

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

**August 2, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Board Members

Dwight Davis, Chair
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair
Gary Vowell, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Charles DePriest
Dan Garcia
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Kevin Jackson
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Tim Lowe
Lesley Reynolds
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Harley Yancey

Staff Members

Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Jeff Cown
James Cooley
Dan Roach
Anna Truscynski
Laura Williams

Guests

Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network
Meris Lutz, Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Maggie Lee, The Current
Dave Williams, Capitol Beat News Service
Jill Nolin, Georgia Recorder

The special called meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Dwight Davis.

Chairman Davis called on Cathy Barnette for a declaration of quorum. A quorum was confirmed.

Chairman Davis stated the special meeting was called to approve the appointment of Jeff Cown as Director of the Environmental Protection Division.

Chairman Davis called on Mr. Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

Mr. Lambert stated that while Jeff Cown is currently the Director of State Parks & Historic Sites, his roots are with EPD. He further stated that following his graduation from the University of Georgia, Director Cown began his tenure at EPD in August 1990 as a permit writer for solid waste handling facilities. He added that over the years Director Cown was promoted to manage the units overseeing municipal solid waste handling and then the solid waste management program. He further added that Director Cown became the Assistant Land Branch Chief and then the Land Branch Chief in 2013, leading that branch until he departed for State Parks in the fall of 2018. Mr. Lambert stated that Director Cown is the steady hand the division needs right now, and he recommends approval.

Chairman Davis stated if there are no questions or comments, he requests a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously to appoint Jeff Cown as the Director of the Environmental Protection Division, effective August 16, 2023, with an annual salary of \$190,000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwight J. Davis, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gary Vowell, Secretary