

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

December 1, 2009

Attending:

Committee Members

Bill Archer, Chairman
Dennis Billew
Gene Bishop
Walter Hudson
Loyce Turner
Jim Tysinger
Jim Walters
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Earl Barrs
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Warren Budd
Dwight Davis
Joe Hatfield
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Philip Watt
Tom Wheeler

Visitors

Reginald Brown, University of Georgia
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Tommy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Greg Jones, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Jim Stokes, Sustainable Solutions of Georgia
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Allen Barnes
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Terry West
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Emily Hitchcock
Lauren Curry
Mike Spencer
Megan Gray
Walter Rabon
Becky Marshall
Wally Woods
Doug Haymans
Paul Meders
Connie Buck
Jeff Weaver
Paul Nelson
Homer Bryson
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy

Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy

Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy

Lindsay Averett, Oglethorpe Power

John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance

Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia

Ronny Just, Georgia Power

Gary Black, Georgia Agribusiness Council

The December 1, 2009 meeting of the Legislative Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Carruth. Chairman Carruth called on Bill Archer, Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Archer stated that he would like to call on Chris Clark, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for presentation of the 2010 legislation that DNR proposed to introduce in the upcoming 2010 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. He further stated that at the end of Commissioner Clark's presentation, he would call for a motion to endorse the recommendations.

Commissioner Clark stated that DNR has been working on three pieces of legislation with the Governor's Office. He further stated that the first piece of legislation would be to create and incorporate a 501(c)(3) foundation within DNR. He further stated that without a public foundation with 501(c)(3) status, the fundraising capabilities of DNR will be limited. He further stated that many major corporations and their foundations require an organization to have 501(c)(3) status to be eligible for donations, grants and other gifts.

Commissioner Clark stated that the second piece of legislation was a housekeeping measure that ensures continuity of regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources used to establish criminal violations by validating all Board regulations adopted since January 1, 2008 specified in OCGA 27-1-39, OCGA 52-7-26, and OCGA 52-7-51. He further stated that periodic updates of these code sections during the Legislative Session are required to maintain the full effect of rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources since the previous update.

Commissioner Clark stated that the third piece of legislation was to change the name of DNR's Pollution Prevention Assistance Division to the Sustainability Division. He further stated that Georgia's businesses, institutions, organizations and government agencies will have a better, more intuitive understanding of the mission and goals of the division as a result of the name change.

Commissioner Clark presented another piece of legislation regarding hunting and fishing licenses, which leverages DNR's ability to receive Federal funds, that he stated was on hold for now, pending action by the Federal government.

Commissioner Clark stated that the last piece of legislation would change the maximum daily possession limit for weakfish from six to one, and that DNR would proceed with this legislation if instructions are received from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in this regard.

Mr. Archer called for a motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Tysinger, seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends endorsing and affirming the proposed legislation to be introduced to the 2010 Georgia General Assembly. (Proposed legislation attached hereto and made a part hereof).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.