

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Holiday Inn Express
199 Bay Street
Savannah, GA 31401

April 22, 2014

Attending:

Board Members

Philip Wilheit, Chairman
Ray Lambert, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Phyllis Johnson
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt
Dee Yancey

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Mark Whitney
Doug Haymans
Mark Carson
David Brady
Doug Lewis
Russ Pennington
Jim Brown
Bert Langley
Dominic Guadagnoli
Jan Simmons
Jason Allison
Sarah Miller
Holly Holdsworth

Visitors

Jeffrey Harvey, Georgia Farm Bureau
Alice M. Keyes, One Hundred Miles
Clay Mobley, Georgia Conservancy
Ronnie Just, Georgia Power
Bill Donohue, North Georgia Mountains Authority
Mark Smith
Scott Smith, Georgia Coastal Heritage Society

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The April 22, 2014 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit thanked Board member Nancy Addison and former Board member Mark Smith for hosting the meeting in Savannah.

Chairman Wilheit called on Ms. Addison, who called on Scott Smith, CEO and President of the Coastal Heritage Society. Mr. Smith gave a brief history of the Coastal Heritage Society and inspiring message to the Board.

Chairman Wilheit thanked Mr. Smith for speaking to the Board.

Mr. Wilheit read and presented a Resolution to Mark Smith for his service on the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Wilheit adjourned the Board meeting to move into Committee meetings.

Chairman Wilheit called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the March 2014 meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked Ms. Addison and Mr. Smith for hosting the DNR Board and staff members on the coast. He further thanked CRD and LED staff who helped with transportation, audio/visual, and all other details.

Commissioner Williams recognized law enforcement officers Sergeant Mark Carson, Sergeant Christopher Hodge and Ranger First Class David Brady for their exceptional work. He stated these men were recognized at the Capitol during session by their respective Representative and Senators.

Commissioner Williams stated HB 881, which alters the funding formula for DNR trout, quail and nongame license tags was signed by Governor Deal on Jekyll Island. He further stated the funding change would go into effect on July 1st. He added DNR is very appreciative of Governor Deal for supporting this piece of legislation.

Commissioner Williams called on Jud Turner, Director of the Environmental Protection Department, for an update.

Director Turner presented the Board with the quarterly report. He stated a monthly report was sent via email. He further stated this included an update on the Radioactive Materials Program, the drought rule, and the signing of the Flint River bill.

Director Turner called on Jim Brown, Program Manager of Hazardous Waste, who gave a brief update of the former Tronox facility including background on the site, the current activities of the plant, and the benefits the plant will provide to Georgia following the complete investigation and clean-up of the site.

Discussion ensued.

Director Turner gave a presentation on the application of Erosion and Sedimentation Act – Coastal Salt Marshes. He stated the Erosion and Sedimentation Act (E&S Act) states there is an established 25 foot buffer along the banks of all state waters measured horizontally from the point where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action. He further stated salt marshes are regulated in both Coastal Marshland Protection Act, which establishes a jurisdiction line along the boundary of the salt marsh based on the presence of certain species of marsh plants, and the

E&S Act. He added in 2004 EPD issued a guidance memorandum which states that the buffer established by the E&S Act will be measured from the jurisdiction line established by the CMPA.

Director Turner stated a revised policy on buffer determinations in the salt marsh context is effective today which more closely follows the language of the E&S Act and addresses questions regarding enforceability raised by Local Issuing Authorities (LIA's) and other stakeholders that have persisted since the 2004 memorandum. He further stated buffers will now exist where there is evidence of wrested vegetation. He added this memo would be issued to LIA's and interested parties.

Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, was called on to explain how the jurisdiction line is determined under the Coastal Marshland Protection Act and Shore Protection Act.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Williams called on Director Woodward for an update.

Director Woodward updated the Board on the successful completion of an oyster restoration project at Oatland Island Wildlife Center; the spring shrimping season; and Chatham County hosting a conference May 27-28 in a nation-wide effort to better develop plans for recovering following disasters.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of the Historical Preservation Division, for an update.

Director Crass updated the Board on the Ponce City Market trip in May. He stated Board members had received emails regarding the Tuckahoe WMA battlefield site. He further stated the information in these emails was incorrect and no disturbance had been made to the archaeological site.

