

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Cloudland Canyon State Park
Group Shelter
122 Cloudland Canyon Park Road
Rising Fawn, GA 30738**

**Tuesday, August 24, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Board Members

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

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Cathy Barnette
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Taylor Brown Fisher
Clint Peacock
Scott Robinson

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The August 24, 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 a 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 June 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 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 metro Atlanta air quality attainment status; FY 2021 budget; agency legislation; Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona water usage; COVID relief funds for water and sewer improvements; and coal ash-related plant closure permits.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams welcomed everyone and thanked Director Jeff Cown and his team for hosting the August meeting at Cloudland Canyon State Park. He further stated that Cloudland Canyon is one of the department's top performing parks and its manager Brad Gibson was honored as the 2020 Manager of the Year for his outstanding work.

Commissioner Williams stated the Law Enforcement Division held its annual awards banquet in August and thanked those who were in attendance.

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program and stated the Recreational Trails Program will open on September 1. He invited the Board to attend the ceremony celebrating the final closings on the tracts at the Ceylon and Cabin Bluff properties on September 2, in Camden County.

Commissioner Williams announced that Josh Hildebrandt, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, had accepted a new position with the Georgia Technology Authority and thanked him for his drive and commitment to the department. He also announced the departure of Courtney Hall, Public Affairs Assistant, and wished her all the best in her new adventures.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on the Red Snapper Mini-Season; reef deployments; KTK Sailboat media coverage; summer fishing camps; the 2021 Georgia Climate Conference; Coastfest 2021; and the Golden Ray.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the helicopter rescue in Stephens County; Atlanta Crime Suppression Detail; boating stats; Nuclear Radiological Detection Training; K-9 Rio surgery; and the 8th Annual Game Warden Awards Banquet.

Commissioner Williams called on Ted Will, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Will provided an update on the discovery of the Trout disease (Whirling Disease – WHD and Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus – IHNV); Community Fishing Program; Walton greenhouse; removal of invasive flathead catfish in Region 6; availability of hunting regulations; small game season; alligator season; bear-dog and WMA dove hunt quotas; the groundcover seed production nursery at Altama Plantation WMA; 2021 Youth Birding Competition; and a significant oil release on Georgia's coast.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Yancey called on Miki Thomaston, Chair of the Coastal Committee, for her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Lowe, and carried unanimously to adopt the resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.15. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously to adopt the resolution to approve the Proposed FY 2021 Solid Waste Trust Fund Spend Plan. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Ayers, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendments to Subject 391-2-4, relating to Saltwater Fishing Regulations, and 391-4-3, relating to Fishing 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. Sinyard, 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 12± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power at Fort Yargo State Park, Barrow County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Hatfield asked if photos of the barn, under Tab G, Item B, were available for the board members to view. Mr. Friedman stated they were not, but he would distribute photos to the board via email.

Mr. Hatfield recommended to table Item B until the September board meeting so the board members could review the photos.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Lowe, and carried unanimously to table Item B until the September board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Delos H. Yancey, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dwight J. Davis, Secretary