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

October 22, 2019

Attendees:

**Board Members**
Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard, Chair
Nancy Addison, Vice Chair
Dee Yancey, Secretary
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.
Ray Lambert
Tim Lowe
Mark Mobley
Billy New
Paul Shailendra – Via Conference Call
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston

**Guests**
Bryan Tolar, Tolar Capitol Partners
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy
Jennette Gayer, Environment Georgia

**Staff Members**
Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Melanie Johnson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Jill Andrews
Taylor Brown
Major Mike England
Richie Golden
Rhonda Henslee
Ashley Moon, CIA
Vonnetta Pryor
Lt. Chad Welch
Tim Wright

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Chairman Bodine Sinyard called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Sinyard introduced Mr. Jimmy Allgood as the Public Focus speaker.

Chairman Sinyard adjourned the Board meeting to begin the Committee meetings.
The meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Bodine Sinyard.

Chairman Sinyard called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Mobley, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019 meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, for a statement.

Mr. Lambert notified the Board there is pending litigation regarding a facility in Newton County, and as such, no questions on the matter can be addressed.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on three sterilization facilities in Newton, Cobb, and Fulton county, EPD’s level 1 drought response in 103 counties, and upcoming Florida vs. Georgia litigation hearings.

Mr. Hatfield asked if there were any measures that could be taken to protect industry from increased water prices during a drought. Director Dunn responded that since new rules were passed in 2015, there have been no mandated water system drops that would affect industries.

Director Dunn stated his report was concluded.

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

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the campground at Evans County PFA; the golfer cabin next to Brazell’s Creek Golf Course at Gordonia Alatamaha State Park; the opening of rifle season; and leaf watchers at the state parks.

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

Director Crass updated the Board on the 2019 Leadership Academy and their vision, mission and values statement. He stated the graduation ceremony and luncheon will be held on November 6, 2019, at Smithgall Woods.

Commissioner Williams called on Colonel Thomas Barnard, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his report.
Colonel Barnard updated the Board on the WMA burglaries case. He stated there are three suspects and charges are pending. He thanked Major Mike England, Lt. Chad Welch, and CIA Ashley Moon for their meticulous work to break the case.

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

Director Garrison updated the Board on the mass stranding of approximately twenty-eight short-finned pilot whales on St. Catherine’s Island and one on Cumberland Island. He stated no human interactions caused the stranding.

Director Garrison updated the Board on the discovery of the snakehead fish. He stated the division is working to determine the cost to fisheries and ways to eradicate the aquatic invasive species. He further stated the fish were not found in the Yellow River, as reported.

Director Garrison provided an update on National Hunting and Fishing Day; Hunting Season figures; WRD’s involvement in the Golden Ray shipwreck. He also thanked Major Mike England and his team for their work to arrest the WMA burglary suspects and recover the stolen equipment.

Director Garrison called on Lacey Creech, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Wildlife Resources Division, for an update on the new marketing campaign.

Ms. Creech updated the Board on the “Game Day in Georgia” marketing campaign to promote hunting and angling in Georgia. She presented a video by country music star Luke Bryan, where he shares his enthusiasm for hunting and the outdoors, and a video by David Blanton of Realtree with hunting safety tips.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Sinyard called on Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a lease agreement with Golden Triangle RC&D for approximately 1,100 sq. ft. of office space at the State – Owned Hooks Hanner Building, in Terrell County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Mobley, 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 Group Shelter at Mistletoe State Park, Columbia County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Davis reminded the Board that there would be an Executive Session of the Land Committee following the Board meeting.
Chairman Sinyard appointed the following individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2020 Board of Natural Resources Officers: Ray Lambert, Chairman; Mark Mobley; Duncan Johnson; Rob Leebern; and Miki Thomaston.

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