

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Amicalola Falls Lodge
Oak Hall Ballroom
418 Amicalola Falls Lodge Road
Dawsonville, GA 30534

May 24, 2016

Attending:

Committee Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman
Brother Stewart, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Mark Mobley (via conference call)
Mike Phelps
Philp Wilheit
Dee Yancey
William Bagwell, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert, Jr.
Rob Leebern (via conference call)
Matt Sawhill
Bodine Sinyard

Guests

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Tommy Suter, Novartis
Catherine Fleming, Georgia Municipal Association

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Terry West
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Melanie Johnson
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Steve Friedman
Eddie Henderson
Cpl. Anne Britt
Cpl. Brian Hobbins
Spud Woodward
John Bowers
John Martin
Jud Turner
Mary Walker
Chuck Mueller
Doralyn Kirkland
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Bill Donohue

The May 24, 2016 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell called on Aaron McWhorter, Chair of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Mr. McWhorter called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management of the Wildlife Resources Division, to present the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Other State Lands and Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations.

John Bowers stated that he would be briefing the Board on two items located in Tab D of the Board package. He further stated that Item A is the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations for WMAs and Other State Lands to establish hunting opportunities on the Buck Shoals Wildlife Management Area. He added that this area is about 550 acres of property that is located in White County.

Mr. Bowers stated that the small size of this area makes it ideal to focus on hunter recruitment and retention efforts. He further stated that it provides adult/child hunts and hunt-and-learn opportunities. He added that a public hearing was held in April and the comments received were favorable.

Mr. Bowers asked for the Board's favorable consideration of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations for WMAs and Other State Lands, Chapter 391-4-2-.70, as presented.

Mr. Bowers stated that Item B is the proposed amendments to Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations. He further stated that the proposals establish hunting seasons and regulations for federally regulated migratory birds for the 2016-2017 season. He added that in summary the proposals provide a 60 day season, a 6 duck bag limit, within the federal frameworks offered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Bowers asked for the Board's favorable consideration of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations for Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2-.40 through 391-4-2-.56, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.