

**Minutes  
Board of Natural Resources  
Jack Hill State Park  
Group Shelter  
162 Park Lane  
Reidsville, GA 30453**

**April 27, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members**

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

**Staff Members**

Kyle Pearson – Via Teleconference  
Kate Iannuzzi – Via Teleconference  
Josh Hildebrandt – Via Teleconference  
Cathy Barnette  
Artica Gaston  
Courtney Hall – Via Teleconference  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Steve Friedman – Via Teleconference  
Doug Haymans  
Thom Litts  
Alan Isler  
  
Richard Dunn, Director – Via Teleconference  
John Eunice – Via Teleconference  
Jac Capp – Via Teleconference  
Karen Hays – Via Teleconference  
Chuck Mueller – Via Teleconference  
Laura Williams – Via Teleconference

The April 27, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dee Yancey.

Chairman Yancey called on Captain Mike Burgamy to give the invocation.

Chairman Yancey called on Cathy Barnette for roll call and declaration of quorum.

Chairman Yancey adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

Chairman Yancey called the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Yancey called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the Supreme Court decision in Florida v Georgia and the Quarterly Performance Metrics from each of the branches.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Yancey called on Artica Gaston, Director of Administrative Services, in the absence of Commissioner Mark Williams, for her report.

Director Gaston thanked those attending the April board meeting in-person and those who participated via teleconference.

Director Gaston presented a legislative update. She stated that all three of the bills DNR was tracking passed both chambers, including the department's annual legislative package that added new bass and trout species to the game code, expanded legal muzzleloaders, and codified a full comprehensive Deer Management Assistance Program for the first time ever. She further stated that both DNR's amended fiscal year 2021 and fiscal year 2022 budgets included slight increases to the agency's appropriations and an expansive bonds package for capital projects.

Director Gaston welcomed back the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation director Lyndy Saparow to full-time work in the office. She stated Ms. Saparow is the contact for questions

and comments about the Weekend for Wildlife, as she will now be the point of contact for the event and its planning.

Director Gaston stated the Commissioner spent time with the 2021 DNR Leadership Academy at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in April and commented on the deep roster of motivated leaders being encouraged through this program.

Director Gaston announced the opening of a new visitor center at Skidaway Island State Park in Savannah and stated a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Director Gaston provided information about the 2021-2022 grant cycles and workshops for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship (GOSP) and Recreational Trails grant programs. She stated the GOSP application period runs from August 2 through October 15, and the Recreational Trails Program application period runs September 1 through November 1. She further stated the grants unit will hold three virtual workshops on June 3, 15 and 23, 2021 to help applicants navigate the process.

Director Gaston called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for a division update.

Director Haymans provided an update on the 2020 Commercial Landings, compared to 2019; a shellfish update and the proposed subtidal lease areas in Mud River; four one-day camps during Spring break; Brunswick Safe Harbor Youth Home; Savannah Boat Show; Coastal Georgia Ecosystem Report Card; and progress on the removal of the Golden Ray.

Director Gaston called on Colonel Thomas Barnard, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for a division update.

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the E-F tornado in Newnan; street racing detail on April 9-11, in the City of Atlanta; and recent cases involving stolen equipment from deer camps in Wilkinson County; and a recent boat incident on the Savannah River.

Director Gaston called on Thom Litts, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for a division update.

Assistant Director Litts provided an update on the 2021 turkey season; Fish and Learn II event at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center; Community Fishing Day in Newton County and the first event for the Mobile Catch Unit; Burton Hatchery and the progress on the renovations, Fry production, and the harvesting of Fingerlings and then transporting to lakes and reservoirs; discovery of Zebra mussels on a cabin cruiser that was dry docked adjacent to Lake Lanier;

mortality data for sea turtles and other protected species associated with the U. S. Corps of Engineers dredging of Georgia ship channels; the 2020-2021 winter bat survey season; and a groundcover restoration production area at Altama Plantation WMA and the installation of a new main irrigation line in May 2021.

Director Gaston stated this concluded her report.

Chairman Yancey called on Nick Ayers, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, Pertaining to Migratory Bird Regulations.

Chairman Yancey called on Dwight Evans, Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Leebern, 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 0.966± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Jefferson EMC at McDuffie Public Fishing Area, McDuffie County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Delos H. Yancey, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Dwight J. Davis, Secretary