

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

**February 25, 2014**

**Attending:**

Board Members

Philip Wilheit, Chairman  
Ray Lambert, Vice Chairman  
William Bagwell, Secretary  
Nancy Addison  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Walter Hudson  
Duncan Johnson, Jr.  
Bill Jones  
Aaron McWhorter  
Mark Mobley  
Paul Shailendra  
Bodine Sinyard  
Brother Stewart  
Philip Watt  
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Micheal Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Jud Turner  
Homer Bryson  
Dave Crass  
Dan Forster  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
Steve Friedman  
Kyle Pearson  
Lauren Curry  
Cathy Barnette  
Taylor Brown  
Doug Hayman  
Mark Whitney  
John Martin  
Jim Laine  
Terry West  
Delana Powell  
Mary Walker  
Jeff Cown  
Russ Pennington  
Jac Capp  
Walter Rabon  
Jeff Weaver  
Wally Woods  
Michael Chadwell  
Ronnie Beard  
A.J. McAllister  
Katie Gregory  
Sean Taylor  
Elizabeth Munsey  
DeAnna Oser  
Renee Alonso

The February 25, 2014 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle for an inspirational message. Lieutenant Governor Cagle spoke on the wonderful job this Board does protecting the state's natural resources and congratulated Chairman Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2014 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 2014 Board meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams called on Lauren Curry, Director of Public and Government Affairs, to receive her Ten Years Faithful Service Award.

Commissioner Williams called on RFC Ronnie Beard, who was presented with a framed Resolution by Chairman Wilheit recognizing his heroic efforts in rescuing stranded boaters on the Ocmulgee River.

A motion was made by Dr. Watt, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Commissioner Williams recognized Renee Alonso, Katie Gregory, A. J. McAllister, Elizabeth Munsey, DeAnna Oser, and Sean Taylor. He stated these were members of the mentoring program for the month. He further stated this is an internal program that pairs managers across DNR with a DNR employee for one year.

Commissioner Williams gave an update on DNR's role during the recent winter storm. He stated 110 Rangers were staged and deployed in the impacted areas to assist, Wildlife Resource's staff were called on for debris removal, 11 State Parks were opened as public shelters, and law enforcement officers, parks staff and DNR communications staff members staffed the State Operations Center 24 hours/day for 5 days.

Commissioner Williams informed the Board members of a right whale that was freed of a fishing net by staff off of Wolf Island.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the legislative session. He stated it was day 28 of the legislative session. He further stated all four DNR bills had passed at least one house. He added day 30, Crossover Day, would be March 3.

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

Director Turner gave an update on EPD's legislation; the Water Summit being held on February 26; the lawsuit filed by Florida in the Supreme Court; and the rededication of resources to emergency response situations.

Director Turner stated EPD is working with Mr. Lambert to streamline information regarding EPD into a monthly report for the Board members.

Commissioner Williams stated he would be calling on each Division Director to present an overview of their division and answer any questions.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division.

Director Crass gave an informational overview of HPD including the history of the division and the various programs of the division.

Commissioner Williams recognized Representative Bubber Epps, who thanked the Board for honoring RFC Ronnie Beard.

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

Colonel Henderson gave an informational overview of LED, including the mission of the division, the "top five issues," and a budget overview.

Mr. Stewart stated he would like to have a synopsis of the presentation given by Colonel Henderson.

Chairman Wilheit stated a synopsis could be put on the Board Portal where the Board members would be able to access it.

Mr. Lambert asked Colonel Henderson to explain the affidavits that are available for land owners.

Colonel Henderson stated there is an affidavit system that land owners must file to prosecute hunting without permission. He further stated this allows officers to patrol the property and issue a citation at that time.

Mr. Lambert asked Colonel Henderson to comment on the vest cameras that officers wear.

Colonel Henderson stated officers wear video/microphone cameras to record all public interaction. He further stated this has been a very good tool and the evidence provided by the camera is good for court.

Commissioner Williams called on Doug Haymans, Policy Advisor of the Coastal Resources Division.

Mr. Haymans gave an informational overview of CRD including information on Georgia's coastline, the FY2014 budget, saltwater commercial fishing, saltwater recreational fishing and constituent interaction.

Discussion ensued on the factors that affected shrimp harvest this year.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division.

Director Kelley gave an informational overview of the PR&HSD including information on the state parks and historic sites in Georgia, the mission of the division, and the "Direction 2015" goals.

Commissioner Williams asked Director Kelley to explain the transition of lodges to new management.

Director Kelley stated the division looked for opportunities to utilize partnerships. She further stated PR&HSD is working with North Georgia Mountain Authority to operate lodge parks along with Coral Hospitality.

Dr. Watt asked Director Kelley what the division's biggest challenge is concerning sustainability.

Director Kelley stated there are both natural and cultural assets that need a lot of attention. She further stated she would like to thank Commissioner Williams and Deputy Commissioner Bryson for working with the Governor and General Assembly about this issue.

Mr. Johnson asked Director Kelley what the division's current sustainability level is.

Director Kelley stated in 2003 the division was at 54% sustainability level. She further stated it is now a mid-seventies sustainability level. She added many factors affect this including economy, weather and neighboring states.

