

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

January 24, 2007

Attending:

Board Members

Walter Hudson, Chairman
David Allen
Bill Archer
Earl Barrs
Sally Bethea
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Warren Budd
Bill Carruth
Cader Cox
Joe Hatfield
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Loyce Turner
Jim Tysinger
Jim Walters
Tom Wheeler

Visitors

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Sandra Luxenberg, Tybee Island
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Aid to Gardner Sapp, Natural Resources and Environment Committee
Tyler Newman, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Julie Mayfield, Georgia Conservancy
Phil Weatherby, Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
Jim Stokes, Georgia Conservancy
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Carolyn Danese, Humane Association of Georgia
Mary Lovings, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Staff Members

Noel Holcomb
Paul Burkhalter
Carol Couch
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Ray Luce
Susan Shipman
Bob Donaghue
Steve Friedman
Michele Bonner
Jim Ussery
Heather Abrams
Doralyn Kirkland
Brad Gane
Marlin Gottschalk
Jimmy Johnston
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Beth Brown
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Emily Poe, Balch & Bingham

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club

Stacy Esterman, Physical & Economic Development Division

Debbie Dlugolenski, Physical & Economic Development Division

The January 24, 2007 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Walter Hudson.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and carried unanimously that the Agenda be amended to remove the action item regarding proposed amendments to Coastal Marshlands Protection Rule, Chapter 391-2-3, from the Coastal Committee section.

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Walters, and carried unanimously that the Agenda be amended under the Environmental Protection Committee section to consider an action item presented by the Environmental Protection Division on Improving Non-point Source Pollution Control.

Chairman Hudson called for a motion to approve the December 6, 2006 minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Walters, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the December 6, 2006 meeting.

Chairman Hudson called on Noel Holcomb, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner Holcomb stated that the first items of business were action items from the Committee of the Whole to consider resolutions honoring three former Board members.

Chairman Hudson called for action on the three resolutions honoring former Board members: Sara Clark, Jamie Reynolds, and Ralph Callaway.

A motion was made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Cox, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution expressing appreciation to Sara S. Clark for her faithful service on the Board of Natural Resources. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Cox, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution expressing appreciation to James M. "Jamie" Reynolds, III, for his faithful service on the Board of Natural Resources. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Cox, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution expressing appreciation to Ralph W. Callaway for his faithful service on the Board of Natural Resources. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Chairman Hudson recognized former Board member, Sara Clark, who was present, and read the resolution from the Board honoring her for her years of service to the Board.

Mrs. Clark expressed her appreciation to DNR staff and to the Board for their hard work to protect the natural resources of the state. She stated that she also wanted to thank Mary Ann Evans, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Board, for her assistance during her years of service as Chairman of the Board and chairman of several committees.

Commissioner Holcomb gave an update on the Budget and thanked Michele Bonner, DNR Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Dlugolenski, Director, OPB Physical & Economic Development Division; and Stacy Esterman, OPB Policy Analyst in Physical & Economic Development Division, for their work on behalf of DNR.

Commissioner Holcomb called on Beth Brown, Director of Communications, for an update on Weekend for Wildlife.

Mrs. Brown stated that contributions collected for Weekend for Wildlife were at \$495,000 with a few expected contributions not yet in hand. She further stated that the amount raised this year would probably be \$800,000 to \$900,000. She added that in 2008, Weekend for Wildlife would be on February 8 and 9, and that Commissioner Holcomb would like contributions to meet or exceed \$1 million in 2008.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Holcomb called on Ray Luce, Director Historic Preservation Division (HPD), to give an update on items of interest from his division.

Dr. Luce called attention to two handouts, the newsletter *Reflections* and a brochure entitled "What's New in the Old Neighborhood." He stated that the brochure gives information about a February conference to be held in Augusta, GA, which will focus on revitalizing historic African-American communities, particularly historic homes in the Augusta area.

Dr. Luce stated that another topic of interest related to National Heritage areas. He further stated that the United States has had National Heritage areas for several years, but only one of those areas, the Augusta Canal, was located in Georgia. He added that two National Heritage areas were added to Georgia this past year, which were the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area near Atlanta and the Gullah-Geechee National Heritage Area. He further added that the Gullah-Geechee National Heritage Area would be a corridor that runs along the east coast from North Carolina through Florida, which features African-American and Native-American traditions and history.

Commissioner Holcomb gave an update on legislation affecting DNR and stated that the department was monitoring legislative bills and would keep the Board informed of any bills that would affect DNR. He further stated that DNR had hired David Baird again this year to track bills as they are introduced and move through the legislative process. He added that Mr. Baird is a seasoned bill tracker.

Commissioner Holcomb called attention to the Non-game Wildlife Report handed out to Board members.

Chairman Hudson called on Bill Carruth, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Carruth, seconded by Mr. Walters, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to request that the Governor execute the proposed Executive Order authorizing the approval of the demolition of the structure on State property, Renfroe-Mills Foundation tract; and that the Board adopt the Resolutions to authorize the Commissioner to request the State Properties Commission to seek the General Assembly's approval for the Department to declare surplus and to transfer 0.56± of an acre to the City of Folkston, and 1.37± acres to Charlton County, designated in the Department's records as the Okefenokee Heritage Education Center, Charlton County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Hudson called on Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Carruth, and carried with one abstention by Mr. Archer, to adopt the Resolution regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 391-3-1, Rules for Air Quality Control pertaining to NOx Emissions from Electric Utility Steam Generating Units, Emission Statements, Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality and Emission Reduction Credits. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding Improving Non-point Source Pollution Control. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Hudson called for a motion for the election of the 2007 officers for the Board of Natural Resources.

A motion was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Barrs, and carried unanimously that the Board elect Jim Walters as Chairman, Phyllis Johnson as Vice Chairman, and Cader Cox as Secretary of the Board of Natural Resources for 2007.

Chairman Walters expressed appreciation to Walter Hudson on behalf of the Board for his leadership as Chairman during 2006 and presented him with an engraved gavel from the Board.

Mr. Hudson expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Board Chairman and stated that he appreciated the advice, counsel and friendship of Board members during his tenure as Chairman. He further stated that he appreciated the willingness of the Board to step up when called upon to tackle issues that had been presented. He added that he also appreciated the quality and commitment of the DNR staff to solve problems that were presented.

Chairman Walters stated that he looked forward to working with the Board as Chairman in 2007. He further stated that he would like input from the Board regarding the possibility of moving the Wednesday Board meetings from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and requested a vote. As a result of the vote taken, starting time for the Wednesday Board meetings will be 9:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Walters stated that he felt it was important that the Board hold meetings in various areas of the state to provide broader accessibility to the citizens of Georgia. He further stated that three sites had been selected for meetings outside Atlanta in 2007. He added that the sites would be Gainesville in April, Albany in September and Red Top Mountain in December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Walter Hudson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Cader B. Cox, III, Secretary