

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Lake Blackshear Resort
2459-H U. S. Highway 280 West
Ballroom C
Cordele, GA 31015

December 4, 2012

Attending:

Committee Members

Joe Hatfield, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Mabel Jenkins
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Philip Wilheit
Philip Watt, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Mark Mobley
Mark Smith
Loyce Turner
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Mark Abner, The Nature Conservancy
Gordon Rogers, Flint RiverKeeper
Bill Donohue, North Georgia Mountains Authority

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Kyle Pearson
Steve Friedman
Lauren Curry
Mark Whitney
Russ Pennington
Eddie Henderson
Mary Ann Evans

The December 4, 2012 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Philip Watt. Chairman Watt called on Joe Hatfield, Vice Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee in the absence of Chairman Rob Leebern.

Mr. Hatfield called on Mark Whitney, Chief of Game Management, for a briefing on the proposed amendments to General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-6-.06, pertaining to Sapelo Island Access and Transportation Rules.

Mr. Whitney stated that the proposed rules include increasing the ferry fees for individual guests, who are defined as private tour participants, overnight guests, day-use visitors, and private contractors from \$2.00 to \$5.00; and Department guests, who are defined as SINEER tours, Reynolds Mansion guests, WMA quota hunt participants and Cabretta campground guests from \$10.00 to \$15.00 (children from \$6.00 to \$10.00) who visit Sapelo Island. He further stated that the reasonable increase in the ferry fees are necessary to address increased operational costs and maintain the Department's fiduciary responsibilities.

Mr. Whitney stated that these proposals will be given widespread distribution to the public. He further stated that public hearings will be conducted in mid-April to receive comments. He added that the proposed amendments will be presented for action at the January 2013 meeting.

Discussion ensued.

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

Director Forster gave an update on Weekend for Wildlife to be held February 8 – 9, 2013, the Ocmulgee PFA closure and repair, social media, license plates, the slight increase in hunting accidents this year, and the number of background checks during Black Friday. He also made comments about the Upson County Intergovernmental Agreement for Sprewell Bluff.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.