

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Board Members

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

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Danny Johnson, Atlanta Regional Commission
Steve Caley, GreenLaw
Jimmy Kirkland, WCSR
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
Lea Kirschaw, GADA

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Eddie Henderson
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Taylor Brown
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
John Bowers
Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern stated he would like to thank the staff of The Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center for hosting the meeting and activities the day prior.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 2013 meeting.

Chairman Leebern called for a motion to amend the Agenda.

Mr. Bagwell stated Item 'g' under "Land Acquisition Committee- Tab G" of the Agenda should be amended to read 1.13± acres instead of 1.92± acres.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to amend Item 'g' under "Land Acquisition Committee- Tab G" of the Agenda.

Mr. Bagwell stated Item 'h' under "Land Acquisition Committee- Tab G" of the Agenda should be amended to read 0.21± acres instead of 1.13± acres.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously to amend Item 'h' under "Land Acquisition Committee- Tab G" of the Agenda.

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

Commissioner Williams recognized Rusty Garrison, Program Manager of The Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

Commissioner Williams recognized Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for being asked to sit on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of State Historical Preservation Officers.

Commissioner Williams called on Lauren Curry, Director of Public and Government Affairs, who gave an update on the upcoming legislative session.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Curry to update the Board on previous legislation involving the sand dune line.

Ms. Curry stated the Department was not moving forward with that legislation. She further stated it had previously been a part of HB 402, which had passed, but did not include that language.

Commissioner Williams called on Jud Turner, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his update.

Director Turner gave an update on the Ogeechee River; state direct investment; nonattainment for ground-level ozone for Metro Atlanta; and reorganization of the Water Branch.

Director Turner called on Doralyn Kirkland, Planning and Policy Advisor, to receive her Thirty Year Faithful Service Award.

Director Turner stated he appreciated Ms. Kirkland's service to the Division.

Director Turner called on Russ Pennington, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, who gave an update on the upcoming legislative session.

Commissioner Williams called on Director Crass for his report.

Director Crass stated he would like to thank Land Acquisition Committee for their favorable consideration of the Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve at Panola Mountain State Park.

Director Crass gave an update on the new Archeology Field School at Ossabaw Island.

Commissioner Williams called on Mark Whitney, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for the Division's update.

Mr. Whitney gave an update on the bidding process for hunting and fishing licenses and Weekend for Wildlife 2014.

Mr. Whitney gave an informational overview of the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

Commissioner Williams called on Colonel Eddie Henderson, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his update.

Colonel Henderson gave an update on the Division's work with the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes; Board Members Nancy Addison and William Bagwell's work with rangers; the Prince boating case; and hunting incidents this season.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Director Woodward gave an update on food shrimp and an artificial reef project involving a sunken barge ship.

Commissioner Williams stated there being no further business, his report was concluded.

Chairman Leebern called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, for her committee report.

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously that the Board approve the nomination of Henry S. Morgan to serve as a member of the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2014.

Chairman Leebern called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, for his committee report.

Mr. Lambert thanked Commissioner Williams and the DNR staff and Director Turner and the EPD staff.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17, pertaining to Federal updates. (Copy of the proposed amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison 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 management of made inflows to reservoirs. (Copy of the proposed amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Leebern called on Dr. Philip Watt, Chairman of the Law Enforcement Division, for his committee report.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources, Boating Regulations, Chapter 391-4-5. (Copy of the proposed amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Leebern called on Bill Jones, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Committee, for his committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2014-2016. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Leebern called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee, for his committee report.

Mr. Bagwell stated Item 'g' and Item 'h' under "Land Acquisition Committee-Tab G" of the Agenda needed to be further amended to reflect the correct addresses.

Mr. Bagwell stated Item 'g' under "Land Acquisition Committee- Tab G" of the Agenda should be amended to read '104 Travis Street' instead of '1105 North Davis Drive.'

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to amend Item 'g' under "Land Acquisition Committee- Tab G" of the Agenda.

