

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

**April 26, 2017**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman  
Dwight Evans, Vice Chairman  
William Bagwell  
Ray Lambert  
Mark Mobley  
Paul Shailendra  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Watt  
Philip Wilheit  
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Bill Jones  
Mike Phelps  
Rob Leebern  
Bodine Sinyard  
Brother Stewart  
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble  
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council  
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council  
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Walter Rabon  
Terry West  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
John Martin  
Artica Gaston  
John Bowers  
Jeff Weaver  
Thomas Barnard  
Antoinette Norfleet  
Richard Dunn  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Sydney Brogden  
Karen Hays  
Beth Blalock  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Erin Ruoff  
Thom Litts  
John Biagi  
Lt. Wayne Hubbard  
Dr. Tina Johannsen  
Larry Blankenship  
Bert Langley  
Allison Asbrock  
Christopher Semerjian  
Rose West  
James McLaughlin  
Michael Odom

The April 26, 2017 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

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

Mr. McWhorter called on Dr. Tina Johannsen, Programs Operations Manager for the Wildlife Resources Division, to present the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Pertaining to Migratory Bird Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2.

Dr. Johannsen stated that under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the primary authority for regulating migratory birds. She further stated that the USFWS annually establishes a framework (opening and closing dates, maximum season length, and maximum bag limits) within which the states must set their migratory bird hunting seasons. She added that these frameworks are developed with the input of state wildlife agencies and are informed using biological population, harvest, and habitat parameters.

Dr. Johannsen stated that our proposed waterfowl hunting season dates are within the frameworks provided by the USFWS. She further stated that our proposal maximizes hunting opportunity within the approved frameworks. She added that she plans to request Board adoption of the enclosed proposals today.

A motion was made by Mr. Watt, 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, Chapter 391-4-2, as presented.

Mr. McWhorter called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management of the Wildlife Resources Division, to present the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, and General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, as presented.

Mr. Bowers stated that these are housekeeping changes that affect numerous chapters within the Department of Natural Resources Rules resulting from the passage of House Bill 208. He further stated that the first item is that the permit requirements for hunting deer with dogs had reference to a dog-deer hunting license, which will be removed as a result of the statutory changes from House Bill 208. He added that with the pursuit of bears with dogs on Wildlife Management Areas, Management Area trout stream rule, and Public Fishing Areas – there were references in those rules to a Wildlife Management Area license, which is no longer a license per House Bill 208.

Mr. Bowers stated that the last change involves the Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass, which was adopted several years ago by the Board, and created a pass for non-hunting or fishing related activities that occur on Wildlife Management Areas, Public Fishing Areas, and other designated sites. He further stated that with the changes from House Bill 208, it will become the WRD Lands Pass, which will be required for everyone 16 years or older. He added that anyone who has a hunting, fishing or combo hunting and fishing license is exempt from the WRD Lands Pass.

Mr. Bowers stated that these changes are responsive to public input. He further stated that he would return in June seeking action on these proposed amendments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.