

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

February 25, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Board Members

Nancy Addison, Chair
Dee Yancey, Vice Chair
Bill Jones, Secretary
William Bagwell
Joe Hatfield
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Jim Laine, Retired
Ronny Just, GA Power
Rena Ann Peck, GA River Network
Debbie Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition
John Eberhart , Georgia Earth Alliance

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Josh Hildebrandt
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Johnny Johnson
Taylor Brown
Lindsey Brown

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Donald Kirkland
Dika Kuoh

The February 25, 2020 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Addison.

Chair Addison stated the first item on the agenda is action on a resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to Deputy Commissioner Terrell L. “Terry” West, on his retirement from the State of Georgia, after 35 years of service.

Chair Addison read the resolution and called for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution honoring Terry West. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chair Addison and Commissioner Mark Williams presented to Terry West the signed resolution, a certificate recognizing his 35 years of service with the State of Georgia, and a special gift.

Chair Addison recognized Terry West’s father and sister and invited them to the podium for a photo. She thanked Mr. West for his many years of commitment, service and dedication to the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Georgia.

Chair Addison adjourned the Board meeting to begin the Committee meetings.

The February 25, 2020 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Nancy Addison.

Chair Addison called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2020 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2020 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

Chair Addison called on Richard Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn updated the Board on the status of the first coal ash plant closure permit issued, legislative activity pertaining to the Environmental Protection Division, changes in the upcoming budget, and the South Fulton Landfill Fire.

Chair Addison called on Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the 2020 Weekend for Wildlife, status of the department's legislation and budget, GOSA applications, and grants. He stated that Melanie Johnson, Deputy Legal Counsel, has accepted a job in the private sector. He thanked Melanie for her hard work and dedication and wished her much success in her new position.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on shrimp harvest, Blue Fish, Red Fish, Golden Ray vessel, and noted a recent visit by Congressman Buddy Carter to the headquarters of the Coastal Resources Division.

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

Colonel Barnard updated the Board on the fish licensing scam, new body cameras, plane crash in Gordon County, 34th Game Warden Academy, and an incident at Amicalola Falls.

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

Director Cown updated the Board on current construction projects, a new visitor center at Red Top Mountain State Park, the prescribed burn at Laura Walker State Park, and flooding at several state parks.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Stewart, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17.

Chair Addison called on Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Wayne County for the County to construct, operate, and maintain a county entrance sign. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the disposition (surplus) of up to 25+ acres of the Hooks-Hanner Environmental Resource Center, Terrell County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Jones, 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 1.128± acres across the Savannah River by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Atlanta Gas Light Company to operate and maintain a subsurface and underwater utility line, Chatham County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for Ronald Collum to donate public and administrative access easements to the Department in exchange for the State Properties Commission issuing a Revocable License and Permanent access easement by the General Assembly to Ronald Collum between Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area and Sheffield Wildlife Management Area, Polk and Paulding Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, 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 granting of a Revocable License and Permanent Easement up to 1+ acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to Upson EMC for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining underground and aerial distribution lines for a new picnic area and fishing pier at Big Lazer Creek WMA, Talbot County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, 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 Wayne County to lease Lake Lindsay Grace Service Pier, 1.07± acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, 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 agreement with City of Columbus to lease Rotary Park, 2.9± acres. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, 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 Ben Hill County to lease the 2.12 acres Ben Hill County Landing. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Yancey, 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 for ten (10) years, with an option for two 5-year renewals for up to 14.6± acres of real property to Calhoun Elks Home, Inc. at New Echota State Historic Site in Gordon County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Jones, 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 up to 0.69± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Diverse Power Company at Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park for a power line, in exchange for Diverse Power relinquishing an existing easement of 0.83+ acres, Harris County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chair Addison stated the next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, in the DNR Boardroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy A. Addison, Chairman

ATTEST:

A. W. Jones III, Secretary