

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

January 13, 2015

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
Paul Shailendra
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt – via telephone
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Doug Miell, Georgia Chamber
Mike Brown, Georgia Golf Course Superintendents
Mary Kay Woodworth, Georgia Urban Ag Council
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Matthew Smith, Georgia Farm Bureau
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Skin Edge

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Kyle Pearson
Mary Kathryn Yearta
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
John Martin
Doug Haymans
Mark Whitney
Doralyn Kirkland
Mary Walker
Trip Addison
Wally Woods
Jac Capp
Keith Bentley
Jeff Cown
Michael Chadwell
Thom Litts
Bryan Tucker
Caylee Noggle

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The January 13, 2015 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Brother Stewart, who introduced Attorney General Sam Olens, to deliver the moment of inspiration.

Chairman Wilheit adjourned the Board meeting to begin the Committee meetings.

The Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2014 conference call meeting of the Nominating Committee and the December 2, 2014 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources.

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the December 2014 minutes of the Board of Natural Resources.

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

Commissioner Williams stated DNR had an individual donation increase of 40% and a 49% increase in the amount of money donated during the 2014 State Charitable Contributions Program (SCCP).

Commissioner Williams presented a plaque to Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, in honor of the Coastal Resources Division being the highest contributors to the SCCP.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the legislative session; Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the Capitol; the public meetings held for the 2015-2017 Hunting Regulations; and Weekend for Wildlife.

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

Director Turner updated the Board on EPD staffing changes; the Supreme Court case concerning Tired Creek; and the Coastal Buffer bill that will be sponsored by the Coastal Delegation.

Commissioner Williams called on John Martin, Chief Information Officer, for an update on IT.

Mr. Martin gave a brief presentation on IT's commitments to DNR, which included: to continually improve customer service; to enable a more productive IT team; and to effectively manage their business services and costs.

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

Director Forster gave an update on the Hunting Regulations public meetings. He stated 8 public meetings were held, 642 people attended the meetings and 700 electronic comments had been received. He added the deer management plan is scheduled to be completed in the fall.

Director Forster stated that it is required by law that the Board be updated on the Non-Game Conservation Fund status. He further stated a one-page memo had been placed at each Board members desk. He added money in this fund is guided by the State Wildlife Action Plan.

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

Director Woodward updated the Board on the food shrimp harvest season; partnership between CRD, WRD and EPD to interpret data; and the SCCP recognition.

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

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on the LED's role in searching for the missing fisherman on the Satilla River and hunting season incidents and fatalities.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on the Savannah Harbor Deepening Project and recovery of the CSS Georgia.

Director Crass called on Bryan Tucker, State Archaeologist and Section Chief, who gave a presentation on HPD's archaeology field studies at Sapelo Island, Magnolia Springs (Camp Lawton) and Ossabaw Island.

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

Director Kelley updated the Board on the Parks budget and the "First Day Hikes" held on New Year's Day at 53 state parks.

Commissioner Williams stated the Capital Outlay Status Report for January was located in the Board Member's packet.

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

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

Chairman Wilheit stated Ms. Addison will be recusing herself from all EPD related matters for this meeting and all future meetings.

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
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January 13, 2015

Attending:

Committee Members

Mark Mobley, Chairman
Dee Yancey, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
Dwight Evans
Phyllis Johnson
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt – via telephone
Philip Wilheit, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Paul Shailendra

Visitors

Doug Miell, Georgia Chamber
Mike Brown, Georgia Golf Course Superintendents
Mary Kay Woodworth, Georgia Urban Ag Council
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Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

January 13, 2015

Attending:

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Phyllis Johnson
Aaron McWhorter
Paul Shailendra
Philip Wilheit, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

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

Chairman Lambert called on Jud Turner, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, who commented on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Drought.

Chairman Lambert called on Jac Capp, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to brief the Committee on the proposed Rules for Drought Management: Amendments to Rules for Outdoor Water Use, Chapter 391-3-30; Rules for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2; and Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6.

Mr. Capp stated in 2008, HB 1281 was passed by the General Assembly charging the DNR Board to adopt new rules relating to drought management and making public water systems get a variance from EPD to impose more, or less, stringent restrictions on outdoor water use than those imposed by the state.

Mr. Capp stated in 2010, SB 370 (The Water Stewardship Act of 2010) was passed by the General Assembly which establishes year round and state wide limitations on outdoor watering from 4pm to 10am with 13 listed exceptions and provided expedited hearing of variance decisions.

Mr. Capp stated EPD held public stakeholder meetings on May 13, July 15 and October 22, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated EPD proposes The Rules for Drought Management will replace the Rules for Outdoor Water Use, Chapter 391-3-30. He further stated the proposed Rules for Drought Management will incorporate provisions for a drought response committee; drought indicators and triggers; a drought declaration process; pre-drought mitigation strategies designed to minimize the potential effects of drought; and drought response strategies to be implemented during various stages of drought.

Mr. Johnson asked if the pricing rates would return to normal at the end of the drought if drought surcharges or tiered conservation rates were required by the public water system during a drought.

Mr. Bentley stated EPD does not tell the public water systems how to structure rates outside of drought.

Mr. Bentley stated existing rules for Groundwater Use, 391-3-2-.04 and the Rules for Water Quality Control, 391-3-6-.07 contain requirements for permittees to have "drought contingency plans." He further stated narrow amendments are proposed to ensure consistency between the drought contingency plans and the requirements that public water systems get variances from EPD in order to implement restrictions on outdoor water use that differ from those imposed by the state.

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 Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to Removal of Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for Macon and Rome. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Yancey 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 Miscellaneous Changes and Updates. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Wilheit called on Rob Leebern, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

Mr. Leebern stated the Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of officers to the Board at the December Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Ms. Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the following officers for 2015: Ray Lambert, Chairman; William Bagwell, Vice Chairman, Aaron McWhorter, Secretary.

Mr. Wilheit passed the gavel to the new Board Chairman, Ray Lambert.

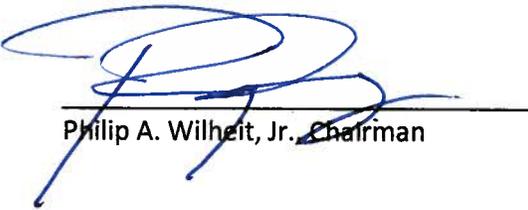
Chairman Lambert presented Mr. Wilheit with a gift and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Wilheit thanked the Board members for entrusting him to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources. He further stated it was a privilege to work with the members of this Board.

Chairman Lambert reminded the Board members that Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the Capitol would be held on Thursday, January 15.

Chairman Lambert stated the February 2015 Board meeting would be held in Brunswick, GA. He further stated 2015 Committee assignments and meeting dates would be sent shortly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:


William A. Bagwell, Jr., Secretary