

**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources**  
**DNR Boardroom**  
**2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE**  
**1252 East Tower**  
**Atlanta, GA 30334**

**October 26, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members**

Dee Yancey, 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  
Gary Vowell

**Guests**

Sam Collier, Sierra Club  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Leslie Miller, Georgia Power  
Max Brown, Sierra Club  
Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network  
Josh Marks, Parker Poe  
Reaganne Coile, Office of the Governor

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Kyle Pearson  
Kate Iannuzzi  
Cathy Barnette  
Donald Kirkland  
Alexandrea Solomon  
Soheila Naji  
Thomas Barnard  
Steve Friedman  
Doug Haymans  
Ted Will  
  
Richard Dunn, Director  
Jac Capp  
Karen Hays  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Sara Lips  
Steve Allison  
Anna Aponte  
Jim Boylan  
William Cook

The October 26, 2021 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Dee Yancey.

Chairman Yancey introduced special guest First Lady of Georgia Marty Kemp.

Chairman Yancey called on Duncan Johnson for 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 September 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 September 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 open burning ban exceptions and the removal of the Golden Ray from St. Simons Sound.

Chairman Yancey asked Director Dunn for an update on the Twin Pines process. Director Dunn stated that comments were issued to the applicant on their mining land use plan on September 10. He further stated the EPD received a revised mining land use plan and answers to some of their questions on September 17. He added the EPD has reviewed that response, and the response added some new water management features. He further added the EPD submitted new questions to the applicant about the water management features and is close to putting the mining land use plan out for public comment.

Discussion ensued.

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 thanked First Lady Marty Kemp for being with us and for the update on the Woodlands Project.

Commissioner Williams called on Kate Iannuzzi, Deputy Executive Counsel.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated the first item 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.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Lowe, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Adoption of a Social Media Rule.

Ms. Iannuzzi stated the second item 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.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed Adoption of Nondiscrimination Rules.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Weekend for Wildlife fundraising and thanked those who have already contributed.

Commissioner Williams stated that Director Jeff Cown is hosting the annual Association of Southeastern State Parks Directors at Brasstown Valley Resort and unable to attend the board meeting.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the Georgia Park Ranger Academy and the first Park Ranger Academy graduation.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on changes for the Game Warden Academy and recruitment.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on Habitat News; CoastFest 2021; and the Golden Ray response.

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

Director Will provided an update on Game Management harvest records; the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery reopening; and the Wildlife Conservation Section's critical rescue of an entangled dolphin.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Acquisition (Purchase) of a Conservation Easement and access easement over 881± acres, Canoochee River, Warnell Phase 2 Tract, Bulloch and Bryan Counties.

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 Acquisition (Purchase) of approximately 909± acres as an addition to the Paulding/Sheffield WMAs-Thompson Tracts, Paulding County.

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