

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

December 6, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

Warren Budd, Acting Chairman
Mabel Jenkins
Duncan Johnson
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Loyce Turner
Earl Barrs, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

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

Visitors

State Senator Donzella James, District 35
Debra Jones-Bazemore, Senator Donzella James' Assistant
Pamela Flores, Raccoon Hogg Community Development Corporation
Al Bartell, Raccoon Hogg Community Development Corporation
Alex Henderson, Raccoon Hogg Community Development Corporation
Diana Wedincamp, Ogeechee RiverKeeper
Emily markesteyn, Ogeechee RiverKeeper
Bill Hunter, Ogeechee Property Owner
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hunter, Ogeechee Property Owner
Mr. Shuman, Ogeechee River Property Owner
Gordon Rogers, Flint RiverKeeper
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Monte Simpson, Weyerhauser
Jeannine Haynes, Georgia Transmission Corporation
Clayton Doherty, Georgia Transmission Corporation
Karl Ledford, Georgia Transmission Corporation

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Mike Harris
Doralyn Kirkland
Jeff Weaver
John Jensen
Eddie Henderson
Steven Adams
Mark Whitney
Ben Stowers
Cathy Barnette
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Walter Jones, Morris News Service

John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance

Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club

Ronny Just, Georgia Power

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition

David Pendered, Saporta Report.com

Lydia Swain, All Justices Concur.net

Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power

Glenn Dowling, National Wildlife Federation

The December 6, 2011 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Earl Barrs. Chairman Barrs called on Warren Budd, Acting Chairman for the Wildlife Resources Committee in the absence of Chairman Philip Watt, and Vice Chairman Joe Hatfield.

Mr. Budd called on Mike Harris, Chief of Nongame Conservation Section, for a briefing on the proposed Regulations for the Export, Farming, and Sale of Native Fresh-Water Turtles, Chapter 391-4-16.

Mr. Harris stated that during the 2010 Legislative Session, the Georgia General Assembly passed O.C.G.A. 27-3-19.1, which authorized the Board of Natural Resources to regulate the export, farming and sale of native fresh-water turtles. He further stated that over the past 14 months, the Nongame Conservation Section has worked with a diverse group of stakeholders to develop regulations that conserve Georgia's fresh-water turtles, while allowing existing farming and commercial operations to continue.

Mr. Harris stated that the proposals developed by the stakeholders will be given widespread distribution to the public. He further stated that a public hearing on the proposed rules will be held on January 5, 2012 to receive comments, and that he plans to present the proposals to the Board for consideration and adoption at the January meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Budd called on Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources Division, for an update.

Director Forster gave an update on Weekend for Wildlife, Boat Registration transition to the Department of Revenue, and the Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass implementation scheduled for January 1.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.