Mr. Bagwell stated Item 'h' under "Land Acquisition Committee-Tab G" of the Agenda should be amended to read '201 Baker Road' instead of '104 Travis Street.'

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to amend Item 'h' under "Land Acquisition Committee- Tab G" of the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the granting of a Revocable License and Permanent Easement of .00851± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to Comcast for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating underground fiber optic cable for AT&T cellular at Richmond Hill Wildlife Management Area, Bryan County. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried with one opposing vote by Ms. Johnson that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approve to acquire (purchase) 1,902± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Restripe Stage II via The Conservation Fund (TCF), Jeff Davis County. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Hudson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 2,503± acres of real property, Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Ironstab Tract Stage I, Paulding and Polk Counties. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Phelps and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 1,220± acres of real property, Fort Benning Buffer, Fort Perry Tract via The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Marion County. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 7,495± acres of real property, Fort Benning Buffer, Almo Tract via The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Talbot and Marion Counties. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 1.31± acres of real property, Echeconnee Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 104 Travis Street, Houston County. (Copy of the 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 (purchase) of 0.21± acres of real property, Echeconnee Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 201 Baker Road, Houston County. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 343± acres of real property, Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Southern Timber Tract, Walker County. (Copy of the Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Leebern called on Ms. Johnson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for her committee report.

Ms. Johnson stated she would like to thank Chairman Leebern for doing a wonderful job serving as the Chairman of the Board during the 2013 year.

Ms. Johnson stated the Nominating Committee consisted of Aaron McWhorter, Mark Mobley, Mark Smith, Dee Yancey, and herself.

Ms. Johnson stated on November 15, 2013 the Committee held a conference call for the purpose of selecting a slate of officers to propose to the full Board for the leadership roles for the upcoming year of 2014. She further stated the Nominating Committee unanimously nominated the following officers for 2014: Philip Wilheit, Chairman; Ray Lambert, Vice Chairman; William Bagwell, Secretary.

Chairman Leebern thanked Ms. Johnson for her comments. He further thanked the Board members for traveling to the Board meetings held around the state of Georgia.

Mr. Wilheit stated he would like all Board members to attend Weekend for Wildlife.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Robert D. Leebern, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Ray P. Lambert, Jr., Secretary

Minutes
Coastal Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

Phyllis Johnson, Chairman
Mark Smith, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Aaron McWhorter
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey
Rob Leebern, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
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Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Danny Johnson, Atlanta Regional Commission
Steve Caley, GreenLaw
Jimmy Kirkland, Womble Carlyle
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
Lea Kirschaw, GADA

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
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Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Taylor Brown
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
John Bowers
Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, who called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

Director Woodward stated the first item was appointing the new member to the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee.

Director Woodward stated current member Henry Williams Jr.'s term would end on December 31, 2013. He further stated Mr. Williams served on the committees for 16 years. He added Mr. Williams was an exemplary committee member and he thanked him for his service.

Chairman Johnson stated she would like to thank Mr. Williams for his service on this committee.

Chairman Johnson stated Henry S. Morgan has been nominated to serve as a member on this committee. She further stated the Board members were given information on Mr. Morgan at the October Board meeting. She added no other nominees were recommended.

Chairman Johnson stated the recommendation and qualifications of Mr. Morgan had been discussed by Commissioner Williams, Chairman Leebern, Director Woodward, and herself. She further stated based on this discussion she would recommend to the Coastal Committee that the committee request the Board's approval of Henry S. Morgan to serve a four year term on the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee. She added this term would be effective on January 1, 2014.

Mr. Smith stated he would highly endorse Mr. Morgan to serve as a member of this committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McWhorter and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the nomination of Henry S. Morgan to serve as a member of the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2014.

Chairman Johnson called on Spud Woodward to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4.

Director Woodward stated the purpose of the proposed amended Rule is to ensure Georgia's compliance with the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic coastal sharks. He further stated the primary features of the proposed amendments are the modification and creation of definitions for "Sharks," "Small Shark Composite," "Hammerhead Sharks," and "Prohibited Sharks," and the substitution of TL (total length) to FL (fork length).

Director Woodward stated the public notice period would begin on December 4, 2013. He further stated final action by the Board is anticipated for January 31, 2014. He added the Rules would become effective March 1, 2014.

Mr. Smith asked Director Woodward if he had received any public comment on this issue prior to the briefing.

Director Woodward stated he had not. He further stated most people who target these large sharks practice voluntary catch and release. He added he does not anticipate any resistance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chairman
William Bagwell, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
Walter Hudson
Phyllis Johnson
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Mark Phelps
Rob Leebern, Board Chairman, ed-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Mark Smith
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Danny Johnson, Atlanta Regional Commission
Steve Caley, GreenLaw
Jimmy Kirkland, WCSR
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
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Staff Members

Mark Williams
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Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
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Steve Friedman
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Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
John Bowers
Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, who called on Keith Bentley, Chief of the Air Protection Branch.

Mr. Bentley stated the first item for consideration would be taking an action on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17, pertaining to Federal updates.

Mr. Bentley stated the purpose of the rule change was to revise the Radioactive Materials Rules in order to be consistent with the requirements of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). He further stated NRC policy requires that Agreement States adopt equivalent regulations no later than three years after new or revised federal regulation becomes effective.

Mr. Bentley stated there were five federal regulations the NRC has promulgated for which Georgia must adopt revisions in order to be consistent and compatible.

Mr. Bentley stated the Board was briefed on the proposed revisions in February 2013. He further stated during the public notice period additional changes were made based on comments received from the NRC. He added the Board was re-briefed on rules changes in August and a second public notice was issued September 20, 2013.

Mr. Bentley stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17, pertaining to Federal updates, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Jac Capp, Chief of the Water Protection Branch.

Mr. Capp stated the next item for consideration would be an action on the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to management of made inflows to reservoirs.

Mr. Capp stated the stated proposed rule was to clarify, consistent with federal law, the State's policy regarding made inflows to federal reservoirs. He further stated the policy encourages return flows to surface waters.

Mr. Capp stated the proposed rule allows the EPD Director to retain authority to control the use and storage of surface waters within the State. He further stated the proposed rule change describes the criteria the EPD Director would use to exercise the authority.

Mr. Capp stated the Board was briefed on this item in September 2013 and a minor change was made. The Board was re-briefed in October 2013 and a public hearing was held on October 25, 2013.

Mr. Capp stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Chairman Lambert asked Mr. Capp how many comments were received during the public notice period.

Mr. Capp stated three supportive comments were received from Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, Georgia Association of Water Professionals, and Joe Tanner and Associates. He further stated Georgia Water Coalition commented that the rule was overly vague, could incentivize inter-basin transfers or new reservoirs, and that EPD should develop a new instream flow policy.

Chairman Lambert called on Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network, to speak on the proposed rule change.

Mr. Manganiello expressed concerns with the proposed amendments. He stated he would request the Board send the proposed rule change back to EPD.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to management of made inflows to reservoirs, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Jeff Cown, Chief of the Land Protection Branch.

Mr. Cown stated he would be briefing the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Hazardous Site Response, Chapter 391-3-19.

Mr. Cown stated EPD would convene a stakeholder process hoping to improve the Rules by making them more reasonable and helping with corrective actions.

Mr. Cown stated the proposed changes to the Rules would propose a 90 day deferment of notification scoring to allow responsible parties to conduct corrective action and confirmation sampling contingent on providing interim measures as needed. He further stated the proposed rules would allow the delisting of Type 5 sites upon concurrence of Compliance Status Report (CSR) and execution of Uniform Environmental Covenant (UEC). He added the proposed changes would change thresholds used to delineate ground water and soil contamination.

Mr. Cown stated the proposed rules would also change the publication of notices to only the host county's legal organ.

Mr. Cown stated EPD anticipates convening the stakeholders to seek input in February of 2014. He further stated the Board would be briefed on the proposed revisions in August and a public hearing would take place in September. He added the EPD anticipates requesting the Board's approval to the proposed amendments in December of 2014.

