

Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
F.D. Roosevelt State Park
1984 Group Camp Rd.
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Tuesday, June 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Board Members

Patrick Denney, Chair
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Lesley Reynolds
Bodine Sinyard
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Taylor Fisher
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Haley Chafin
Jeff Cown
Anna Truscynski
Katie Bloomfield
Sarah Visser
Veronica Craw
Chris Hodge
Chris Harper
Tina Johanssen
Al Greer
Ellen Graham

Guests

Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountains Authority
Davis Poole, McIntosh County Commissioner
Alton Brown, Resource and Land Consultants
Mike McMillen, Coastal Resident
Jud Turner, Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford and Martin PC
Pat Farrell, Coastal Resident
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Alice Keyes, One Hundred Miles
Nick Johnson, Georgia Conservancy

The June 23, 2026 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Richard Tisinger to deliver a moment of inspiration.

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

Chairman Denney called the June 23, 2026, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources back to order.

Chairman Denney called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on May 19, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on May 19, 2026.

Chairman Denney called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Cown provided an update on Georgia's drought conditions, noting that recent rainfall has significantly improved conditions following the state's prolonged drought, although reservoirs, lakes, and groundwater levels remain below normal. He also reported that recent algal blooms detected in several Georgia lakes have not produced toxin levels requiring swimming advisories and encouraged the public to avoid suspicious blooms.

Director Cown concluded with an air quality update, noting that conditions have improved following recent rainfall and the containment of south Georgia wildfires, while EPD continues to monitor air quality throughout the summer.

Chairman Denney called on Commissioner Rabon for his report.

Commissioner Rabon stated that the Grants Unit recently hosted educational workshops and presentations across the state for local governments, nonprofits and other partners interested in DNR funding opportunities. He stated that staff provided technical assistance on the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund at Indian Springs State Park on June 10 and presented DNR grant opportunities at the 2026 Outdoor Recreation Summit in Cartersville on June 15.

Commissioner Rabon encouraged Board members to attend Hunting and Fishing Night with the Atlanta Braves on August 29. He further stated that DNR staff would provide interactive and educational experiences at The Battery and that the Atlanta Braves would provide a fundraising opportunity for the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation through a portion of ticket sales purchased through a designated link.

Commissioner Rabon stated that DNR would host its fifth Career Academy July 19-25 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and the Jekyll 4-H Center. He encouraged Board members to attend portions of the Career Academy and stated that staff could provide additional information to those interested.

Commissioner Rabon stated that DNR staff conducted three coastwide aerial surveys of the federally listed red knot during spring migration. He stated that approximately 4,200 red knots were estimated in Georgia on May 5 and nearly 6,000 were observed on May 19. He noted that the increased numbers suggest Georgia's coastal resources may be more important to migrating red knots than previously understood, likely due to horseshoe crab spawning activity. He added that the findings will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners with conservation planning and the designation of critical habitat.

Commissioner Rabon stated that Keeping Georgia Wild Day was held at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center on May 16 and attracted approximately 1,200 attendees. He stated that the event included 33 activity stations and more than 70 staff and volunteers, with activities including fishing, shooting sports, wildlife exhibits and educational presentations.

Commissioner Rabon stated that DNR recently reintroduced wild turkeys to Sapelo Island as part of ongoing restoration efforts. He stated that of the 20 tagged birds, 14 remain under active monitoring and six mortalities have been recorded, all occurring while birds were roosting. He noted that four nesting females successfully hatched broods and that monitoring would continue as the population becomes established on the island. He added that the statewide turkey poult survey is underway and encouraged the public to report turkey sightings during June through August.

Commissioner Rabon stated that Fisheries staff's ongoing black crappie research projects are expected to conclude this fall and that the results may inform future management actions, including potential changes to creel and size limits. He stated that a tagging survey on Lake Blackshear is being used to estimate population size and angler harvest rates.

Commissioner Rabon stated that the red snapper Exempted Fishing Permit issued by NOAA on May 1, which would have allowed a 62-day federal red snapper season beginning July 1, was cancelled due to litigation. He stated that a federal court injunction halted the Exempted Fishing Permits for all four South Atlantic states. He further stated that the July red snapper season would

not move forward and that Coastal Resources Division staff are working with the U.S. Department of Commerce to develop a revised permit addressing the court's rulings. He added that DNR hopes to resubmit the permit in the coming weeks with the goal of securing a potential fall season and is continuing to advocate for Georgia's red snapper anglers.

Commissioner Rabon called on Colonel Chris Hodge, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his update.

Colonel Hodge gave updates on 2026 boating incidents; Georgia International Law Exchange; division promotions; Paulding County rodeo and ongoing regulations.

Commissioner Rabon called on Andre McLendon, Assistant Director of the State Parks and Historic Sites Division, for his update.

Assistant Director McLendon gave an update on the partnership with Georgia Power at Tallulah Falls State Park; Joe Yeager Golf Tournament; Outdoors Beyond Barrier Junio Ranger event at Sweetwater State Park; Ranger-In-Training program; Thomas the Train Day at SAM Shortline; and annual interpretive training.

