

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

**January 22, 2013**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Rob Leebern, Chairman  
William Bagwell  
Duncan Johnson  
Phyllis Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Aaron McWhorter  
Philip Wilheit  
Philip Watt, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison  
Dennis Billew  
Dwight Davis  
Walter Hudson  
Mark Mobley  
Paul Shailendra  
Bodine Sinyard  
Mark Smith  
Dee Yancey

Visitors

State Representative Tom Kirby  
State Representative Debbie Buckner  
Leon Watkins, K & M Inert Landfills  
Jerry Murkerson, City of Hawkinsville  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company  
Aaron Mitchell, Georgia Power Compy  
Max Zygoront, Mowery Meezan Coddington Cloud LLP  
Murray Griffin, Atlantic Coast Consulting  
Don Collins, National Solid Wastes Management Association  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Ward Black, Langdale Industries  
Ashley Megatt, Georgia Municipal Association  
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Jud Turner  
Homer Bryson  
Spud Woodward  
Dan Forster  
Becky Kelley  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Mark Whitney  
Eddie Henderson  
Keith Bentley  
Jac Capp  
Lauren Curry  
Kyle Pearson  
Zachary Harris  
Jim Ussery  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Tim Wright  
Stephen Adams  
Jeff Cown  
Russ Pennington  
Taylor Brown  
Mary Ann Evans  
Cathy Barnette

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Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network

Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy

Doug Fulle Oglethorpe Power

Dave Williams, Metro Atlanta Chamber

The January 22, 2013 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Philip Watt. Chairman Watt called on Rob Leebern, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on Mark Whitney, Chief of Game Management, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

Mr. Whitney stated that he would present for action the proposed amendments to General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-6-.06, pertaining to Sapelo Island Access and Transportation Rules. He further stated that the purpose of the proposed amendment is to mitigate increased operational costs and maintain fiduciary responsibilities while meeting essential services and public use objectives.

Mr. Whitney gave background information on the Sapelo Island Access and Transportation Rules for new Board members and for those who did not attend the briefing at the December 2012 meeting.

Mr. Whitney stated that the propose rule increases the round trip ferry fee from \$2 to \$5 for individual guests (e.g., private tour participants, overnight guests, day-use visitors, and private contractors), and increases the round-trip ferry fee for department guests (e.g., SINEER tours, Reynolds Mansion guests, WMA quota hunt participants, and Cabretta campground guests) is proposed to increase from \$10 to \$15 (children from \$6 to \$10).

Mr. Whitney stated that public comments received on the proposed rules were supportive and were summarized in the Board package.

Mr. Whitney stated that he would request that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. McWhorter, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed amendments to General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-6-.06, pertaining to Sapelo Island Access and Transportation Rules, as presented. (Copy of General Regulations 391-4-6-.06 attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Leebern called on Colonel Eddie Henderson for a briefing on the South Georgia Bear Season.

Colonel Henderson stated that the Southern Zone Bear Hunting Season consists of three, 3-day hunts – September 27 – 29, October 4 – 6, and October 11 – 13. He further stated that statewide you can take two bears during the season, but in the Southern Zone, you can only take one from that area. He added that the counties in the Southern Zone are Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, and Ware, which encompasses the swamp areas of Georgia.

Colonel Henderson stated that there are many unique challenges in this area. He further stated that Florida has stopped their bear season, which has migrated many of those individuals into Georgia. He added that hunters in this area hunt bears with dogs, which is a unique culture.

Colonel Henderson showed several photos of how hunters lure bears with feeding and also the results of DNR's bear patrol.

Mr. Leebern encouraged all Board Members to participate in Weekend for Wildlife and called on Dan Forster, Director, Wildlife Resources Division, for an update.

Director Forster gave an update on Weekend for Wildlife, renovations of the Evans County and Ocmulgee Public Fishing Areas, the resignation of WRD's Public Affairs Manager, a special program for Hunter Education graduates, and ongoing public hearings for the Hunting Regulations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.