

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

August 23, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

Philip Watt, Chairman
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chairman
Warren Budd
Duncan Johnson
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Loyce Turner
Earl Barrs, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Bill Carruth
Walter Hudson
Rob Leebern
Mark Smith
Jim Walters
Philip Wilheit
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Dr. Teresa Thompson, Georgia Southern University
David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates
Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett Water
Earnest Eavin, Cobb Water
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Corporation
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Karl Ledford, Georgia Transmission Corporation
Jack Dozier, Georgia Association of Water Professionals
Lewis Jones, King & Spalding
Juliet Cohen, Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Corey Babb, Metro North Georgia Water Planning District

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Allen Barnes
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Dan Forster
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Brad Gane
Doug Haymans
Steve Friedman
John Bowers
Jac Capp
Linda MacGregor
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Lauren Curry
Connie Buck
Eddie Henderson
Candy Henderson
John Biagi
Matt Thomas
Jane Hendricks
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper

Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

The August 23, 2011 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Earl Barrs. Chairman Barrs called on Philip Watt, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Chairman Watt called on John Bowers, Assistant Chief, Game Management, for presentation of 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 proposed amendments were for the 2011-2012 migratory bird hunting seasons for ducks, geese, gallinules, mergansers, and coots. He further stated that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulates the harvest of migratory birds by establishing a framework within which the states set their migratory bird hunting seasons. He added that the framework sets opening and closing dates, maximum season length, and maximum bag limits.

Mr. Bowers stated that the process begins in May and concludes in late July when the Service Regulatory Committee approves the framework recommendations. He further stated that the Board was briefed on the proposed amendments in June and that they conform to federal frameworks approved by the USFWS in late July and maximizes hunting opportunity in Georgia.

Mr. Bowers stated that the proposed 2011-2012 Migratory Bird Seasons were placed in the Board package, and requested that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the proposed amendments as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mrs. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board approve 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. (Copy of proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Watt called on Dan Forster, Director, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), for an update.

Director Forster recognized Colonel Eddie Henderson on his current promotion to Chief of Law Enforcement, and gave an update on the process of transitioning the Boat Registration system to the Department of Revenue, stating that the process should be complete in October or November.

Director Forster gave a briefing on the sale of hunting and fishing licenses in Walmart facilities.

Director Forster introduced Dr. Teresa Thompson, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Georgia Southern University (GSU), to give a briefing on the Shooting Sports Education Center located on the GSU campus.

Dr. Thompson handed out a document on the proposal for the development and operation of this first-class, elite shooting facility on the campus of GSU, and commented on her enthusiasm for the

future of this shooting sports range, stating that her plan is that this facility will be designated as an Olympic training center for archery.

Chairman Watt encouraged Board Members to purchase Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Licenses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.