

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Brasstown Valley Resort
Salon 1-2
6321 US-76
Young Harris, GA 30582

December 6, 2017

Attending:

Board Members

Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston
Philip Watt (via conference call)
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Guests

Clay Jones
John Poole
Kevin Jeselnik
Hutton Baewn
Jen Hillburn
Debbie Phillips
Todd Williamson
Caleb Williamson

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Eddie Henderson
Doug Haymans
Becky Kelley
Steve Friedman
James Hamilton
Bill Donohue
Eric Bentley
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Weaver
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The December 6, 2017 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson, Jr.

Chairman Johnson called on Dee Yancey to give the Invocation.

Chairman Johnson called on Steve Friedman to introduce the first Public Focus speaker.

Mr. Friedman introduced Ms. Katie Owens.

Chairman Johnson thanked Ms. Owens.

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

Director Garrison introduced Mr. Caleb Williamson.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mr. Williamson.

Chairman Johnson stated that the Board will be voting to accept the appointment of Mr. Doug Haymans as the Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board accept the appointment of Mr. Doug Haymans as the Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

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

Chairman Johnson called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2017 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the October Board meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2017 Nominating Committee conference call meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilheit, seconded by Ms. Thomaston to approve the minutes of the November Nominating Committee conference call meeting.

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

Director Dunn stated there were significant pending rule-making actions that were underway and that those revisions would be presented to the Board in the spring.

Director Dunn stated there were revisions to the solid waste rules first presented in October. He said that a public meeting regarding those rules was held on November 28, and the public commenting period regarding the rules would end on December 18. Additionally, Director Dunn stated there were upcoming rules which would have meetings, revisions, and commenting periods in the spring before the end of the fiscal year.

Director Dunn stated that EPA Chair Scott Pruitt recently announced that EPD member Dr. Jim Boylan had been selected to serve on the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee, which is charged with reviewing the national air quality standards.

Director Dunn stated that there were two bills up for review in the upcoming General Assembly. He stated the first bill was a reauthorization of the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund. He further stated that the second bill was legislation recommending the implementation of the Governor's Agricultural Permitting Compliance Task Force.

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

Commissioner Williams thanked the staff at Brasstown for hosting the Board meeting.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the after-action report from Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on events going on within the Department.

Commissioner Williams congratulated the recent class of graduates from the DNR Leadership Academy and thanked Dr. David Crass for his work in putting the program together.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on the National Conference of State Preservation Officers and that he was working with the Director of the organization to approve and implement new federal regulations.

Director Crass mentioned an article in the Atlanta Business Chronicle regarding the impact of Atlanta's tech sector on office rents. He stated that the tech sector was a big driver in the increases in office rents and annual employment numbers. He stated that the tech sector was looking for "creative office spaces" and that this could provide multiple opportunities for HPD.

Director Crass stated that he would send out info regarding the next Leadership Academy class for anyone interested in stopping by and saying "hello" to the new students or getting any info about future classes.

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

Colonel Henderson provided updates on the Division's hiring process and the certification process for new recruits.

Colonel Henderson showed footage from GEMA's emergency response training for future disaster responses.

Colonel Henderson stated that everyone in the Division was scheduled to work over Thanksgiving weekend due to the busy nature of the season. He then provided statistics of arrests and incidents that occurred over the Thanksgiving holiday. Additionally, Colonel Henderson provided statistics on arrests for illegal night hunting from July to December.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division, for her report.

Director Kelley shared an article in Smithsonian Magazine which featured Georgia State Parks assets and discussed the various programs Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites was promoting to encourage outdoor involvement in Georgia's parks.

Director Kelley stated that the Division was an outlet to promote a healthy lifestyle and shared new snacks Georgia State Parks would be carrying to promote healthy eating among park guests.

Director Kelley unveiled new gift certificates for Georgia State Parks.

Director Kelley highlighted a transition in camping reservations, where guests can now specify which particular campsite they want to reserve.

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

Director Garrison stated that hunting season was in full swing, with all game species in season. He then provided updates on hunting statistics for the 2017-2018 season so far.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17. (Proposed Amendments 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 Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the purchase of 4,527.1± acres of conservation easement, Alapaha River Plantation, Langdale Company Conservation Easement, Atkinson County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the purchase of 203.2± acres of real property and an access easement, Ohoopce Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Karrh II Tract, Emanuel County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the purchase of 109.2± acres conservation easement, Musgrove Plantation Stage III, St. Simons Land Trust Tract, Glynn 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 of the Land Exchange between the State of Georgia and the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority for the Robins Air Force Base Buffer Project and Echeconnee Creek Wildlife Management Area, Bibb and Houston Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Evans 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 Floyd County for the Old River Road Boat Ramp, 3± acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Leebern 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 Mitchell County for the Newton Landing Boat Ramp, 6.13± acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Stewart 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 Union County for the Canal Lake Boat Ramp, 1.5± acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Stewart 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 Stephen C. Foster State Park Interpretive Center, Charlton 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 of the Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve to widen SR 135/US 221, consisting of 3.956± acres, Bullard Creek Wildlife Management Area, Jeff Davis County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

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 of the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 3.956± acres at Bullard Creek Wildlife Management Area by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Department of Transportation to widen SR 135/US 221, Jeff Davis County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Lambert and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve dedicated area to widen SR 30/US 280, Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park, 5± acres, Crisp County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement of 0.117± acres at Hardman Farms Historic Site by the State Properties Commission to the Georgia Department of Transportation at the intersection of SR 75/SR 17, White County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of

the Disposition (surplus) of up to 405.1± acres of real property, Rockdale County Park, Rockdale County.
(Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof).

Chairman Johnson called on Mr. Wilheit, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Wilheit stated that the Nominating Committee met via conference call on November 15, 2017, and voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board the following slate of officers for 2018: Mr. McWhorter, Chairman; Mr. Sinyard, Vice Chairman; and Ms. Addison, Secretary.

Chairman Johnson stated that Weekend for Wildlife was coming up and was 50 days away from the Board meeting. He further stated that so far \$685,000 had been raised.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary