

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

**March 25, 2013**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Philip Wilheit, Chairman  
Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman  
William Bagwell  
Duncan Johnson  
Phyllis Johnson  
Aaron McWhorter  
Bodine Sinyard  
Philip Watt  
Dee Yancey  
Rob Leebern, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison  
Dwight Davis  
Walter Hudson  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Mike Phelps  
Paul Shailendra

Visitors

Brant Lane  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Max Zygmunt, MZCZ Law  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Sally Bethea, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Chris Manganeillo, Georgia River Network  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Ward Black, Longdale Industries  
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Todd Holbrook, Georgia Wildlife Federation

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Jud Turner  
Homer Bryson  
Spud Woodward  
Becky Kelley  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Jac Capp  
Keith Bentley  
Linda MacGregor  
Mark Whitney  
John Bowers  
Eddie Henderson  
Lauren Curry  
Kyle Pearson  
Zachary Harris  
Jim Ussery  
Mary Ann Evans  
Cathy Barnette  
Taylor Brown  
Terry West  
Stephen Adams  
David Webb  
Mary Walker

The March 25, 2013 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Philip Wilheit, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on John Bowers, Assistant Chief of Game Management, for a briefing on the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2 and Firing Ranges, Chapter 391-4-9-.02.

Mr. Bowers stated that hunting regulation proposals are developed on a 2-year cycle and he was presenting the regulatory proposals for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 hunting seasons. He further stated several public meetings were held in January and the public input WRD received was substantial.

Mr. Bowers stated the purpose of the proposed amendments was to adopt hunting regulations for the next two years which included modifying either-sex days to manage white-tailed deer, set seasons for rails and woodcock, modify bear season in central Georgia, and regulate hunting and other activities on WMA's, other state lands, and federal areas; increase administrative efficiency, consolidate and repeal rules, customary housekeeping, and reflect statutory changes; and update firing ranges.

Discussion ensued related to the method and accuracy of the data collected by WRD concerning white-tailed deer and the number of complaints in comparison to the number of registered hunters in Georgia.

Mr. Bowers stated public hearings on these proposals would be conducted mid-April. He further stated WRD plans to present these proposals to the Board for consideration at the May 21, 2013 Board Meeting.

Chairman Wilheit called on Mark Whitney, Chief of Game Management and Terry West, Assistant Director of WRD, to give a briefing on the Funding Model for Wildlife Conservation in Georgia.

Mr. West and Mr. Whitney gave a presentation on the Wildlife Sports Fish Restoration Program funding and its impacts on DNR.

Chairman Wilheit stated that due to time constraints, the presentation on "Operation Something Bruin" presented by Colonel Eddie Henderson and the division update by Director Dan Forster would be postponed until the Tuesday, March 26, 2013 Board Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.