

**Minutes**  
**Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**June 23, 2009**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Loyce Turner, Chairman  
Earl Barrs  
Jenny Lynn Bradley  
Joe Hatfield  
Walter Hudson  
Phyllis Johnson  
Tom Wheeler  
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Bill Archer  
Warren Budd  
Ray Lambert  
Bob Rutland  
Jim Walters  
Philip Watt

Visitors

Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Aaron Mitchell, Georgia Power  
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation  
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Tas Smith, Georgia Farm Bureau  
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund  
Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy  
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Jim Stokes, Sustainable Solutions of Georgia  
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia

Staff Members

Chris Clark  
Carol Couch  
Paul Burkhalter  
Todd Holbrook  
Susan Shipman  
Dan Forster  
Becky Kelley  
Ray Luce  
Marlin Gottschalk  
Karl Burgess  
John Bowers  
Jim Ozier  
Steve Saunders  
Dave Crass  
Jac Capp  
Richard Swanson  
Emily Hitchcock  
Lauren Curry  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Lindsey Young  
Jim Ussery  
Steve Friedman  
Mike Harris  
Brad Gane  
Alexandra Cleary  
Richard Strickfaden  
Lon Revall  
Mary Ann Evans  
Hellen Harris

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Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation

Shirl Parsons, Georgia Wildlife Federation

Nate Hunt, Southern Environmental Law Center

The June 23, 2009 meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Carruth.

Chairman Carruth called on Loyce Turner, Chairman of the Committee, who called on Stave Saunders, Facilities and Properties Manger, for presentation.

Mr. Saunders stated that the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) requests consideration for action on Rule 391-5-12, relating to Permitting Boat Docks at High Falls State Park. He further stated that the Georgia Game Commission first acquired the property at High Falls in 1961 from the Hiawassee Timber Company. He added that the property was transferred to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 1966 and became known as High Falls State Park.

Mr. Saunders stated that the park contains 1,050 acres with a 650-acre lake, and is the state park system's only impounded lake, which has private landowners with docks along the shoreline. He further stated that current dock Rule 391-5-12 was established on May 25, 1994.

Mr. Saunders stated that PRHSD is responsible for issuing revocable permits for the construction, maintenance and use of docks on the lake and for inspecting the docks and enforcing standards for those docks. He further stated that staff worked with adjacent property owners, the High Falls/Towaliga Watershed Alliance (formerly known as the High Falls Lake Association), High Falls Stakeholders Group, Wildlife Resources Division, Environmental Protection Division and the adjacent county administrators over the past five years to update this Rule.

Mr. Saunders stated that three public meetings had been held and that at the last public meeting on April 17, 2009, the stakeholder groups announced their support of the current proposed amendments. He further stated that the proposed amendments include the following: (1) identification in the procedures for shoreline protection; (2) clarification that the property owner is responsible for all permits; (3) clarification of location for permit information; (4) establishing renewal period for new fees and transfers; (5) establishing time periods for dock approval and construction; (6) allowing the Director to appoint a designee to establish procedures; (7) providing for revocable permit penalties under OCGA 12-3-11; (8) providing updated standards for construction; and (9) clarification for repair work and timetables.

Mr. Saunders stated that these proposed amendments will have a positive impact for both the landowners around High Falls Lake and site operations by enhancing dock safety and enforcement of the permits. He requested approval of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrs, seconded by Hudson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Rule 391-5-12, regarding Permitting Boat Docks at High Falls State Park. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Dr. Turner called on Becky Kelley, Director of PRHSD, for an update. Mrs. Kelley handed out an information sheet on the current restructuring of the PRHSD and highlighted major components.

Mrs. Kelley presented an update on the Georgia Performance Standards with the Department of Education, stating that school groups benefitted from visiting state parks and that the program has been very successful.

Mrs. Kelley stated that there has been a tremendous increase in the sale of Park Passes in the past month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.