

**Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Idlewilde Event Center
Indian Springs State Park
678 Lake Clark Road
Flovilla, GA 30216**

**Thursday, June 16, 2022
2:00 p.m.**

Board Members

Bill Jones, Chairman
Dwight Davis, Vice Chairman
Duncan Johnson, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Patrick Denney
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Ray Lambert
Billy New
Miki Thomaston
Gary Vowell

Guests

Charles Burton, Brasstown Valley Resort
Bill Donohue, North Georgia Mountains Authority
James Hamilton, North Georgia Mountains Authority
Mark Osterhaus, Coral Hospitality
Lyndy Saparow, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Kate Iannuzzi
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Ted Will
Doug Haymans
Stephen Adams
Celisha Rosser Chapman
Alan Isler
Thom Litts
Emily Rushton

Richard Dunn, Director
Chuck Mueller
Jill Clark

The June 16, 2022 Board of Natural Resources meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Jones.

Chairman Jones thanked Director Jeff Cown and staff for hosting the June Board of Natural Resources meeting at beautiful Indian Springs State Park. He also thanked Colonel Thomas Barnard with the Law Enforcement Division and Lyndy Saporow with the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, for hosting the Law Enforcement Academy banquet and stated that everyone is looking forward to a nice evening of great food and fellowship.

Chairman Jones introduced Frankie Willis, founding member of the Friends of Indian Springs State Park and President of The Village at Indian Springs, to provide some brief history about the area and their work to restore the historic district including shops, galleries, gardens, bike and hiking trails, campsites, and luxury rental cottages.

Chairman Jones introduced Alan Isler, Chief of Game Management, Wildlife Resources Division, for a moment of inspiration.

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 of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on May 24, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on May 24, 2022.

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

Director Dunn updated the Board on the status of the Twin Pines mining project and the determination that the 2020 jurisdictional determination from the US Army Corps of Engineers

is not valid. Director Dunn further updated the Board on EPA lowering the health advisory level for 2 PFOA/PFAS chemicals.

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 welcomed everyone to Indian Springs State Park. He stated the Game Warden Academy graduation ceremony will be held on Friday morning at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. He further stated that the special guest is First Lady Marty Kemp and she is scheduled to give remarks.

Commissioner Williams stated that the first DNR Career Academy kicks off on July 17 and will run until July 23. He further stated that the students' time will be split between Charlie Elliott and the 4H Center on Jekyll Island. He added that the students will get a first-person, hands-on perspective of the career opportunities within DNR and what those jobs entail.

Commissioner Williams asked everyone to please keep our Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) brothers and sisters in their prayers. The Commission lost an officer in a head-on collision late last week.

Commissioner Williams called on Major Stephen Adams, Law Enforcement Division, in the absence of Colonel Thomas Barnard, for his report.

Major Adams provided an update on the Wilmington boat incident; Holiday weekend incidents; Memorial Day weekend stats; and the 36th Game Warden Academy graduation.

Major Adams stated this concluded his report.

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

Director Cown provided an update on the annual Interpretive Training at Hard Labor Creek State Park; groundbreaking of Amicalola Falls Visitor Center; the new accessible boat rental dock at Dames Ferry; swimming pool and splash pad operations; D-Day at Roosevelt's Little White House; Kids Fishing Events on Saturday, June 4; and Hamburg and Magnolia Springs media coverage.

Director Cown stated this concluded his report.

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

Director Haymans provided an update on the Angler Satisfaction Survey Town Halls held in Savannah on June 6 and in Brunswick on June 9; Shrimp Season 2022; Opening Day Vessel Concentration; Oyster Season Closure 2022; Golden Isles Fishing Event on June 4, 2022 at Liberty Ship Park in Brunswick; Beach Week events on Jekyll Island on Monday, June 27, Tybee Island on Tuesday, June 28, and St. Simons Island on Wednesday, June 29; and CoastFest on Saturday, October 1 in Brunswick.

Director Haymans stated this concluded his report.

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

Director Will provided an update on High Path Avian Influenza; Prescribed Fire; Gateway to Fishing Program; National Fishing and Boating Week; and Keeping Georgia Wild Day Family Festival.

Director Will stated this concluded his report.

Commissioner Williams stated this concluded his report.

Chairman Jones called on Nancy Addison, Chair of the Coastal Committee for her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Ayers, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Grant Criteria for Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program, Chapter 391-3-21.

Chairman Jones called on Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2,

Pertaining to Rule 391-4-2-.12 Pertaining to Trapping and 391-4-2-.31 Pertaining to Fox, Grouse, Opossum, Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon, Squirrel, Bobcat.

Chairman Jones called on William Bagwell, Acting Chairman of the Land Committee, in the absence of Chairman Tim Lowe, for his report.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for Acquisition (Purchase) of 656.745+ acres as an addition to the Oaky Woods WMA Paul Tract, Houston County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A. W. Jones, III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Duncan N. Johnson, Jr., Secretary