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Cown to explain the process of selecting stakeholders.

Mr. Cown stated EPD would select people who have been interested in issues concerning hazardous sites in the past, local governments, and people involved in the corrective action process.

Chairman Lambert called on Mr. Capp to give an informational briefing on Rivers Alive.

Mr. Capp stated Rivers Alive is Georgia's annual volunteer cleanup that targets all state waterways. He further stated since it began in 1999, that 8,224,866 pounds of trash have been removed from Georgia's waterways.

Discussion ensued on the topic of prevention and disposal of the trash removed by the Rivers Alive program.

Chairman Lambert stated this was a wonderful program and he applauds EPD for this effort.

Mr. Capp stated he would be briefing the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to land application of septage.

Mr. Capp stated in 2006 the Senate Septage Disposal Study Committee recommended transferring authority to regulate land disposal of septage from the Georgia Department of Public Health to EPD as of July 1, 2012. He further stated the law changed in 2007 as recommended and EPD developed general permits to cover sites formerly regulated by the Department of Public Health in 2010.

Mr. Capp stated in 2011 concerns were raised that permit requirements were cost prohibitive for small pumpers (land disposal sites taking septage from only one company). He further stated in 2012 the legislature approved a two year delay in transition to July 1, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated for the past year EPD has been working with an industry group to draft rule changes that would address this issue.

Mr. Capp stated EPD proposes to amend the permit requirements of these Rules to provide for EPD's assumption of the authority to regulate all land disposal sites as of July 1, 2014. He further stated these amendments establish a two-tiered permitting system that distinguishes between single pumper site operations and larger facilities receiving waste from more than one pumper and provide for the issuance of a general permit. He added the amendments provide clarification through the modification of language, the amendment of existing definitions, and the addition of new definitions.

Mr. Capp stated the proposed rule change would go out for public notice in December 2013 and a public hearing would be held in January 2014. He further stated EPD anticipates requesting the Board's approval in February 2014.

Discussion ensued on this topic.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Land Acquisition Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

William Bagwell, Chairman
Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Mike Phelps
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey
Rob Leebern, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Walter Hudson
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Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
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Jeff Weaver
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Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item would be a briefing on the Petition for Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve, Panola Mountain State Park, 760± acres, Rockdale County and Henry County.

Mr. Friedman stated this change of use was requested by the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) and the Historic Preservation Division (HPD). He further stated PRHSD and HPD seek to change the Heritage Preserve designation to expand the primary goals to include a historical and cultural preservation laboratory, facilities for the staff of both divisions and public overnight accommodations.

Mr. Friedman stated a public hearing would be held on January 7, 2014. He further stated this matter will return to the Board for a vote during the January 2014 Board meeting.

Mr. Friedman stated he anticipates no opposition to this change of use. He further stated the Department wants to act safely by going through the entire process to be granted the change of use.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item would be the granting of a revocable license and permanent easement to Comcast for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating underground fiber optic cables for AT&T cellular at Richmond Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Friedman stated Richman Hill WMA is also protected under a Heritage Preserve. He further stated DNR feels like a change of use is not necessary because the cable will be underground and will follow the footprint of an existing utility easement.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License and Permanent Easement of .00851± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to Comcast for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating underground fiber optic cable for AT&T cellular at Richmond Hill Wildlife Management Area, Bryan County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item would be the acquisition of 1,902± of real property at Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area, Redstripe Stage II.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department closed on Stage I in January of 2013. He further stated this is an important tract of land along the Ocmulgee River and will add additional river frontage and more public recreational opportunities.

Mr. Friedman stated he would like to thank The Conservation Fund, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Knobloch Family Foundation, and The Georgia Conservancy for their support of this project.