Director Crass gave a presentation on Section 106 and the Savannah Harbor Deepening Project. He stated Section 106 states federal agencies must take into account the effects of their "undertakings" on historic resources within the area of potential effect. He further stated HPD's role is to oversee federal agencies and assist them in compliance.

Director Crass stated the CSS Georgia was built at Hardings Shipyard in 1862 and financed by donations raised by the "Ladies Gunboat Association." He further stated CSS Georgia was dynamited after the war and lies in an area of potential effect.

Director Crass stated in the CSS Georgia was declared a National Historic Landmark in the 1970s. He further stated HPD is reviewing the research design that lays out research, documentation, recovery and conservation technique of recovering CSS Georgia. He added the investigation is being carried out by the Naval Supervisor of Salvage, Mobile Salvage Diving Unit 2, and underwater archeologists in consultation with the USCOE and HPD.

Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Whitney gave an update on turkey season; shooting sports in the schools program; MOU with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and EPD regarding gulf sturgeon; proactive conservation of the Georgia aster and gopher tortoise using Candidate Conservation Agreements; wildlife tags; and the new hunting and fishing license agent.

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

Director Kelley gave an update on the Great Outdoor Campout held at Sweetwater Creek State Park. She stated this is a national campaign to introduce urban populations to outdoor recreation. She added the Governor and First Lady would be attending.

Director Kelley introduced Jason Allison, Park Manager at Wormsloe State Historic Site; Holly Holdsworth, Park Manager at Skidaway Island State Park; and Sarah Miller, Asst. Park Manager at Ft. McAllister State Historic Park.

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

Colonel Henderson thanked the Commissioner for recognizing Sgt. Mark Carson, Sgt. Christopher Hodge, and RFC David Brady.

Colonel Henderson gave an update on turkey season; the three-year strategic goals of the Law Enforcement Division; and the plane crash located in Glynn County on March 24, 2014.

Commissioner Williams informed the Board that Lauren Curry, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, would be taking the position of Chief of Staff at the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. He stated Ms. Curry would be greatly missed at DNR. He requested the permission of the Board to invite Ms. Curry to the May Board meeting to be formally recognized.

Commissioner Williams stated the Capital Outlay status report for April was in each Board member's packet.

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

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

Mr. Bagwell stated Mr. Stewart would be abstaining from this vote.

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 to acquire (purchase) 0.34± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 823 Pine Street, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.29± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 400 Shi Street, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.5± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 875 Oak Avenue, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.91± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 821 Pine Street, Houston County; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 8± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 779 Walnut Street, Houston County; and the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.36± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 99 Cranford Street, Houston County.
(Copy of the Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Mr. Bagwell stated there being no further business, his report was concluded.

Chairman Wilheit thanked Ms. Addison and Mr. Smith for hosting the Board meeting and activities in Savannah. He also thanked CRD and LED staff for their help during the meeting and activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:


Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Chairman


William A. Bagwell, Jr., Secretary

Minutes
Coastal Committee
Holiday Inn Express
199 Bay Street
Savannah, GA 31401

April 22, 2014

Attending:

Committee Members

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Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Phyllis Johnson
Rob Leebern
Mike Phelps
Dee Yancey
Philip Wilheit, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

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Visitors

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Ronny Just, Georgia Power

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Minutes
Land Acquisition Committee
Holiday Inn Express
199 Bay Street
Savannah, GA 31401

April 22, 2014

Attending:

Committee Members

William Bagwell, Chairman
Mike Phelps, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Rob Leebern
Paul Shailendra
Dee Yancey
Philip Wilheit, Board Chair, ex-officio

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Mr. Friedman stated DNR would look into finding out if any of the properties were owned by banks, per the suggestion of Mr. Wilheit. He stated no properties presented to the Board so far had been owned by a bank.

Chairman Bagwell called for a motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Evans 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) 0.34± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 823 Pine Street, Houston County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.29± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 400 Shi Street, Houston County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.5± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 875 Oak Avenue, Houston County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.91± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 821 Pine Street, Houston County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 8± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 779 Walnut Street, Houston County, as presented; and the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 0.36± acres of real property, Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project, 99 Cranford Street, Houston County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.