Commissioner Rabon concluded his report.

Chairman Denney called Ray Lambert for a report of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Grant Programs, Chapter 391-3-21-.09, pertaining to the Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Program.

Chairman Denney called on Mark Hennessy for a report of the Land Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of adding mitigation credit language of approximately 8,458+ acres conveyed by donation by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), in Long, Jeff Davis, and Montgomery counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 2,900± acres from the Conservation Fund, 1st Phase of the Charlton County Project, Charlton County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Denney called on Bodine Sinyard for a report of the State Parks and Historic Sites Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the new agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and the North Georgia Mountains Authority regarding operation of specific facilities.

Chairman Denney called on Steve Hufstetler for a report of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Hufstetler, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, pertaining to Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas.

Chairman Denney announced that the next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, August 25 at the DNR Board Room in Atlanta.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Patrick Denney, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dan Garcia, Secretary

**Minutes
Coastal Committee
F.D. Roosevelt State Park
1984 Group Camp Rd.
Pine Mountain, GA 31822**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chair
Harley Yancey, Vice Chair (via conference call)
Randy Dellinger
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Jeff Andrews
Dan Garcia
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Lesley Reynolds
Bodine Sinyard

The May June 23, 2026, meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Nancy Addison, Chairwoman of the Coastal Committee.

Chairwoman Addison called on Jill Andrews, Coastal Management Section Chief, to brief the board on the proposed rule, Chapter 391-2-1, governing private recreational docks in Georgia's coastal waters. Ms. Andrews reminded the Board that she had previously provided an overview of the history and development of the proposal in May and was returning with the proposed rule for consideration.

Ms. Andrews explained that the purpose of the rule is to formalize the department's existing process for regulating private recreational docks associated with residential riparian properties that are exempt from the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act. She stated that while Coastal Resources Division has administered revocable licenses for these docks since the mid-1990s, the proposed rule establishes a formal regulatory framework for issuing licenses, inspections, maintenance, and enforcement.

Ms. Andrews recognized members of the stakeholder committee in attendance and thanked them for their participation throughout the rule development process. She noted that although the committee did not reach consensus on every recommendation, it reached agreement on several key

issues, and the proposed rule also incorporates considerations raised in the committee's minority report. She further explained that following an initial proposal presented in 2024, the department paused the rulemaking process to gather additional stakeholder and public input before returning with the revised proposal.

Ms. Andrews explained that the rule reflects the department's current administration of revocable licenses under O.C.G.A. 50-16-61, which authorizes the Governor to manage the use of state-owned coastal marshlands. She stated that the rule establishes an orderly process for issuing revocable licenses to construct, reconstruct, modify, and maintain private recreational docks while protecting coastal resources and navigation.

Ms. Andrews reviewed the application requirements, noting that applicants would continue to provide proof of ownership and construction plans but would now be required to submit scaled drawings rather than informal sketches to improve the department's ability to evaluate proposed docks.

Ms. Andrews explained that the proposed standards limit licenses to riparian property owners, allow one dock per lot, establish requirements for multi-family developments, and ensure docks serve water-dependent recreational uses while protecting navigation and neighboring property owners' access to waterways.

Ms. Andrews outlined the standards for new dock construction, including requirements for dock placement within riparian corridors, development of dock corridors where shoreline conditions require flexibility, and maintaining the existing maximum fixed walkway length of 1,000 linear feet. She noted that the proposal removes the previous maximum square footage for walkways and instead limits walkway width to six feet to improve accessibility while minimizing impacts. Ms. Andrews added that docks would generally terminate at the first creek measuring 20 feet or greater in width, while smaller creeks could be spanned to provide access to navigable waters.

Ms. Andrews explained that the proposal increases the maximum size of fixed decks from 300 to 400 square feet and maintains existing standards allowing floating docks up to 600 square feet for single-family docks and 1,000 square feet for multi-family docks. She stated that the proposal also authorizes floating watercraft lifts and mooring piles under specified conditions while continuing to allow covered boat hoists but prohibiting second-story recreational use above covered structures.

Ms. Andrews discussed new provisions addressing utilities, explaining that applicants proposing electrical service would be required to provide proof of permit application to the appropriate local jurisdiction before installation. She added that lighting standards would continue to require fixtures to be shielded and directed downward to minimize impacts on navigation and neighboring properties.

Ms. Andrews explained that owners seeking to reconstruct or modify existing docks would obtain a new revocable license to verify ownership information, property boundaries, and current waterway conditions. She noted that new components added during modifications would be required to meet the standards established for new docks. She further explained that routine maintenance would continue to be authorized through the department's existing process and would allow the use of construction matting and low-impact equipment to minimize impacts to marshlands.

Ms. Andrews highlighted the addition of a formal variance process that would allow the department to consider requests for fixed walkways up to 1,100 feet when necessary to reach the first navigable waterway, larger boat hoists when justified by vessel size, and limited extensions farther into waterways where site conditions warrant while maintaining navigability.

