

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

**March 23, 2010**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Joe Hatfield, Chairman  
Earl Barrs  
Gene Bishop  
Warren Budd  
Bill Carruth  
Mabel Jenkins  
Phyllis Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Jenny Lynn Bradley, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Bill Archer  
Dennis Billew  
Dwight Davis  
Walter Hudson  
Loyce Turner  
Jim Walters  
Tom Wheeler  
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Dr. Mark Risse, Driftmier Engineering Center, UGA  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund  
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy  
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce  
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation  
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition  
Bettie Sleeth, Homebuilders Association of Georgia  
Helen Tapp, Trust for Public Land

Staff Members

Chris Clark  
Allen Barnes  
Paul Burkhalter  
Todd Holbrook  
Spud Woodward  
Dave Crass  
Marlin Gottschalk  
Terry West  
Paul Nelson  
Jim Ussery  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Linda MacGregor  
Thomas Barnard  
John Bowers  
Steve Friedman  
Emily Hitchcock  
Lauren Curry  
Homer Bryson  
Tami Morris  
Mark Whitney  
Connie Buck  
Mike England  
Jeff Weaver  
Mary Ann Evans  
Hellen Harris

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Mark Dickerson, Mountain Conservation Trust  
Jim Kidd, Trout Unlimited  
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation  
Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy

The March 23, 2010 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Jenny Lynn Bradley. Chairman Bradley called on Joe Hatfield, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Chairman Hatfield called on Captain Thomas Barnard to present a PowerPoint briefing on improvements to the Hull Identification Number (HIN) process.

Captain Barnard stated that the HIN is assigned to a vessel just like a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is assigned to an automobile. He further stated that the HIN is a unique 12-digit number assigned to vessels after 1973 and distinguishes one vessel from another. He added that this is the number that Rangers check to confirm if the vessel is stolen.

Captain Barnard stated that in 2003 the process began to ensure that all registered boats in Georgia had a valid HIN. He showed a graph that depicted the decline in the number of HIN's processed each year since 2007.

Captain Barnard stated that the current HIN process is a 15-step process from the time the boat owner mails in their registration with an invalid HIN to the time that a new registration is issued. He further stated that a working group reviewed the current process to reduce the number of steps and to improve customer service. He added that the group identified five steps in the current process to be removed and consolidated paperwork to create only one form for a HIN inspection request.

Captain Barnard stated that by removing those five steps, it is estimated that the owner will receive their registration three to four weeks earlier. He further stated that this new process will also reduce the work load on the Region Office as well as the Ranger. (PowerPoint attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Lambert called on John Bowers, Assistant Chief of Game Management, for presentation of a briefing on proposed amendments to Rule 391-4-2-.62, Alligators.

Mr. Bowers stated that the proposed amendments to the existing Rule reflects an expansion of alligator hunting opportunity by increasing the number of applicants selected to participate from 700 to 850. He further stated that the alligator population is estimated to be 200,000 and that harvest rates and average size of harvested alligators has remained stable.

Mr. Bowers stated that these efforts are consistent with the department's objective of providing a quality hunting opportunity while maintaining a stable population. He further stated that these changes will have a minimal effect on the population.

Mr. Bowers stated that the proposed amendments will be sent out for public comment and will be presented to the Committee and Board for action at the May meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Assistant Director Terry West gave a briefing on the opening of turkey season, the current status of the License and Boat Registration issue, legislation of interest, the DNR Chaplain program, and an update on road closures in Wildlife Management Areas,

Assistant Director West stated that George "Rip" Masters from Cherokee County had been chosen as Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor of the Year. He further stated that Mr. Masters had been a volunteer since 1986 and has developed his own teaching aids and was certainly deserving of this honor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.