

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Georgia Southern University
Nessmith-Lane Conference Center
Ballroom (#1601)
847 Plant Drive
Statesboro, GA 30458

June 25, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

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

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Mark Smith

Visitors

Neill Herring
Harlan Proveaux
James Hayes
Connie Hayes
Lynn Lewis-Weis, National Wild Turkey Federation
Barbara LoRusso
Lance LoRusso
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Emily Markesteyn, Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Al Hackle, Statesboro Herald
Rayban Anderson
Bob Lane
Dallas Whitman
Willis Wood

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Eddie Henderson
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Zachary Harris
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Wally Woods
John Bowers
John Biagi
Jan Sammons
Nap Caldwell
Stephanie Busch
Doralyn Kirkland
Jeff Weaver
Walter Rabon
John Martin
Mark Whitney
Keith Bentley
Cindy Miller
Bob Lynn
Jeff Swift
Scott Klingel
Mary Walker
Jeff Cown
Stephen Adams
Bill Donahue

Minutes – Wildlife Resources Committee

June 25, 2013

Page 2

Phil Odom, Liberty Regional Water Council

John Edwards, Peaceofficers Association of Georgia

Todd Holbrook, Georgia Wildlife Federation

Don Cheek

Reggie Dickey, Georgia Hunting and Fishing Federation

Bobby McLemore, Ben Hill County Sheriff

Ladson O'Connor, Montgomery County Sheriff

Scott Brunson, Statesboro Police Department

Jon Burns, Georgia House of Representatives

Ben Stowers, Natural Resources Foundation

Bill Archer

Ronnie Phillips

The June 25, 2013 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by 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.

Mr. Bowers stated the first item for consideration would be a briefing on proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapters 391-4-2-.43, 391-4-2-.45, 391-4-2-.47 through 391-4-2-.50, 391-4-2-.52 through 391-4-2-.54, and 391-4-2-.56, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations.

Mr. Bowers stated that under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is named the primary authority for regulating the harvest of migratory birds. He further stated the USFWS sets the framework for which the states must set their migratory bird hunting seasons.

Mr. Bowers stated the proposed waterfowl and late-season migratory bird hunting season dates are within the framework that WRD anticipates will be offered by the USFWS.

Mr. Bowers stated the final proposal would be presented to the Board at the August Board meeting.

Mr. Bowers stated the next item would be a briefing on the proposed adoption of Rule 391-4-2-.33, Special Opportunity Turkey Season.

Mr. Bowers stated that during the 2013 session of the General Assembly, HB 207 was adopted and signed by the Governor. He further stated this bill directs the Department to authorize the hunting of turkeys by establishing a special season for youth (16 years and younger) and mobility impaired persons. He added that the special season would occur the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the state wide open turkey season.

Mr. Bowers stated that there are currently three scheduled public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. He further stated that the final proposal would be presented to the Board for action at the August 2013 Board meeting.

Chairman Wilheit called on John Biagi, Chief of Fisheries Management, for a briefing on the proposed amendments to Fishing Regulations, Chapters 391-4-3-.03, 391-4-3-.05 and 391-4-3-.06.

Mr. Biagi stated the three proposed changes would (1) remove the season restriction for fishing in the marked areas around three springs in Lake Blackshear,(2) modify the current length limit for largemouth bass on Bear Creek Water Supply Reservoir, and (3) implement a new length limit for largemouth bass on Lake Lindsay Grace in Wayne County.

Mr. Biagi stated there will be three public hearings conducted to discuss the proposed amendments and a public comment period will begin on July 1, 2013. He further stated the final proposal would be brought to the Board at the August 27, 2013 Board meeting.

Chairman Wilheit stated the Committee had no other business.

Chairman Leebern stated there would be a short break, and the Board Meeting would begin at 10:25 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.