

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
A.W. Jones Heritage Center
610 Beachview Drive
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

January 26, 2018

Attending:

Board Members

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Aaron McWhorter, Vice Chairman
Bodine Sinyard, Secretary
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert – Via Conference Call
Rob Leebern
Mike Phelps
Miki Thomaston
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Guests

Ronnie Just, Georgia Power
Tom Rood, CCA-GA
Beth Blalock, Gilbert Harrell Sumerford & Martin
Chris Woodward, Sport Fishing Magazine
Roy & Ann Ditmer, Save German Village
Stuart Stevenson, Save German Village
Wayne Dasher, Department of Corrections
Wayne Tate
John Duren, Coastal Conservation Association
David Kyler, Center for a Sustainable Coast
Ragen Marsh, Troutman Sanders
Edward Wexler, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
Katherine Bayer, Save German Village
Julian Smith, Sidney Lanier Environmental Advocacy Team
Hannah Smith, Sidney Lanier Environmental Advocacy Team
Megan Desrosiers, One Hundred Miles
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Gloria Burns, Save German Village
Ingrid Metz, Save German Village

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Steve Friedman
Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jeff Cown
Sydney Brogden
Jon Ambrose
Karl Burgess
Bill Donohue
Jeff Weaver
Thomas Barnard
Jill Andrews
Greg Balkom
Bobby Bond
Beth Tasciotti
Paul Medders
Buck Bennett
JT Bennett
Dominic Guadagnoli
Pat Geer
Jill Andrews
Linda Willis

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Ed Meadows, St. Simons Island Planning Commission

Chris Thompson, Save German Village

Ad Poppell, McIntosh County

Patrick Zoucks, McIntosh County

Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Mark Berry, Georgia Power

Bill Hodges, Hodges Harbin Newberry & Tribble

The January 26, 2018 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Board Chairman Duncan Johnson, Jr.

Chairman Johnson called on Philip Wilheit to give the Invocation.

Chairman Johnson called on Commissioner Mark Williams to introduce the Public Focus speaker.

Commissioner Williams introduced Hannah Bonvechio.

Commissioner Williams thanked Hannah Bonvechio.

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 December Board meeting.

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

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to approve the Resolution honoring A.G. “Spud” Woodward for his service to the DNR and Coastal Resources Division.

A motion was made by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Wilheit to approve the Resolution honoring A.G. “Spud” Woodward.

A.G. “Spud” Woodward thanked the DNR Board and spoke about his career and the many lessons he has learned throughout his life.

Chairman Johnson called on Tom Rood, John Duren, and Hillary Brown from the Coastal Conservation Association-Georgia to say a few words.

Mr. Rood, Mr. Duren, and Mrs. Brown honored A.G “Spud” Woodward for his work throughout his career.

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

Director Dunn stated that during the ongoing legislative session, Governor Deal had released his budget for the upcoming fiscal year on January 11, with a flat budget recommendation to EPD that is the same as last year, with the addition of an Asbestos Safety position that had been cut during the last recession.

Director Dunn stated that there were still two bills the Environmental Protection Division was pursuing during the legislative session. He stated the first bill was a reauthorization of the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund and that the second bill was legislation recommending the implementation of the Governor’s Agricultural Permitting Compliance Task Force. He added that the bills would both be carried by the Governor’s floor leaders and that neither had been introduced yet. He further stated that EPD would keep the Board updated as the bills make progress.

Director Dunn mentioned National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for large power plants, which he stated all require NPDES permits in compliance with the Clean Water Act. He further stated that EPD had plans to acquire all permit renewals by the end of FY 2018, which ends in June, 2018.

Director Dunn mentioned that written transcripts from the oral arguments from the Supreme Court *Florida v. Georgia* case were available on the Supreme Court’s website, along with an audio recording.

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

Commissioner Williams showed a video of the Department's efforts during Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Division Directors for embracing the training that DNR institutes for disaster situations such as Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Williams recognized WRD Wildlife Biologists Greg Balkcom and Bobby Bond for being awarded the *Best Wildlife Technical Paper* from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference.

Commissioner Williams recognized Colonel Henderson for being elected President of the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the 2018 legislative session, which began on Monday, January 8. He added that Thursday, January 11, was the annual "Keep Georgia Wild Day" at the Capitol.

Commissioner Williams stated that Amber Carter will continue to provide updates on the legislative tracking sheet and committee notices each week during the legislative session.

Commissioner Williams mentioned the annual "Weekend for Wildlife" and welcomed everyone to the event at the Cloister on Sea Island.

Commissioner Williams introduced Ed Wexler, the Department of Defense Southeast Georgia representative for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program.

Mr. Wexler discussed the changes occurring in the Guard and Reserve Program and presented the ESGR Patriot Award to Dominic Guadagnoli.

Commissioner Williams called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his report.

Director Haymans mentioned the CRD's new UAV program, which has helped gather data and document footage.

Director Haymans mentioned the closure of the shrimp fisheries on January 15, and the deep freezes that occurred starting on January 3, which resulted in the closure of federal waters, which will remain closed until state waters reopen.

Director Haymans stated the additional affects the deep freezes had on the coast and the fish losses that were incurred as a result of the cold weather.

Director Haymans mentioned the 20th anniversary of the Coastal Management Program, which he stated is a vital part of the Georgia coast and the communities along it.

Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Director of the Historical Preservation Division, for his report.

Director Crass mentioned the proposal to nominate Peachtree Center for the National Register of Historic Places and stated that the nomination was ready to be presented.

Director Crass mentioned the 1990 Federal Act passed by Congress in the handling of tribal remains by the state and that HPD was having increased interactions in reaching out to various tribes.

Director Crass mentioned the Wilderness First Responder training that occurred for archeologists over the past weekend.

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

Colonel Henderson provided an update of Law Enforcement situations during the 2017-2018 hunting season.

Colonel Henderson discussed enforcement of night hunting regulations and the tools Law Enforcement was using to increase enforcement abilities.

Colonel Henderson mentioned water body recovery situations and the new technology being used to aid in body recovery.

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

Director Kelley mentioned the 2018 State Parks fact sheet that was recently updated and provided to the Board members.

Director Kelley mentioned that State Parks were in a positive position and had seen increases in the past year.

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

Director Garrison mentioned the end of the hunting season and stated that 185,000 deer were reported harvested during the 2017-2018 season.

Director Garrison mentioned the passage of HB 208 and the increases in hunting and fishing licenses and revenues. He further stated that he hoped to use the revenue in increasing access to WMAs and enhancing shooting ranges, along with further improving staff development training.

Director Garrison mentioned the statewide Wildlife Resources Division meeting at Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center on January 10, which was focused on recognizing the great work done by DNR staff and discussing the Division's vision for 2018.

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

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Addison, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Chad Barrow to a four-year term on the Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee/Shore Protection Committee, retroactively effective January 1, 2018.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously that the Board grant approval to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with McIntosh County for the County to construct, operate, and maintain facilities for public water access at the Cathead Creek Boat Ramp. (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 grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.4± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Greystone Power Corporation at Campbellton Road Boat Ramp, Fulton 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 approve the Disposition (surplus) of up to 0.303± acres of real property, Tallulah Gorge State Park, Rabun 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 approve the Disposition (surplus) of up to 1,028.743± acres of real property, Former Camp Wilderness/Outdoor Therapeutic Camp, White County (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wilheit, seconded by Mr. Watt, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the following proposed slate of officers for 2018: Aaron McWhorter, Chairman; Jeff “Bodine” Sinyard, Vice Chairman; and Nancy A. Addison, Secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Secretary