Mr. Johnson stated the Augusta area appreciated the PR&HSD opening during the winter storm. He asked if this would be something that would continue to be done in the future.

Commissioner Williams stated the Governor's task force would be reporting to the Governor in six weeks with an improved model for emergency situations. He further stated DNR will now be more involved during emergency situations.

Commissioner Williams stated he would like to thank the Friends of State Parks group for helping during the storms.

Discussion ensued on PR&HSD opening shelters during emergency situations.

Chairman Wilheit stated the Board members would be able to see the updates and renovations to Amicalola Falls State Park at the September Board meeting

Commissioner Williams called on Dan Forster, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division.

Director Forster gave an informational overview of WRD including the FY2013 expenditures and revenue sources, the division's mission statement, and the Strategic Plan.

Director Forster thanked all the Board members who attended Weekend for Wildlife. He further stated \$871,181 was raised. He added he would like to thank Chairman Wilheit for his efforts in planning the event over the past year.

Director Forster stated a camera had been installed on an eagle nest at Berry College which streams live on the WRD website. He further stated the online stream of the eagle nest has become very popular with over 100,000 visitors watching.

Mr. Sinyard stated lots of young people who are in school like to hunt during their winter break in December. He asked Director Forster if there had been any consideration to include doe days during this time.

Director Forster stated the division would look into this issue. He further stated the hunting regulations for this year had already been approved by the Board.

Discussion ensued on hunting regulations.

Commissioner Williams encouraged the Board members to visit each division and work with staff.

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

Chairman Wilheit called on Mr. Lambert for his committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to land disposal of septage. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Wilheit thanked all the members who attended Weekend for Wildlife.

Ms. Barnette stated the April meeting would be held in Savannah, GA. She further stated the members would be receiving information on this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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William A. Bagwell, Jr., Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Environmental Protection Committee**  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S. E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**February 24, 2014**

**Attending:**

**Committee Members**

Ray Lambert, Chairman  
Walter Hudson, Vice Chairman  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Evans  
Aaron McWhorter  
Paul Shailendra  
Philip Wilheit, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

**Board Members**

Nancy Addison  
Duncan Johnson, Jr.  
Bill Jones  
Rob Leebern  
Mark Mobley  
Brother Stewart  
Philip Watt  
Dee Yancey

**Visitors**

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club  
Chris Manganiello  
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Hunter Hopkins, Georgia Petroleum Council  
J. Wong, Troutman Sanders  
Buck Dixon  
Leah Barnette

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Dave Crass  
Dan Forster  
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Steve Friedman  
Kyle Pearson  
Lauren Curry  
Cathy Barnette  
Taylor Brown  
Jeff Cown  
Mary Walker  
Stephen Adams  
Jac Capp  
Bill Donahue  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Russ Pennington  
Keith Bentley

The February 24, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

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

Chairman Lambert called on Jac Capp, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to present the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to land disposal 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 (DPH) to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) as of July 1, 2012. He further stated in 2007 the law was changed as recommended.

Mr. Capp stated in 2010 EPD developed a general permit to cover sites formerly regulated by DPH. He further stated concerns were raised that permit requirements were cost prohibitive for small pumpers. He added in 2012, due to these concerns, the legislature approved a two year delay in the transition to July 1, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated EPD has worked with industry groups to create a two-tiered permitting system.

Mr. Capp stated the proposed rule change provides for the issuance of a general permit to cover multiple similar operations and provides for a smooth transition for EPD's assumption of the authority to regulate all land disposal sites as of July 1, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated the Board was briefed on the proposed rule change at the December 3, 2013 Board meeting. He further stated a public hearing was held on January 21, 2014.

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

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

Chairman Lambert called on Keith Bentley, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to permit fees.

Mr. Bentley stated the permit fee program has been in place since the 1990 Clean Air Act. He further stated permit fees in Georgia have risen at a relatively low rate. He added in 2013 fees were raised for the first time in four years.

Mr. Bentley stated EPD recommends keeping all fees identical to 2013. He further stated FY2017-2018 will be challenging because Georgia Power will be retooling plants to convert to gas and closing plants. He added EPD will engage with stakeholders over the next year about this issue.

Mr. Bentley stated public notice for the proposed amendments will begin in early March. He further stated a public hearing would be held on April 3, 2014. He added EPD will request adoption of the rule change by the Board at the May 2014 Board meeting.

Discussion ensued on the process of running the program following plants converting to natural gas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes**  
**Law Enforcement Committee**  
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John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Hunter Hopkins, Georgia Petroleum Council  
J. Wong, Troutman Sanders  
Buck Dixon  
Leah Barnette

The February 24, 2014 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Dr. Philip Watt, Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee, who called on Major Stephen Adams to present an informational presentation to the Board on Underwater Evidence and Victim Recovery Operations.

Major Adams stated in 2007 DNR began acquiring underwater imaging technology to aid in underwater search and rescue operations. He further stated all equipment has been purchased with Homeland Security and Port Security Federal Grant dollars.

Major Adams gave an overview of the technology used by LED including side scan sonar, sector scan sonar, a specialized platform, and underwater remote operated vessels (ROV).

Chairman Watt stated he would like to thank Major Adams for his presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.