Mr. Friedman stated he has spoken with the County Chairman and County Commissioner of Jeff Davis County about ways to promote use of the WMA and drive more visitors to the county. He further stated he has committed himself to promoting the use of this area to different organizations.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1,902± acres of real property, Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Redstripe Tract Stage II via The Nature Conservancy Fund (TFC), Jeff Davis County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item for the Board's consideration would be the acquisition of 2,503± acres of real property at the Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Friedman stated this property is an important tract within Paulding Forest WMA, an area identified as one of the most important conservation targets in Georgia's Wildlife Action Plan. He further stated this acquisition will greatly improve the management of the WMA and provide public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and other recreational activities. He added this tract will be acquired in two stages.

Mr. Friedman stated the source of funding for this purchase consists of \$2,500,000 by the Pitman-Robertson Grant, \$1,000,000 from the Fish and Wildlife Service Grant, \$2,300,000 from DNR Bond 126, and \$1,303,550 from DNR Bond 120.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Chairman Bagwell asked when Stage II would be purchased.

Mr. Friedman stated he anticipates the acquisition in late summer of 2014.

Chairman Bagwell stated he would like Mr. Friedman to briefly explain the competitiveness of these grants.

Mr. Friedman stated the Recovery Grant is highly competitive. He further stated the Department requested three projects and this project was the only one selected.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 2,503± acres of real property, Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Ironstab Tract Stage I, Paulding and Polk Counties, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the following two items would be presented together. He further stated the first item seeks approval of purchasing the Fort Perry Tract in Marion County and the second item seeks approval of purchasing the Almo Tract in Talbot and Marion Counties.

Mr. Friedman stated these tracts are within the Fort Benning buffer area which is important to national security and for the economy of the region around the Base. He further stated these two tracts will become part of a new Wildlife Management Area in Georgia. He further stated these tracts would be managed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Army.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve these items as presented.

Chairman Leebern stated Fort Benning currently does not allow hunting on adjacent property.

Mr. Friedman stated these purchases will now allow the opportunity for hunting on the WMA.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Friedman the price/acre on the Almo Tract.

Mr. Friedman stated the price/acre is \$589. He further stated the Army is putting up half.

Mr. Yancey asked Mr. Friedman which specific species were being protected by this purchase.

Mr. Friedman stated the woodpecker and gopher tortoise would be protected.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1,220± acres of real property, Fort Benning Buffer, Fort Perry Tract via The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Marion County, as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 7,495± acres of real property, Fort Benning Buffer, Almo Tract via The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Talbot and Marion Counties, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the following two items would be presented together. He further stated both properties lie in the buffer zone of the Warner Robins Air Force Base. He added this project involves protecting the base from any issues arising during the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Mr. Friedman stated in the upcoming months the Department plans to acquire multiple tracts within the northern buffer zone.

Mr. Friedman stated the first acquisition is 1.13± acres at 104 Travis Street in Houston County for \$9,600 funded by DNR Bond 123. He further stated the second purchase is .21± acres at 201 Baker Road in Houston County for \$2,300 funded by DNR Bond 123. He added both of these tracts do not have houses on the property.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopts the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1.13± acres of real property, Echeconnee Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 104 Travis Street, Houston County, as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.21± acres of real property, Echeconnee Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 201 Baker Road, Houston County, as presented.

Chairman Bagwell stated the acreages stated in the motions presented for Item 'g' and Item 'h' do not match the acreages presented in the Agenda items. He further stated he would like Mr. Friedman to clarify.

Mr. Friedman stated the correct acreages were stated in the motions and were incorrect in the Agenda.

Mr. Bagwell called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel, who commented on this issue.

Chairman Bagwell called on Mr. Friedman to present the next item.

Mr. Friedman stated the final item for consideration would be the acquisition of 343± acres to add to the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Walker County.

Mr. Friedman stated this property is important for recreation and conservation, will greatly improve management, and is within one of the top priorities of Georgia's Wildlife Action Plan.

Mr. Friedman stated there is an abandoned 10 acre landfill on the property which was not properly closed prior to it being abandoned. He further stated EPD is aware of this landfill and will properly close it when Solid Waste Trust Fund funds are appropriated for this purpose. He added until that time, the Department will apply for a Brownfield limitation of liability for any groundwater releases at the site of the landfill.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 343± acres of real property, Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Southern Timber Tract, Walker County, as presented.

