

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

**February 15, 2019**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members**

Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard, Chair  
Nancy Addison, Vice Chair  
Dee Yancey, Secretary  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Joe Hatfield  
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Tim Lowe  
Aaron McWhorter  
Mark Mobley  
Billy New  
Paul Shailendra  
Brother Stewart  
Miki Thomaston

**Guests**

Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company  
Duane Harris  
John Vescuso, Wildlife Resources Division  
Jerry Burch, Wildlife Resources Division  
Julian & (Monica) Hannah Smith, Sidney Lanier Env. Advocacy Team  
Katy Sharp, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Wes Robinson  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Karl Burgess  
Jill Andrews  
Lorene Reid  
Linda Willis  
Jeff Weaver  
Eric Bentley  
Jon Ambrose

Richard Dunn, Director  
Lauren Curry  
Laura Williams, via conf. call  
Jim Cooley, via conf. call

Chairman Bodine Sinyard called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Sinyard introduced Miss Destrie Vescuso, the Public Focus speaker.

Ms. Vescuso spoke to the Board about her experiences in archery and thanked all the people who have supported her.

Chairman Sinyard called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Mobley to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2019 Board meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

Commissioner Williams congratulated Amber Carter and Katy Sharp for all their hard work on the 2019 Weekend for Wildlife; recognized CRD for receiving the 2018 Program Excellence Award, State Clean Vessel Act, and asked Lorene Reid to speak on behalf of CRD.

Lorene Reid informed the Board on the history of the Clean Vessel Act and updated the Board on the significance of the award.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the 2019 legislative session.

Commissioner Williams reminded the Board about Keep Georgia Wild Day at the Capitol on February 19, 2019.

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

Director Haymans introduced Dr. Carolyn Belcher, Chief of Fisheries, for an update.

Dr. Belcher updated the Board on the status of CRD's fisheries; the Carcass Recovery Project; the Georgia Crab Landings; and license tag funds.

Mr. Stewart asked what types of fish is the CRD tracking. Dr. Belcher listed fish currently being tracked.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on the tax incentive program; federal programs; and TIGERS, the Tax Incentive Grants Environmental Review System.

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

Colonel Barnard updated the Board on the DNR's involvement with Super Bowl security; the Stone Mountain group gatherings; the past year's hunting season; and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Game Warden Academy.

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

Director Garrison updated the Board on the past year's hunting season; the upcoming fishing season and regulations; the new fish hatchery; renovations on the Water Fowl structures; and Chronic Wasting Disease in the region.

Discussion ensued regarding Chronic Wasting Disease.

Commissioner Williams called on Jeff Cown, Director of the State Parks & Historic Sites Division, for his report.

Director Cown updated the Board on Super Museum Sunday, and the Park Ranger Conference at Unicoi State Park in March.

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

Director Dunn stated he is updating the Board on a landfill fire in the City of South Fulton. He further stated it is an unpermitted landfill and a site we have been working with since 2013. He added that, prior to catching fire, we initiated a number of enforcement actions against the owner, including issuing a Notice of Violation in July 2017 and again in January of 2018, and we have conducted 13 site visits in that time period.

Director Dunn stated that despite our efforts, the owner continued to accept construction and demolition waste and inert waste materials at the site, and he did not have a solid waste handling permit. He further stated, on September 20, the waste at the site caught on fire. He added the City of South Fulton Fire Department was able to go to the site and put out the visible pieces of the fire, but the fire continued to smolder.

Director Dunn stated in November, EPD worked with EPA to set up air monitoring equipment around the site and the results indicated there were no hazardous air pollutants or no exceedances of air quality standards. He further stated that, nonetheless, smoke is an irritant, and the odor is really bad. He added, since the fire, while working with the Department of Law, we have had a long series of enforcement actions.

Director Dunn stated we are working to get cost estimates to do the work to extinguish the fire, and it will exceed the amount we already have in the Solid Waste Trust Fund Spend Plan. He further stated we currently have \$2.5 million in reserves in the Solid Waste Trust Fund. Director Dunn added we are requesting \$500,000 in additional spending from the reserves of the Solid Waste Trust Fund, which would allow us to work with contractors to address the issue.

Mr. McWhorter asked about the city's involvement and conversation ensued.

Mr. Stewart asked about the size of the site and conversation ensued.

Mr. Johnson asked about using state money to clean up the site and conversation ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Mobley, and carried unanimously, that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed Amended FY 2019 Solid Waste Trust Fund Spend Plan. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Director Dunn updated the Board on the Governor’s Budget and the reauthorization of the Solid Waste Trust Fund and the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Delos H. Yancey, III, Secretary