

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

Tuesday, March 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
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Gary Vowell
Dee Yancey

Guests

Deborah Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition
Max A. Brown, Sierra Club
Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Jennifer Fennell, Jackson EMC
Drew Kann, Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Dave Crass, Department of Community Affairs
Dominic LaRiccia, State Representative, District 169
Ronny Just, Georgia Power

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
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 March 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 called on Mr. Ray Lambert to read a resolution honoring James A. “Jac” Capp.

Chairman Jones called for a motion to approve the resolution.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and approved unanimously to adopt the resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to James A. “Jac” Capp.

Mr. Lambert presented the resolution to Mr. Capp.

Chairman Jones called on Mr. Dwight Davis to read a resolution honoring Dr. David Crass.

Chairman Jones called for a motion to approve the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lambert, and approved unanimously to adopt the resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to Dr. David Crass.

Mr. Davis presented the resolution to Dr. Crass.

Chairman Jones recognized Lyndy Saporow, Executive Director of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, and congratulated her on the success of the 2022 Weekend for Wildlife.

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 February 22, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board of Natural Resources meeting on February 22, 2022.

Chairman Jones called on Rick Dunn, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Dunn updated the Board on the amended Fiscal Year 2022 budget's inclusion of pay raises for state employees, state legislation reauthorizing and dedicating hazardous waste fees, EPA's action of listing the Westside Lead Project on the National Priorities List, and an update on the status of Twin Pines.

Director Dunn stated this concluded his report.

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

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on the legislative session and key items the department is following, including HB 1147, regarding hunting and trapping season for raccoons and opossums; HB 1148, regarding chronic wasting disease; HB 1233, which is the annual DNR clean-up bill; HB 1349, regarding the no net law; and SB 469, which addresses federal requirements for visual distress signals and PDFs. He stated that the Governor signed the FY22 amended budget, which includes a cost-of-living increase of \$5,000 for full-time state employees. He further stated that the department received generous increases in state parks to address renovations and repairs.

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

Colonel Barnard provided an update on the LED Succession Training Program.

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

Director Cown provided an update on Panola Mountain Habitat Restoration; Crooked River 75th Anniversary Celebration on March 9; PHSD Support for Leadership Georgia; Equestrian Workdays; New Playgrounds at Fort Yargo and Black Rock Mountain; New Comfort Station at Hamburg; New Deck at Idlewilde Event Center at Indian Springs State Park; and Renovated Cottages at Black Rock Mountain.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on Leadership Georgia's visit to the Coastal Resources Headquarters; the M/V Golden Ray scour rock deployed to reefs; and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

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

Director Will provided an update on the UGA Turkey Project; WRD Partner Projects, including Learn and Burn events for private land owners, the 62nd annual Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup, and Region Five Fisheries Staff and Auburn researchers' work to insert radio tags in both shoal and largemouth bass on the lower Flint River; the North Atlantic Right Whale; Wildlife Conservation staff and volunteer's relocation project of one of the state's largest Pink Ladies Slipper orchid populations; and a Fisheries update, including angler awards and anglers breaking lake and river records all over the state.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Chapter 391-3-20. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Chairman Jones called on William Bagwell, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, 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 short-term lease agreement over 0.0574+ acres for one (1) year with an option to enter into a long-term five (5) years lease with Southern Company Services Inc., Black Rock Mountain State Park. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to amend an existing 0.015 acres ten (10) year lease agreement to allow

two (2) ten (10) year renewal options with Currahee Paging, Inc., Black Rock Mountain State Park.
(Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to surplus 11.05± acres of real property to Lumpkin County, Blackburn State Park. (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