Chairman Bagwell called on Ms. Johnson to speak.

Ms. Johnson stated she would like to share with the Board her struggle in finding the appropriate and sustainable balance of public and private ownership of property. She further stated she has spoken with Mr. Friedman several times about this issue over the years and does not mean for this to be a negative comment.

Ms. Johnson stated she certainly supports state ownership of property. She further stated she thinks it is imperative to protect military bases, incumbent by the state to provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and it is vital to conserve land.

Ms. Johnson stated her comments were geared towards rural, non-industrial communities that have a very small tax base. She further asked how we can measure the effect that public ownership has on these types of counties. She added she was simply posing the question of how do you know when the State owns enough property.

Chairman Bagwell stated he appreciated Ms. Johnson's comments and believes this is a very important question for the Board to internally discuss.

Discussion ensued on this topic.

Mr. McWhorter stated the Board should look at what the purpose and use of every acquisition and look to where the Department is going in the future.

Mr. Smith asked if there is a strategic plan concerning land acquisition in place for the next five to ten years.

Mr. Friedman stated the State Wildlife Action Plan is used by Real Estate.

Discussion ensued on the topic of a strategic plan.

Dr. Watt asked what the impact is to the tax base in the counties DNR is purchasing property. He further stated he believes it is up to the Board to periodically re-evaluate.

Mr. Yancey stated he believed it is important to evaluate what DNR is currently purchasing but also re-evaluate the property the Department already owns.

Mr. Friedman stated these properties benefit the county through added industry and tourism. He further stated it is hard to calculate the economic benefits of state owned properties.

Mark Whitney, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, stated there are companies that do this research. He further stated WRD is very interested in conducting research on economic impact and currently has a proposal submitted to a group.

Discussion ensued on the topic of measuring economic impact of state owned land.

Chairman Bagwell stated this was an important discussion. He further stated if an economic study were to take place he would like the Board to be engaged in the research process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

Philip Watt, Chairman
Dee Yancey, Vice Chairman
Phyllis Johnson
Bill Jones
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Philip Wilheit
Rob Leebern, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Ray Lambert
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Smith

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Danny Johnson, Atlanta Regional Commission
Steve Caley, GreenLaw
Jimmy Kirkland, WCSR
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
Lea Kirschaw, GADA

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Eddie Henderson
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Taylor Brown
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
John Bowers
Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Dr. Philip Watt, Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee.

Chairman Watt called on Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver to present the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Boating Regulations, Chapter 391-4-5.

Lt. Col. Weaver stated five persons attended the public hearings in October and all supported the proposed rule changes. He further stated no comments were received electronically, in writing, or by telephone related to the proposed changes to the boating regulations.

Lt. Col. Weaver stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Ms. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Boating Regulations, Chapter 391-4-5, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

Bill Jones, Chairman
Walter Hudson, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Paul Shailendra
Mark Smith
Rob Leebern, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Bodine Sinyard
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Danny Johnson, Atlanta Regional Commission
Steve Caley, GreenLaw
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Staff Members

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Steve Friedman
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Lauren Curry
Taylor Brown
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
John Bowers
Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Bill Jones, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Committee, who called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division.

Director Kelley stated she would be asking for the Board's approval of Georgia's Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2014-2016.

Director Kelley stated the Board was briefed on this item in October and a public comment period was held in November. She further stated following the Board's approval, the report would be transmitted to the Governor for certification. She added following certification the report would require National Park Service approval.

Director Kelley stated five comments were received during the public comment period, resulting in minor text edits for clarification purposes.

Director Kelley stated the Georgia SCORP 2014-2016 continues to advance the significant positive impacts that public outdoor recreation has on our health, economic standing and protection of natural spaces.

Director Kelley stated the Georgia SCORP 2014-2016 declares that investment of federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) for the 2014-2016 grant cycles will primarily focus on urgent rehabilitation and renovation of existing public outdoor recreation facilities and areas.

