

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

**May 23, 2012**

**Attending:**

Board Members

Philip Watt, Chairman  
Rob Leebern, Vice Chairman  
Philip Wilheit, Jr., Secretary  
William Bagwell  
Dennis Billew  
Bill Carruth  
Joe Hatfield  
Walter Hudson  
Duncan Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Aaron McWhorter  
Mark Mobley  
Mark Smith  
Loyce Turner  
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle  
Tracy Bonda, Carruth Holdings  
Tyler Paul Smith, Carruth Holdings  
Laura Carruth  
Kate Carruth  
Kristin Carruth  
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund  
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Jud Turner  
Todd Holbrook  
Homer Bryson  
Spud Woodward  
Dan Forster  
Becky Kelley  
Dave Crass  
Kyle Pearson  
Steve Friedman  
Lauren Curry  
Linda MacGregor  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Jim Laine  
Ben Stowers  
Cathy Barnette  
Jeff Weaver  
Andre McLendon  
Bryan Gray  
Joel Fleming  
David Clark  
Wally Woods  
Amanda Schraner  
Mary Ann Evans  
Hellen Harris

The May 23, 2012 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Watt.

Chairman Watt stated that the order of business would be changed slightly in that he would like to request a motion to adopt the Resolution honoring Bill Carruth.

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Dr. Turner and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to honor William A. "Bill" Carruth. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Watt called on Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle, who stated that he would like to thank the Board of Natural Resources for their service to the State of Georgia, and especially to Bill Carruth, upon his resignation to run for State Senate from District 31.

Chairman Watt presented Mr. Carruth with the framed Resolution and thanked him for his years of service on the Board.

Mr. Carruth thanked the Board for the Resolution and introduced his wife, Laura; daughter, Kristen; daughter, Kate; and Tracy Bonds and Tyler Paul Smith of Carruth Holdings, who were in attendance.

Mr. Carruth stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed his nine-year tenure on the Board and thanked the Board and staff for their hard work over the years.

Chairman Watt called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2012 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Woodruff, seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the April 2012 meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams recognized the following Field Managers in attendance:

- Carolyn Belcher, Marine Fisheries Program Manager from the Coastal Resources Division (CRD).
- Andre McLendon, Park Manager, at A. H. Stephens State Park in Crawfordville.
- Bryan Gray, Park Manager at Stephen C. Foster State Park in Fargo.
- Joel Fleming, Fisheries Biologist from Wildlife Resources Division's (WRD) Richmond Hill office.

Commissioner Williams presented Deputy Commissioner Homer Bryson with a 30-year Faithful Service Award for his years of service to DNR.

Commissioner Williams called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel, for presentation on the sale of General Obligation Bonds.

Mr. Pearson stated that in the General Appropriations Act for FY-2011-2012, the General Assembly included items for DNR projects with a total value of \$7,500,000.00 that are to be funded by General Obligation Bonds. He further stated that in the General Appropriations Act for FY-2012-2013, the General Assembly included items for DNR projects with a total value of \$12,860,000.00 that are to be funded by General Obligation Bonds. He added that the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) has scheduled a sale of General Obligation Bonds for June 20, 2012 and includes \$16,660,000.00 of DNR's money.

Mr. Pearson stated that the projects that DNR will fund with the proceeds of this sale are: \$2,510,000.00 for land acquisition for wildlife management areas and parks; \$1,650,000.00 for new construction at state parks statewide; \$500,000.00 for the replacement of vehicles statewide; \$3,800,000.00 for capital repairs statewide; \$3,200,000.00 for facility improvements and renovations statewide; and \$5,000,000.00 for improvements at privately-operated facilities statewide.

Mr. Pearson stated that the State Law Department had prepared a Resolution concerning these bonds for the Board's consideration, and that he would like to request approval of the Resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilheit, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the sale of General Obligation Bonds pursuant to the FY-2011-2012 General Appropriations Act and the FY-2012-2013 General Appropriations Act, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Commissioner Williams presented data from the FY-2013 State Budget signed by Governor Deal.

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

Director Kelley handed out a copy of the latest edition of the newsletter from Friends of Georgia State Parks and a news release on Watson Mill Bridge State Park. She gave an update on Chattahoochee Bend State Park as the first LEED-certified state park in the nation. She also updated the Board on several capital outlay projects.

Commissioner Williams commended Director Kelley, Deputy Commissioner Bryson, and the PRHSD staff for their work at Watson Mill Bridge State Park in getting the local community involved.

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

Director Crass called on Amanda Schraner, Transportation Project Coordinator, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which is one of the most important federally-mandated responsibilities tied to economic development and activities in the state.

Commissioner Williams called on Dan Forster, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, (WRD) for an update.

Director Forster gave an update on the graduation ceremony for recent law enforcement employees, who undergo 18 weeks of academy training; Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) requirement, which generated approximately \$110,000.00 this fiscal year; joint USFWS/Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center (CEWC); status of revised reciprocal agreement with South Carolina for fishing; Quota Hunt process opening June 21; shotgun range opening at CEWC; and upcoming youth camps at CEWC.

Chairman Watt 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 adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to major spills, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed Grant Criteria for Award of 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants FY-2013, as presented. (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Watt 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 and General Assembly approval to grant a revocable license and permanent easement over 4.7± acres to Mark Shipp and Cliff Shipp for access to their property in exchange for a Right-of-First-Refusal on the Shipp's 45± acres located within the Sheffield Wildlife Management Area, Paulding County, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a revocable license and permanent easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation over 7.92± acres for the replacement and maintenance of the State Route 225 at New Town Creek Bridge over the Coosawattee River at New Echota Historic Site, Gordon County, as presented. (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 enter into a settlement agreement to resolve disputed boundary line and enter into a boundary line agreement, Otting Wildlife Management Area, Chattooga County, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Philip C. Watt, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Secretary