

**Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee**

Unicoi State Park
Masters Hall 3/4
1788 Highway 356
Helen, GA 30545

May 24, 2017

Attending:

Committee Members

Aaron McWhorter, Chairman
Dwight Evans, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley- Via Conference Call
Miki Thomaston
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Bill Jones
Matt Sawhill
Bodine Sinyard – Via Conference Call
Brother Stewart

Guests

Megan E. Spells, Georgia Department of Defense
Richard A. Batten, Georgia Department of Defense
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Randy Drummond, Georgia Department of Defense

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Bowers, John
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hayes
Chuck Mueller
Jon Ambrose
Steve Friedman – Via call-in
Mark Whitney
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Weaver
James Hamilton
John Erbele
Larry Blankenship
Bill Donohue
Brenda McMillian

The May 24, 2017 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson called on Aaron McWhorter, Chairman 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, Chapter 391-4-2, and Firing Ranges, Chapter 391-4-9-.02.

Mr. Bowers stated that he has one action item to bring before the Board today. He further stated that the Board was briefed in March. He added that these proposed amendments reflect statutory changes, adopt hunting regulations for the next two years, increase either sex days for deer where appropriate, expand hunting opportunity for bears, and counties along the fall line to alligator zones, codify rules for hunting waterfowl on certain reservoirs, regulate hunting and other activities on Wildlife Management Areas and other public lands, and housekeeping changes to firing range rules.

Mr. Bowers stated that public hearings were held in April and an online survey was offered with 800 responses that showed strong support for the proposal.

Mr. Bowers requested favorable consideration of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, and Firing Ranges, Chapter 391-4-9-.02, as presented.

Mr. McWhorter called on Dr. Jon Ambrose, Chief of Nongame Conservation, for an informational briefing on the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.