

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

January 23, 2013

Attending:

Board Members

Philip Watt, Chairman
Rob Leebern, Vice Chairman
Philip Wilheit, Secretary
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dennis Billew
Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Mark Smith
Dee Yancey

Visitors

State Representative Tom Kirby
Leon Watkins, K & M Inert Landfills
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Max Zygoront, Mowery Meezan Coddington Cloud LLP
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Jerry Merkerson, City of Hawkinsville
Lauren Joy, Southern Environmental Law Center
David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates
Ashley Megatt, Georgia Municipal Association
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Travis Turner, White County Board of Commissioners
Terry Goodger, White County Board of Commissioners
Edwin Nix, White County Board of Commissioners

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Mark Whitney
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Lauren Curry
Kyle Pearson
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Russ Pennington
David Clark
John Martin
Eddie Henderson
Mike Long
Taylor Brown
Bryan Tucker
Mitch Oliver
Mary Ann Evans
Cathy Barnette

Minutes – Board of Natural Resources

January 23, 2013

Page 2

Tom O'Bryant, White County

The January 23, 2013 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Watt.

Chairman Watt welcomed Nancy Addison, Dwight Davis, Paul Shailendra, Bodine Sinyard, and Dee Yancey as new Board members.

Chairman Watt recognized State Representative Tom Kirby and thanked him for his participation in the Environmental Protection Committee meeting yesterday, as well as his attendance today.

Chairman Watt stated that he would call for a motion to approve Resolutions for four former Board members, and present the Resolutions to those in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mrs. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to honor Loyce W. Turner for his faithful service on the Board of Natural Resources. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to honor Joseph M. Hatfield for his faithful service on the Board of Natural Resources. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to honor Mabel C. Jenkins for her faithful service on the Board of Natural Resources. (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 adopt the Resolution to honor Steven R. Woodruff for his faithful service on the Board of Natural Resources. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Chairman Watt read and presented the framed Resolution to Loyce Turner, who voiced his appreciation to the Board and staff for their help during his tenure, and imparted words of wisdom for new Board members.

Chairman Watt read and presented the framed Resolution to Joe Hatfield, who voiced his appreciation to the Board and staff for their help during his tenure, and imparted words of wisdom for new Board members.

Chairman Watt stated that the framed Resolution would be mailed to Mabel Jenkins, who was not able to attend the meeting.

Chairman Watt read and presented the framed Resolution to Steven Woodruff, who voiced his appreciation to the Board and staff for their help during his tenure, and imparted words of wisdom for new Board members.

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

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

Chairman Watt called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of Natural Resources, for comments.

Commissioner Williams stated that he, too, would like to thank the four former Board members for their service to the citizens of the State of Georgia and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Commissioner Williams presented Becky Kelley, Director of Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division, with a 10-year Faithful Service Award.

Commissioner Williams recognized Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources Division, for being appointed to the USDA Forest Resource Coordinating Committee by Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture. He stated that Director Forster is also currently serving as the Vice President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Commissioner Williams announced that the Board's Executive Assistant, Mary Ann Evans, would retire effective May 1, 2013.

Commissioner Williams briefed the Board on the current Budget and stated that he would keep the Board informed as it moves through the Legislative process, and gave an update on current legislation of interest to DNR.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, who gave an update on HB-36, which will add Red Drum to the list of legally-designated game fish in Georgia law; opening of Whelk and Jelly Fishing Seasons; CRD/GEMA project to develop a plan for coastal hazards long-term resiliency; and a review of Coastal Committee activities for 2013.

Commissioner Williams called on Bryan Tucker, Archaeologist Section Chief of the Historic Preservation Division (HPD), who gave an update on the partnership with Georgia State University Law School to strengthen constituent services through the Certified Local Government Program; strengthening the relationship with the University of Georgia to assist in student professionalization and provide opportunities for graduate students; and HPD's support role with WRD and PRHSD.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of PRHSD, who handed out the new Parks Brochure and updated the Board on the new Reservations System; transition of lodges to the North Georgia Mountains Authority; and the joint Directors and Friends Conference to discuss the focus on the future of PRHSD.

Commissioner Williams stated that the Capital Outlay Status Report for January was in the Board package and that Weekly Updates are sent via e-mail.

Chairman Watt called on Walter Hudson, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to request an Executive Order to transfer real property from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture, Georgia Agricultural Exposition Center and Fairgrounds, 1,048± acres, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Bilew, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to enter into a 50-year Intergovernmental Agreement with White County for the management of 1,000± acres, Unicoi State Park, Outdoor Therapeutic Center Tract, White County, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Hudson called on Travis Turner, Chairman of the White County Board of Commissioners, who thanked the Board and DNR staff for their willingness to enter into an agreement with White County for the operation of the Outdoor Therapeutic Center at Unicoi State Park.

Mr. Turner introduced County Commissioners Terry Goodger and Edwin Nix, who were also in attendance, and stated that the County Commission was in the process of developing a future site use plan on how to use best the property.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Wilheit, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-6-.06, pertaining to Sapelo Island Access and Transportation Rules. (Copy of proposed amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. McWhorter, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4, pertaining to Inert Waste Landfills. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Watt called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Officers for 2013.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the Nominating Committee consisted of herself as Chairman, Loyce Turner, Mark Mobley, Aaron McWhorter, and William Bagwell. She further stated that the slate of Officers had been presented and the December meeting and that she would like to move they be approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the following Officers for 2013: Rob Leebern, Chairman; Philip Wilheit, Vice Chairman; Ray Lambert, Secretary.

Chairman Watt thanked the Board and staff for their help during his year as Chairman, passed the gavel to the incoming Chairman, Rob Leebern.

Mr. Leebern presented a ceremonial gavel to Chairman Watt and thanked him for his leadership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Watt, Chairman

ATTEST:

Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Secretary