

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Red Top Mountain Visitor Center
50 Lodge Road, SE
Acworth, GA 30102**

**September 28, 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
Paul Shailendra
Jeff "Bodine" Sinyard
Miki Thomaston

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Cathy Barnette
Donald Kirkland
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Taylor Brown

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

The September 28, 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 August 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 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 draft permits for the closure of coal ash plants, US Army Corps of Engineers approval of a request to reallocate water storage at Lake Allatoona, the approval of a modification to the DeKalb Consent agreement, Westside Lead cleanup and proposal to list the site on the National Priorities List, and the review of Twin Pines, LLC mining land use plan.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commission Williams welcomed the group to Red Top Mountain State Park. He recognized Jamie Madden, Park Manager, Shawn Kelley, Assistant Manager, and the park's staff, and thanked them for hosting the September board meeting. He also thanked Friends of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites for helping the Parks Division host several board meetings this year.

Commissioner Williams called on Kate Iannuzzi, Deputy Executive Counsel, for two briefings.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated the first briefing is on the proposed adoption of a rule regarding the moderation of comments on the Department's social media accounts. She stated the

Department and its Divisions have various social media accounts and it has been determined that moderation of these accounts is necessary. She further stated that rulemaking is required because the social media policy would create and define a limited public form under the First Amendment which affects private rights.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated the second briefing is on the proposed adoption of nondiscrimination rules. She stated the Department accepts money from various federal agencies and is required to institute certain nondiscrimination policies. She further stated that Federal regulations require a grievance policy be included in these policies. She added the adoption would affect the procedures available to the public, and, therefore, would need to be memorialized as rules as required by Georgia Administrative Procedure Act. She further added that these rules ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency (“LEP”) and individuals with disabilities have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the Department’s services, activities, programs, and other benefits.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated that notice of these proposed rules will be given and an opportunity will be provided for interested persons to submit their comments in writing. She further stated these proposed rules are procedural in nature, are not complex or controversial, 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 the public to implement. She added that no public hearing is planned unless requested by 25 or more persons who will be directly affected by these changes, by an association having not less than 25 members, or by a governmental entity. She further added the Department expects to present the adoption of DNR’s rules to the Board for action at the October 2021 Board meeting.

Commissioner Williams thanks Ms. Iannuzzi and continued with his report.

Commissioner Williams stated the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program and Recreational Trails Program grant applications are both live and encouraged everyone to help spread the word to communities and organizations.

Commissioner Williams stated the ribbon cutting ceremony for Ceylon and Cabin Bluff was held on September 2, which resulted in more than 27,000 acres of protected land to Georgia. He thanked the partners for helping make it possible.

Commissioner Williams stated the park managers gathered at Unicoi State Park for the annual Park Managers’ Conference to exchange best practices and recognize their achievements.

Commissioner Williams announced the hiring of Alexandria Solomon as the new Public and Governmental Affairs Assistant in the Atlanta office. He welcomed Ms. Solomon to the DNR Team.

Commissioner Williams announced the upcoming retirement of Lt. Colonel Johnny Johnson, who has served in DNR Law Enforcement for over 30 years and has been a great asset to the department. He stated that Major Mike England has been promoted to Lt. Colonel and will assume those responsibilities.

Commissioner Williams announced the passing of Mr. James Maund and recognized his dedicated service as manager of the Reynolds Mansion on Sapelo Island prior to his retirement. He stated that for many years James and his wife Sybil were the warm and friendly faces to greet you when visiting the mansion.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the Division's Investigative Unit, including Interstate Wildlife Smuggling; Illegal Reptiles; Fish Markets; State Parks; and Marine Theft.

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

Director Cown provided an update on High Falls State Park Awards; Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Award; Roosevelt's Little White House Display; New Linen Vans at Elijah Clark, Stephen Foster and Fort Yargo State Parks; New Greens at The Lakes at Laura Walker State Park; Fort Yargo Volunteer Workday; National Association of State Park Directors Conference; and the State Parks and Historic Sites' Parks Managers Conference.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Planning; Coastal Update on COVID Financial Relief to Georgia's Marine Fishing-Industry Members; September 2021 Habitat News; Virtual CoastFest 2021; Upcoming Board Rules on Dolphin, Billfish, Tarpon, Bait Shrimp and Bluefish; M/V Golden Ray; Red Drum Population Trends; and Upcoming Surveys on Research Projects, 2022 Angler Satisfaction Survey, and the ASMFC New Regional Stock Assessment in 2024.

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

Director Will provided an update on the Ceylon Wildlife Management Area, and Trout Disease.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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 that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to miscellaneous changes and updates. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to existing Municipal Solid Waste landfills. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed grant criteria for Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program.

Chairman Yancey called on Joe Hatfield, Chairman of the State Parks and Historic Sites Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously to adopt the resolution to approve Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2022-2026. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, 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 Renewal of a Twenty-Five (25) Year Lease with the Department of Transportation (GDOT) of 1.6± acres, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site, Glynn County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into an agreement with Echols County to lease the 2.2± acres, Echols County Boat Ramp. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Davis, 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 (RLA) and Permanent Easement (PE) of up to 1,500 feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Greystone Power Corporation at Sheffield Forest WMA, in Paulding County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval via Executive Order for the demolition of a barn located on Clybel WMA, in Jasper County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Delos H. Yancey, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dwight J. Davis, Secretary