

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Tuesday, February 22, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Board Members

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

Guests

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Tim Earl, Georgia Power
Deb Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Ag Council
Kevin Jeselnik, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Rena Peck, Georgia River Network

Staff Members

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

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski
Laura Williams

The February 22, 2022 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Jones.

Chairman Jones called on Anthony Rabern, Fisheries Region 2 Supervisor, for the invocation.

Chairman Jones called on Cathy Barnette for a declaration of quorum.

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

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

Chairman Jones called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Natural Resources meeting on January 28, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board of Natural Resources meeting on January 28, 2022.

Chairman Jones called on John Eunice, Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection Division, in the absence of Director Rick Dunn, for his report.

Deputy Director Eunice updated the Board on funding from the Governor for water and sewer infrastructure, the new Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, HB 893 and other legislation pertaining to EPD operations, and the FY 2023 budget for EPD.

Deputy Director Eunice stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams began his report by thanking everyone for their support in the 2022 Weekend for Wildlife. He stated that \$2,057,000 was raised, and he thanked GNRF Director Lyndy Saparow and Lacey Creech and her team at the Wildlife Resources Division for a fantastic event.

Commissioner Williams provided an update on the 2022 legislative session and the wildfire at Unicoi State Park.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on Inservice Training; 36th Game Warden Academy; Jekyll Creek Homicide Assist; Recent Aviation Missions, Atlanta Crime Suppression; and Sinclair Boating Incident.

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

Director Cown provided an overview of the Unicoi Wildfire, including incident command and operations; Super Museum Sunday; Parks on the Air at Cloudland Canyon; Little White House Exhibit; Magnolia Springs Partnership; and Prescribed Fires in February.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on the Redfish Symposium at the GAAFS 2022 Annual Meeting; Offshore Reefs; and the Georgia Healthy Beaches Program.

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

Director Will provided an update on the 2021-2022 prescribed burn season; fish habitat enhancement; renovation of the Steve Coker State Fish Hatchery in Dawson; warmwater hatcheries stocking intermediate sized channel catfish in lakes; and surveys of bald eagle nesting and shorebirds.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Jones called on Rob Leebern, Vice Chair and Acting Chair of the Coastal Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the appointment of Dr. Valerie Hepburn to the Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shoreland Protection Committees.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

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 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management, Chapter 391-3-24. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Jones called on Tim Lowe, Chair of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25-year lease agreement with Dougherty County to lease the 2.317+ acres Marine Corps Ditch Boat Ramp. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25-year lease agreement with Jeff Davis County to lease the 1.25+ acres Burkett's Ferry Landing Boat Ramp. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a 25-year lease agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency to lease the 2.7+ acres Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Boat Ramp. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A. W. Jones, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Secretary