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

October 25, 2017

Attending:

Board Members
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary - via conference call
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert - via conference call
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Staff Members
Mark Williams
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Spud Woodward
John Bowers
Steve Friedman
Maj. Thomas Barnard
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver
Matt Thomas
Chip Madren
Walter Lane
Stan Elrod
Doug Haymans
Taye Pierce
Mike Spencer
Dave Crass
Mark Whitney
Sgt. Derek Dillard
Doyte Chaffin
Jeff Billups
Cpl. Bart Hendrix
John Martin
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Laura Williams
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Donald Kirkland
Dika Kuoh
Erin Ruoff
Sarah Visser
Sydney Brogden

Guests
Leon Watkins, White Stone Landfill
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry, & Tribble
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, GA Power
Hunter Loggins, GA Agribusiness Council
Leah Dixon, GA Conservancy
The October 25, 2017 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson, Jr.

Chairman Johnson called on Miki Thomaston to give the Invocation.

Chairman Johnson called on Director Rusty Garrison to introduce the Public Focus speaker.

Director Garrison introduced, Chip Madren.

Chairman Johnson thanked Chip Madren.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the Board Meeting to move into Committee meetings.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the Committee meetings and called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Mobley, seconded by Ms. Addison to approve the minutes of the September Board meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn provided the Board with a petroleum pipeline update and discussed some of the highlights of HB 413. He stated that we released a draft of the rule on September 6th and expect to brief the Board on the new pipeline rules at our February Board meeting.

Director Dunn stated the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee is sponsoring an Environmental Policy Academy and we will be presenting on the Brownfields program and agricultural water permitting and metering. Additionally, Director Dunn provided an update on the Stream Buffer Study Committee, the Economic Development Lunch & Learn, and the District All-Hands meeting.

Chairman Johnson called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on Game Warden recognitions, Coast Fest, Your State Parks Day, Sansavilla WMA acquisition, and the National Champion of the National Archery in the School’s Program.
Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Director Woodward updated the Board on the South Atlantic Red Snapper Harvest, Cobia management decisions, and the Hurricane Irma response.

Commissioner Williams called on Dr. David Crass, Director of the Historic Preservation Division, for his report.

Director Crass updated the Board on the Georgia African American Heritage Preservation Network, the Centennial Farm Awards, the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division Leadership Retreat, and an outlook for the Leadership Academy.

Commissioner Williams called on Colonel Eddie Henderson, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his report.

Colonel Henderson updated the Board on the Fall rifle training, SIM training, and Critical Incident training.

Commissioner Williams called on Rusty Garrison, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Garrison updated the Board on hunting season statistics, the Go Outdoors Georgia app, new hunting opportunities, and Ocmulgee PFA.

Chairman Johnson called on Ms. Addison for the Coastal Committee report.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Saltwater Fishing Regulations and Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4 and Chapter 391-4-3. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Bagwell for the Environmental Protection Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed grant criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-.15(4). (Proposed Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part thereof).

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Davis for the Land Committee report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 641.4± acres of real property and an access easement, Fall Line Sandhills Wildlife Management Area, U. Wall Plantation Tract, Taylor County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)
A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 129.9± acres of real property, Sprewell Bluff Wildlife Management Area, Willoughby Tract, Upson County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease with Dodge County for the Ochise Landing Boat Ramp, 1.33± acres, Dodge County. (Resolutions attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval via Executive Order to demolish the Red Top Mountain State Park Lodge, Red Top Mountain State Park, Bartow County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson stated that a Weekend for Wildlife Planning Committee meeting would be held upon adjournment of the Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary