

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

June 23, 2010

Attending:

Committee Members

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

Board Members

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

Visitors

Representative Bob Lane
Pat Harris, Assistant to Representative Bob Lane
Ben Harris, Georgia Power Company
Jennifer Whitmire, Georgia Power Company
Steve Ewald, Georgia Power Company
Maggie Lee, Freelance Reporter
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Corey Babb, Metro North Georgia Water Planning Dev.
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Aaron Estis, The Estis Group

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Allen Barnes
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dan Forster
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Steve Friedman
John Bowers
John Biagi
Lauren Curry
Homer Bryson
Brittany Flood
Paul Nelson
Mark Whitney
John Martin
Suzanne Burnes
Cathy Holtzclaw
Rusty Garrison
Doralyn Kirkland
Linda Patrick
Sarah Dearman
Antoinette Norfleet
Mary Ann Evans

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

Chairman Bradley called on Earl Barrs for a time of inspiration and reflection. Mr. Barrs read an article about how our attitude affects everything in our lives.

Chairman Bradley called on Joe Hatfield, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee. Mr. Hatfield stated that there were two briefings to be presented, and called on John Bowers, Assistant Chief of Game Management, for the first presentation.

Mr. Bowers stated that he would present a briefing on the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapters 391-4-2-.46, 391-4-2-.52 and 391-4-2-.55 through 391-4-2-.58, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations.

Mr. Bowers stated that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulates the harvest of migratory birds by establishing a framework (opening and closing dates, maximum season length and maximum bag limits) within which the states can set their migratory bird hunting seasons. He further stated that the proposed waterfowl and late season migratory bird hunting season dates are within the framework anticipated by the USFWS later this summer. He added that this proposal maximizes hunting opportunity within the anticipated framework, but that the framework may be changed by USFWS based on habitat conditions in northern breeding grounds. (Copy of the proposed 2010-2011 Migratory Bird Seasons are attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Bowers stated that these proposed amendments require no Board action at this time, but is intended to provide the opportunity for input to the final proposal that will be presented at the August Board meeting.

Mr. Hatfield called on John Biagi, Chief of Fisheries Management, for a briefing on the proposed amendments to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3-.13, Fishing Methods.

Mr. Biagi stated that the proposed changes will add Bartlett's Ferry, Blue Ridge, Goat Rock, Oliver, and West Point Lakes to the list of reservoirs where it is legal to possess and use live blueback herring for bait. He further stated that although not native to these lakes, blueback herring now have established populations in these lakes and there is no longer justification for prohibiting anglers from using these fish as bait on these water bodies.

Mr. Biagi stated that another proposed change is to the language used in Chapter 391-4-3-.13 that delineates a portion of Jones Creek as an artificial lure stream. He added that the current language references the Blue Ridge Wildlife Management Area, which no longer exists and this administrative change would properly delineate

the boundaries of the artificial lure portion of Jones Creek. (Proposed amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Biagi stated that these recommendations do not require Board action at this time, but is intended to provide an opportunity for input prior to the final proposal that will be presented at the August Board meeting.

Mr. Hatfield called on Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), for an update.

Director Forster updated the Committee on a personnel item, stating that Eddie Henderson and Stephen Adams had been promoted to the rank of Major in the Law Enforcement Section.

Director Forster also updated the Committee on the shooting sports activities in WRD, stating that there are 16 firearms ranges and eight archery ranges across the state. He stated that WRD plans on partnering with colleges and universities to have an active shooting facility and program on campuses throughout the state.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.