Director Kelley stated she would request the committee recommend that the Board approve this item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve Georgia's Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2014-2016, as presented.

Mr. Smith stated he attended a ceremony at Wormsloe State Historic Site where Director Kelley was recognized by the speakers. He further stated he would like to thank Director Kelley for all she does for DNR.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Shepherd Conference Room

December 3, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

Philip Wilheit, Chairman
Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Duncan Johnson
Phyllis Johnson
Aaron McWhorter
Bodine Sinyard
Philip Watt
Dee Yancey
Rob Leebern, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Bill Jones
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Paul Shailendra
Mark Smith

Visitors

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
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Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Danny Johnson, Atlanta Regional Commission
Steve Caley, GreenLaw
Jimmy Kirkland, WCSR
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Lauren Curry
Taylor Brown
Keith Bentley
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
John Bowers
Mark Whitney
Antoinette Norfleet
Rusty Garrison

The December 3, 2013 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Philip Wilheit, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Chairman Wilheit called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management, to update the Board on WRD's Deer Management Planning effort.

Mr. Bowers stated the current Deer Management Plan expires at the end of 2014. He further stated WRD has begun the process of developing the next Statewide Deer Management Plan which will be effective starting in 2015.

Mr. Bowers stated this is a very extensive public participation process. He further stated the steering committees have met twice during which the members decided on ten key issues on which to focus. He added ten public hearings had been held and comments were received by mail, telephone, and email.

Mr. Bowers stated a random, scientific telephone survey of residents, hunters, and landowners was conducted by Responsive Management, Inc., a public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in hunting, angling and natural resources. He further stated the survey evaluated public opinions and attitudes on deer, deer populations, deer management, deer damage, deer hunting, and deer hunting regulations. He added the entire survey consisted of more than 180 questions and the complete report covers 354 pages.

Mr. Bowers gave a presentation that highlighted a few results pertaining to management, populations and high profile regulatory issues.

Mr. Yancey asked Mr. Bowers how many people were called during the survey.

Mr. Bowers stated the survey included 805 residents, 825 hunters, and 200 landowners (own 20+ acres).

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Bowers if scientific facts or public opinion was the driving force behind deer management.

Mr. Bowers stated for WRD, biology plays the most important part in the regulatory process. He further stated public opinion is also important.

Discussion ensued on this topic.

Dr. Watt asked Mr. Bowers to explain how the tagging system plays into reporting the number of deer harvested.

Discussion ensued on the topic of harvest estimation techniques.

Dr. Watt stated he believed the adjustment of doe days was mostly impacting children who hunt. He asked Mr. Bowers if WRD could look into changing the structure to promote hunting by youth but still cut down on the number of days.

Mr. Bowers stated WRD would take this under consideration.

Mr. Sinyard asked Mr. Bowers to explain the anticipated timeline of Georgia's new Deer Management Plan.

Mr. Bowers stated WRD anticipates briefing the Board on a draft of the Deer Management Plan in April or May of 2014.

Chairman Wilheit called on Mark Whitney, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, to brief the Board on the Wildlife Resources Division Strategic Plan.

Mr. Whitney stated this would be a five year plan (2014-2018) based on customer input in consultation with Carl Vinson Institute of Government. He further stated WRD wanted to focus on three to five high priority goals of the department.

Mr. Whitney stated an internal and external survey was conducted with input from CVIOG. He further stated these results were tabulated and a report was prepared for the Planning Team meeting.

Mr. Whitney explained the process the Planning Team undertook to draft the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Whitney stated the information consolidated and organized by the Planning Team was presented to leadership for input. He further stated the Leadership Team consisted of Section Chiefs and Assistant Section Chiefs led by Jenifer Hancock and him. He further stated the Leadership Team then completed the final draft for presentation.

Mr. Whitney stated he would like the Board members to share their input and ask questions after reviewing the draft Strategic Plan.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Whitney how WRD anticipates increasing their funding.

Mr. Whitney stated WRD feels there are a number of ways to do this including increased recruitment, increased license sales, additional federal money, and through marketing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.