

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Lake Blackshear Resort Conference Center
Ballroom C
2459-H US Highway 280 West
Cordele, GA 31015

December 4, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members

Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard, Chair
Nancy Addison, Vice Chair
Dee Yancey, Secretary
William Bagwell
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

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Ag Council
Josh Hildebrandt, Office of the Governor
Jessica Rutledge, Flint Riverkeeper
Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network/Georgia River Trails

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Chuck Mueller

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

Chairman Sinyard recognized Mark Osterhaus, Coral Hospitality, and Bill Donohue, James Hamilton and Brenda McMillian, North Georgia Mountains Authority. He introduced Mr. Sonny Taylor, General Manager of the Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club, and staff, to thank them for their hard work and kind hospitality.

Chairman Sinyard adjourned the Board meeting to begin the Committee meetings.

The December 4, 2019 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 October 22, 2019 Board of Natural Resources Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the of the October 22, 2019 Board of Natural Resources Meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019 Executive Session of the Land Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019 Executive Session of the Land Committee. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5-6, 2019 Board of Natural Resources Orientation Sessions.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 5-6, 2019 Board of Natural Resources Orientation Sessions. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019 Nominating Committee Teleconference Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019 Nominating Committee Teleconference Meeting. (Minutes attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on a coal combustion residue final closure permit on public notice, status updates on 3 facilities using ethylene oxide, and the level 1 drought that is in effect for 103 counties.

Discussion ensued.

Director Dunn stated this concludes his report.

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

Commissioner Williams began by thanking Chairman Sinyard for hosting a wonderful holiday celebration, and he thanked Sonny Taylor, General Manager at Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club, and staff, for their hard work and kind hospitality.

Commissioner Williams announced Cameron Atkinson from Rome, GA, as the 2019 Georgia Natural Resources Foundation scholarship recipient.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the 16th Annual National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC) Sportsman-Legislator Summit, in Greensboro, GA.

Commissioner Williams shared a photo of he and DNR staff who participated in a holiday gift program for Georgia's foster children, sponsored by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Governor's office.

Commissioner Williams informed the Board members that Wes Robinson, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, would be leaving the department after accepting a position with the American Chemistry Council. He thanked Mr. Robinson and wished him all the best.

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

Director Garrison announced the retirement of Matt Thomas and the promotion of Thom Litts as Chief of Fisheries.

Director Garrison updated the Board on the following: National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC) Sportsman-Legislator Summit; Georgia Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP); Becoming an Outdoors-Woman and Beyond (BBOW) educational program; 2019 Hunting Season; 2020 Fishing Regulations; and the 2020 Weekend for Wildlife.

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

Director Cown updated the Board on the following: 2019 Leaf Watch; Quota Hunts; Alligator Hunts at Reed Bingham; and the Providence Canyon education campaign with GRAMMY Award nominee, Brent Cobb.

Commissioner Williams stated this concludes his report.

Chairman Sinyard welcomed Josh Hildebrandt, Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor in the Office of the Governor.

Chairman Sinyard called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendments to Rules for Hazardous Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-11. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called on Rob Leebern, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard called on Miki Thomaston, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, for her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase 3,192.6+ acres conservation easement co-held with The United States of America (Navy), from the The Nature Conservancy and Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc., Cabin Bluff, Camden County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the donation of 346+ acres, Fort Mountain State Park, Bunker Hill Tract, Murray County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend 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 up to 9.11 + acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Southern Fiberworks (SFW) at Georgia Veterans State Park, Crisp County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. New, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend 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 up to 0.009+ acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the City of Darien at Fort King George State Park, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend 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 up to 0.009+ acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power at Fort King George State Park, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Sinyard thanked the Board members for attending the first Board of Natural Resources Orientation Session at Unicoi State Park and the 2019 DNR Leadership Academy graduation ceremony at Smithgall Woods, in November. He stated the orientation session was a huge success and the leadership class appreciated their participation in the event.

Chairman Sinyard stated there was discussion about a more appropriate name for the Orientation Session and suggested the “DNR Board of Natural Resources Annual Education and Leadership Retreat.” He further stated the annual event will be an excellent education opportunity for the Board members and an opportunity to support the DNR Leadership Academy.

Chairman Sinyard called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the 2020 Nominating Committee for Board Officers for 2020.

Mr. Lambert stated that the Nominating Committee met via telephone conference call and he would like to present the following slate of Officers for the Board of Natural Resources for 2020: Nancy Addison, Chairman; Dee Yancey, Vice Chairman; and Bill Jones, Secretary. He further stated that these nominees would be voted on at the January meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Chairman

ATTEST:

Delos H. Yancey, III, Secretary