

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

**March 26, 2013**

**Attending:**

Board Members

Rob Leebern, Chairman  
Philip Wilheit, Vice Chairman  
Ray Lambert, Secretary  
Nancy Addison  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Davis  
Walter Hudson  
Duncan Johnson  
Bill Jones  
Aaron McWhorter  
Mark Mobley  
Mike Phelps  
Paul Shailendra  
Bodine Sinyard  
Philip Watt  
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Leon Watkins  
Ronny Just, GA Power  
Debbie Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition  
Congressman Jack Kingston  
Libby Kingston

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Jud Turner  
Homer Bryson  
Spud Woodward  
Becky Kelley  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Jac Capp  
Keith Bentley  
Linda MacGregor  
Mark Whitney  
John Bowers  
Eddie Henderson  
Lauren Curry  
Jim Ussery  
Russ Pennington  
Mary Ann Evans  
Cathy Barnette  
Taylor Brown  
Kyle Pearson  
Terry West  
Paul Nelson  
John Martin

The March 26, 2013 Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Congressman Jack Kingston for an inspirational message. Congressman Kingston spoke on the importance of outdoor recreation and state parks and his appreciation of the DNR Board members.

Chairman Leebern called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2013 meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the February 2013 meeting.

Chairman Leebern called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for his report.

Commissioner Williams called on Cathy Barnette, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, to receive her Twenty Year Faithful Service Award.

Commissioner Williams called on David Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, to receive his Fifteen Year Faithful Service Award.

Commissioner Williams briefed the Board on the Budget and stated he would keep the Board informed as it moves through the legislative process, and gave an update on the DNR legislation.

Commissioner Williams called on Terry West, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, who gave a division update which included a presentation of the new wildlife tags, information on the 2013 Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship hosted by Young Harris College, an update on the National Archery in the Schools program and state tournament, an update on the License and Boat Registration contract, white nose syndrome update, and information on the Board Field Days.

Commissioner Williams called on Eddie Henderson, Chief of Law Enforcement, for an update on “Operation Something Bruin.”

Colonel Henderson briefed the Board on the four year undercover operation exposing the poaching of black bears in the Appalachian Mountain area. Colonel Henderson stated the operation began in 2009 and was funded majorly by the Federal Government. He further stated the goals of the operation were to infiltrate the groups of violators through paid hunts, identify resource violators, document wildlife violations, and develop any intelligence associated with violations on U.S. Forestry Services property. He added First Class Ranger David Webb served as the undercover ranger in North Carolina during the operation. He stated there were over 900 violations of wildlife laws identified during the operation.

Colonel Henderson recognized the vital roles and importance that First Class Ranger David Webb, Lieutenant Sam O’Neal, and Corporal Micheal Crawley served in this operation.

Chairman Leebern stated he recommends Ranger Webb, Lieutenant O’Neal, and Corporal Crawley be invited back to a Board Meeting for a special presentation to thank them for their dedication.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, who gave an update on an Archeological Field School on Ossabaw Island in May and an update on the improved relationship between HPD and The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and their co-sponsored historic conservation conference in Milledgeville.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, for a division update on the opening of Don Carter State Park, Direction 2015 program,

the site business plans for each state park and historic site, new camping initiatives, and the importance and economic impact of outdoor recreation.

Chairman Leebern called on Mr. 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 Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to open burning. (Copy of the proposed amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Leebern called on Mr. Bagwell, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a twenty five year lease agreement with John Bell Holdings, LLC, Claxton Family Limited Partnership I, Eubanks-Eggert Family Limited Partnership and Bank of America, N.A. as Trustee for Irene Claxton for 1.5± acres of real property at the Shady Field Boat Ramp at the Oconee River in Laurens County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for Executive Order to transfer real property from the Department of Juvenile Justice to the Department of Natural Resources of 29.08± acres and the disposition of 7± acres of the Bullard Creek Wildlife Management Area in Appling County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (donation) of the 25± acres of real property via The Conservation Fund (TCF), Chief Vann House Historic Site in Murray County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to subgrant a Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant through the National Park Service to The Trust for Public Land, Georgia Piedmont Land Trust, and Athens Land Trust (collectively “the Trusts”) through a subgrant agreement to allow Georgia Piedmont Land Trust to purchase and to allow Athens Land Trust to acquire a conservation easement over the 132± acres of Lost Mountain Tract, Cobb County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Leebern asked if there was any other business.

Mr. Wilheit stated he would encourage all board members to attend the 2014 Weekend for Wildlife, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> through Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. He further stated the new wildlife license plates would be an auction item as well as a snake hunt with Congressman Kingston for Weekend for Wildlife.

Mr. Wilheit stated there would be a board member training session for the new DNR Board online portal at the April 2013 Board Meeting.

Chairman Leebern stated there would be individual and group photos of the Board members taken at the April 2013 Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Robert D. Leebern, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Ray P. Lambert, Jr., Secretary