added that the deadline to raise the complete \$67,000.00 is February 2012 and that she feels comfortable that the need will be met.

Mrs. Curry encouraged Board Members to let her know if they have any ideas or funds that could be used for this effort, and stated that she had a narrative about “Georgia Outdoors,” to hand out to interested parties. She stated that contributions are tax deductible.

Commissioner Williams called on Allen Barnes, Director of EPD, who gave an update on the Ogeechee River Fish Kill consent order. Mabel Jenkins thanked Director Barnes and EPD staff for their work on the consent order.

Chairman Barrs called on Georgia Department of Agriculture (DOA) Commissioner Gary Black for comments.

Commissioner Black commended the Board on their service to the State and thanked DNR for their continuing partnership with DOA. He thanked the Commissioner for including “Georgia Grown” in the recent State Parks initiative.

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 Rules for Coastal Marshlands Protection, Chapter 391-2-3-.05, extension of live-aboard privileges, as presented. (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 Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to enter into a 10-year Intergovernmental Agreement with Walker County on 5.5± acres for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a trail system at Crockford Pigeon Mountain WMA, Walker County, Georgia. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission and General Assembly approval to grant Georgia Power a revocable license and permanent easement over 2.9± acres for the purpose of replacement, upgrading and maintenance of an underground utility cable providing power to Skidaway Island State Park, Chatham County, Georgia. (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 approval to remove the Heritage Preserve designation on 136± acres at John Tanner State Park and conveyance of John Tanner State Park to Carroll 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 approval to accept the conservation easement over 136± acres at John Tanner State Park, Carroll County, Georgia. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Dr. Turner stated that he would like to remind the Land Acquisition Committee and any other Board Members that there will be an Executive Session immediately following the Board Meeting in Suite 1454 to discuss upcoming land acquisition items.

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

Mrs. Johnson stated that at the last meeting, the Rock Howard Award Committee had recommended several changes to the Rock Howard Award nominating selection process and put forth a new name for the award. She further stated that at that time, she mentioned that the Committee would welcome any suggestions to those recommendations.

Mrs. Johnson stated that three suggestions had been received and that the Committee met via conference call on September 7, 2011 to address those suggestions.

The following will outline the three suggestions and the Committee's recommendation to the Board:

1. A suggestion was made to reconsider the criteria that, "the nominee shall not have been employed by any state agency or held any public elected office for the past five years." The Committee recommends that the Board keep the stipulation as written in the criteria.
2. A suggestion was made that the award be considered for presentation to a group, as well as to an individual. The Committee recommends that the Board keep the stipulation that the award continue to be presented only to an individual.
3. A suggestion was made that the award be renamed the Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award. The Committee recommends that the Board rename the award as stated above.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Budd and carried unanimously that the Board accept the proposed recommendations of the Rock Howard Award Committee as stated above, which includes renaming the award "The Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award."

Chairman Barrs stated that a nominee had not been brought forth or suggested for the award this year and that the award would be given on an as needed basis.

Chairman Barrs called on Ronny Just, Georgia Power Corporation, who reminded the Board of the trip to Plant Vogtle on November 7. Mr. Just provided a hand out requiring Board Members to sign up for the tour.

Chairman Barrs stated that the October Board Meeting would be held at Middle Georgia College in Cochran and that information regarding this meeting would be forthcoming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Earl D. Barrs, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mabel C. Jenkins, Secretary