

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

August 29, 2012

Attending:

Board Members

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

Visitors

J. C. Sanford, Gilmer County
Leon Watkins, K & M Whitestone Valley Land
Brant lane, Environmental Consultant
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Jim Walters, Walters Management

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Jac Capp
Keith Bentley
Linda MacGregor
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Lauren Curry
Ben Stowers
Doyte Chaffin
Daniel Hill
Ken Lalumiere
Linda Willis
Wally Woods
Jim Martin
Richie Golden
Jim Lane
Kyle Pearson
Zachary Harris
David Clark
Vonetta Pryor
Steven Hatfield
Michael Chadwell
Mary Walker
Eddie Henderson
Stephen Adams
Shirisha Ramireddy
Gary Beale

The August 29, 2012 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Watt.

Chairman Watt called for a motion to adopt the Resolution honoring James A. Walters for his service on the Board of Natural Resources.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Lambert and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution honoring James A. Walters for his years of service on the Board. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Watt read the Resolution and stated that Mr. Walters had recently been appointed to the Georgia Ports Authority by Governor Nathan Deal. He gave examples of Mr. Walters' faithfulness to the Board of Natural Resources during his tenure and stated that he would be greatly missed. He then called Mr. Walters to the podium to receive the Resolution.

Mr. Walters thanked the Board and staff for the Resolution and for all their help during his 10-year term, and stated that he would see everyone at Weekend for Wildlife.

Board Member Duncan Johnson, who is also Chairman of the North Georgia Mountains Authority (NGMA), presented Mr. Walters with a memento from NGMA, and thanked him for his service on the Authority.

Mr. Walters thanked NGMA for their thoughtfulness.

Dr. Turner commended Mr. Walters on the fine work he has done, not only on the Board, but in his local community. He stated that Mr. Walters' influence is greatly appreciated by the entire State of Georgia and wished him well as he begins to serve on the Ports Authority.

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

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

Chairman Watt called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for comments.

Commissioner Williams recognized the following Field Managers, who were attending the Board meeting:

- Doyte Chaffin, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) Law Enforcement, Thomson, Georgia
- Daniel Hill, Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites (PRHSD), Manager at Red Top Mountain State Park
- Ken Lalumiere, PRHSD, Manager at Indian Springs State Park

- Linda Willis, Coastal Resources Division (CRD), Supervisor of Administrative Services Unit

Commissioner Williams recognized Lt. Colonel Buck Bennett, from CRD, who was named 2012 Wonder Bread Hero of the Year by the National Guard. He stated that as the winner, Buck was given the opportunity to direct a \$50,000 donation in his name to four different USO programs. He further stated that Buck would also receive \$2,500 and a year's supply of Wonder Bread!

Commissioner Williams acknowledged Elizabeth Cheney from CRD, who was not able to attend the meeting, along with Gary Beale and Sirisha Ramireddy from DNR's IT team for being recognized by the Georgia Technology Authority for an IT project that is considered one of the state's most innovative efforts this year. He stated that this team created a web application that provides real-time information to the public about the quality of water at our beaches and notifies the public when a water quality advisory is required.

Commissioner Williams announced the retirement of Deputy Commissioner Todd Holbrook to be effective October 1, 2012 after 27 years of service to DNR. He stated that Mr. Holbrook has a unique skillset, as he is both a highly trained wildlife biologist and a gifted administrator. He further stated that Mr. Holbrook has had a very distinguished career and capped it off by guiding DNR through some of the most difficult budget years in its history. He added that Mr. Holbrook will be greatly missed.

Commissioner Williams presented the FY-2013 Amended and FY-2014 Budget, which includes a 3% reduction plan for both years.

Commissioner Williams called on Mary Walker, Finance Director for the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), to present EPD's Budget for FY-2013 Amended and FY-2014.

Commissioner Williams stated that he would request that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize him to transmit the Budget as presented to the Office of Planning and Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Woodruff, seconded by Mr. Lambert, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to direct the Commissioner to officially transmit the Amended FY-2013 and FY-2014 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)

Commissioner Williams stated that the DNR Capital Status Report for August was in the Board package, and that the Weekly Updates were sent via e-mail.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, to give an update.

Dr. Crass stated that a television program, "Time Team America," would be filming at Magnolia Springs State Park in October. He further stated that "Time Team America" is a group of scientists who visit high profile archaeological projects and assist in uncovering projects where needed. He added that their help at Magnolia Springs would be in uncovering the main gate to the POW Camp.

Dr. Crass gave an update on National Park Service funding to HPD to test new training for local jurisdictions in Section 106, so that they can participate more fully. He stated that HPD was one of just three State Historic Preservation Offices chosen nationwide for this training.

Dr. Crass gave an update on HPD's partnership with the Georgia Downtown Association and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation to offer preservation planning training to local jurisdictions.

Dr. Crass briefed the Board on Federal funding received by HPD.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Dr. Turner and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed Rule, Clean Vessel Act Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-6. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed Rule, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-7. (Resolution 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. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a Restrictive Covenant with the U. S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers on 110± acres of real property, Sheffield Management Wildlife Management Area, Howell tract, Paulding County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Watt called on Rob Leebern, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2-.46, 391-4-2-.48, 391-4-2-.49, 391-4-2-.52 and 391-4-2-.55 through 391-4-2-.58, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations. (Hunting Regulations attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Leebern reminded the Board of the 25th Anniversary of Weekend for Wildlife, which will be held at the Cloister at Sea Island on February 8-9, 2013, and encouraged their participation.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Standard Applicability Thresholds. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed FY-2013 Spending Plan for the Solid Waste Trust Fund. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Lambert stated that Dr. David Allen would like to invite Board Members to the DNR Foundation Board get-together on December 13, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at his farm, and to remind them that their giving to the Foundation has resulted in several projects being funded, including Georgia Public Television's "Georgia Outdoors."

Chairman Watt announced his appreciation to DNR staff for their hard work and stated that he looked forward to upcoming IT improvements that are in the works.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Watt, Chairman

ATTEST:

Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Secretary