

**Minutes  
Board of Natural Resources  
Legacy Lodge at Lanier Islands  
Blue Ridge Ballroom  
7000 Lanier Islands Parkway  
Buford, GA 30518**

**December 1, 2020  
9:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members**

Nancy Addison, Chair  
Dee Yancey, Vice Chair  
Bill Jones, Secretary – Via Zoom  
Nick Ayers  
William Bagwell – Via Zoom  
Dwight Davis  
Patrick Denney  
Dwight Evans – Via Zoom  
Joe Hatfield  
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern – Via Zoom  
Tim Lowe – Via Zoom  
Billy New  
Paul Shailendra – Via Zoom  
Jeff “Bodine” Sinyard – Via Zoom  
Miki Thomaston

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, DNR Commissioner  
Artica Gaston  
Kyle Pearson – via Zoom  
Kate Iannuzzi – via Zoom  
Josh Hildebrandt  
Cathy Barnette  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Steve Friedman – Via Zoom  
Ted Will  
Doug Haymans  
Bill Donohue  
Brenda McMillian  
Major Stephen Adams  
Captain Mike Burgamy  
  
Richard Dunn, EPD Director

**Guests**

Blake Raulerson, Office of the Governor  
Lyndy Saporow, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation  
Mr. Ronny Just, Georgia Power – via Zoom  
Rusty Garrison  
Sue Garrison  
Ms. Julie Elrod  
Ms. Stefanie Kaup

The December 1, 2020 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Nancy Addison.

Chair Addison called on Captain Mike Burgamy to give the invocation.

Chair Addison called on Cathy Barnette for roll call and declaration of quorum.

The following Board members participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom: Mr. Bill Jones, Mr. William Bagwell, Mr. Dwight Evans, Mr. Rob Leebern, Mr. Tim Lowe, Mr. Paul Shailendra and Mr. Bodine Sinyard.

The following staff participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom: Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel; Kate Iannuzzi, Deputy Counsel; and Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Chair Addison adjourned the Board Meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

Chair Addison called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chair Addison called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2020 Board of Natural Resources meeting and the minutes from the November 19, 2020 Nominating Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously to approve minutes from the October 27, 2020 Board of Natural Resources meeting and the minutes from the November 19, 2020 Nominating Committee meeting.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the US Army Corps of Engineers decision regarding Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona reallocation of reservoir storage, a Golden Ray update, Columbus Water Works final permit issuance, and the passage of Amendment 1 concerning Dedicated Funds.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams called on Kate Iannuzzi, Deputy Executive Counsel, for a briefing on Proposed Amendments/Repeal to the Department of Natural Resources' Rules to Reflect the Historic Preservation Division's Move to the Department of Community Affairs.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated the proposed changes to DNR's rules are necessary because, effective July of this year, the General Assembly moved the Historic Preservation Division to the Department of Community Affairs. She further stated that after this move, the State Archeologist and archeology staff will remain with the DNR as part of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division. She added the proposed changes seek to reflect that move in the DNR rules.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated the proposed rules are procedural in nature and should have no impact on public health or natural resources, should have no financial impact on the community, and should have virtually no cost to implement. She further stated that for these reasons no public hearing is planned unless requested by 25 or more persons who will be directly affected by the changes, by an association having no less than 25 members, or by a government entity. She added the proposed amendment/repeal of DNR's rules will be presented to the Board for action at the February 2021 Board meeting.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the 2021 Session of the General Assembly and the 2021 Weekend for Wildlife virtual event.

Commissioner Williams recognized Ms. Artica Gaston, Director of Administrative Services, and her staff for their hard work and dedication to the department. He called on Ms. Gaston for an update on the FY2020 Administrative Annual Report.

Ms. Gaston provided a report highlighting the Administrative Services Division's accomplishments, resources and staffing and the important role the division plays in supporting the department.

Commissioner Williams recognized Mr. Rusty Garrison and congratulated him on his retirement.

Mr. Garrison thanked the Commissioner and the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Director of the Wildlife Resources Division.

Commissioner Williams announced that Mr. Ted Will will serve as the Director of the Wildlife Resources Division.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the 35<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Academy; IU Investigation; Recent Cases; Stats Comparison; Stop the Steal Protests; and HQ Teambuilding.

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

Director Cown provided an update on organizational changes, effective December 1, 2020; Association of Southeastern State Parks Directors Meeting; Tropical Storm Zeta; Managed Deer Hunts; Managed Alligator Hunts; USA Today's Reader's Choice Award presented to Vogel State Park as the Best State Park for RVers; and Leaf Watch 2020.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, 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 Acquisition (purchase) of 2,903± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, The Conservation Fund Phase 1, Camden County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Lambert, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Acquisition (purchase) of 1,517± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. Phase 1, Camden County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson, 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 of up to 0.77+ acres and 0.52+ acres by The State Properties Commission and 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)

Chair Addison stepped to the podium to read a Resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to Rusty Garrison.

Chair Addison called for a motion and second to adopt the Resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Davis, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to Rusty Garrison.  
(Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chair Addison and Commissioner Williams presented the resolution to Rusty Garrison and thanked him for his dedication and service to the Department of Natural Resources and to the State of Georgia.

Chair Addison called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

Director Haymans stated there will be a vacancy on the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee, after Mr. Bill Hodges' term expires on December 31, 2020. He further stated that on behalf of the Board, CRD sent a request for nominations on September 23, 2020 seeking nominations from the public to fill the pending vacancy. He added that the CRD received seven nominations for consideration: Mr. Darrell S. Butler; Ms. Cherise S. Cartwright; Mr. Ron Kasting; Mr. A. Davis Poole, Jr.; Ms. Amy M. Spinks; Mr. Donald D. J. Stack; and Mr. R. Michael Torras.

Mr. Lowe stated he would like to nominate Mr. A. Davis Poole, Jr. for consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Ayers, and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. A. Davis Poole, Jr., as a member of the Coastal Marshland Protection Committee and the Shore Protection Committee.

Director Haymans provided an update and presentation on the removal of the Golden Ray.

Chair Addison called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 2021 Officers for the Board of Natural Resources.

Mr. Lambert stated the Nominating Committee met on November 19, 2020, via conference call to discuss the slate of officers for 2021. He further stated that the consensus of the committee was to offer the following nominations: Dee Yancey, Chairman; Bill Jones, Vice Chairman; and Dwight Davis, Secretary.

Chair Addison thanked the Committee for their work and added that slate of officers will be voted on at the January meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Nancy A. Addison, Chairman

ATTEST:

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A. W. Jones III, Secretary