Ms. Andrews reviewed the general conditions of revocable licenses, explaining that licenses are not transferable upon the sale of property, docks must be properly maintained, construction activities must minimize impacts to marshlands, docks are limited to private recreational use, enclosed structures are prohibited on new docks, and construction and operation must comply with protected species requirements.

Ms. Andrews explained that the proposed rule also formalizes the department's inspection and enforcement procedures by establishing processes for inspections, corrective actions, consent agreements, license suspension or revocation, and penalties for violations. She noted that the proposal also provides greater accountability for dock builders who fail to comply with approved plans.

Ms. Andrews concluded by emphasizing that the proposal largely codifies existing Coastal Resources Division practices while introducing two primary new requirements: submission of scaled drawings with applications and documentation showing applicants have notified their local jurisdiction when electrical service is proposed. She stated that, if approved, the proposed rule would be released for a 30-day public comment period with comments accepted through July 24 before returning to the Board in August for final consideration.

Board members thanked Ms. Andrews for the thorough presentation and commended the extensive stakeholder engagement conducted throughout the rulemaking process. In response to a Board member's question regarding the purpose of spanning smaller creeks, Ms. Andrews explained that the provision allows property owners to access larger navigable waterways beyond the creek while maintaining sufficient clearance for navigation beneath the span.

Chairwoman Addison opened the public comment portion of the meeting and invited members of the public to address the Board regarding the proposed rule.

Mr. Alton Brown, Resource and Land Consultants, presented data estimating the current and potential number of private docks along Georgia's coast. Mr. Brown stated that existing docks occupy a very small percentage of coastal marshlands and expressed support for the proposed rule, noting that it provides clarity while continuing to minimize environmental impacts.

Mr. Davis Poole, McIntosh County Commissioner, thanked Coastal Resources Division staff and the stakeholder committee for their work throughout the rulemaking process. Mr. Poole encouraged collaboration with local governments on permitting and inspections, suggested the development of dock construction best practices, and recommended clarifying language related to maintenance and inspections to address concerns expressed by coastal property owners.

Mr. Mike McMillan, a coastal dock owner and stakeholder committee member, expressed support for the proposed rule, particularly the increase in allowable dock width from four to six feet. Mr. McMillan emphasized the importance of wider docks for accessibility and safety, especially for families, older adults, and individuals using mobility devices.

Mr. Pat Farrell, a Chatham County resident and former county commissioner, encouraged the Board to reconsider the proposed 1,000-foot maximum dock length, stating that he believed the limitation was not supported by scientific data. Mr. Farrell also recommended streamlining the permitting process and providing additional flexibility for shared docks.

Mr. Jud Turner, Partner at Gilbert Harrell Sumerford & Martin P.C., expressed support for the adoption of formal rules governing private recreational docks. Mr. Turner stated that promulgated rules would provide greater consistency, transparency, and opportunities for administrative review while reducing conflicts that have arisen under the current process.

Mr. Jack Robertson, a coastal property owner, shared his experience regarding the revocation of his dock license following changes in ownership of a shared dock. Mr. Robertson encouraged the Board to carefully consider the proposed rule and public comments to provide greater certainty and consistency for dock owners.

Ms. Alice Keyes, representing 100 Miles, expressed support for establishing formal dock regulations but raised concerns that portions of the proposed rule would significantly increase allowable dock dimensions beyond previous standards. Ms. Keyes encouraged the Board to retain science-based limitations, consider a dock builder certification program, and continue prioritizing protection of Georgia's coastal marshlands.

Mr. Nick Johnson, representing the Georgia Conservancy, expressed support for adopting formal rules and commended provisions addressing electrical permitting, construction practices, and resource protection. Mr. Johnson recommended further consideration of science-based criteria for variances, development of a dock builder certification program, and reevaluation of the proposed increase in allowable dock dimensions.

Following public comment, Chairwoman Addison invited Board members to ask questions of Ms. Andrews regarding the proposed rule. Board members discussed the use of alternative decking materials to reduce shading impacts, structural considerations associated with wider docks, and opportunities to develop future dock construction standards and a voluntary dock builder certification program in collaboration with local governments and industry representatives. Ms. Andrews responded to the questions and noted that several of these concepts may be considered as future initiatives outside the current rulemaking process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
DNR Boardroom
F.D. Roosevelt State Park
1984 Group Camp Rd.
Pine Mountain, GA 31822**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chair
Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews
Dan Garcia
Steve Hufstetler
Bill Jones
Lesley Reynolds
Bodine Sinyard
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Randy Dellinger
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Mike Peavy
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

The June 23, 2026, meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Patrick Denney.

Chairman Denney called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, who called on Veronica Craw, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch.

Ms. Craw presented proposed amendments to the Regional Water Plan Grant Program. Ms. Cross explained that the amendments are required under the Fair and Open Grants Act and update the Board's rules describing the grant program.

Ms. Craw stated that the proposed revisions would rename the program by removing the word "Seed," update administrative requirements, eliminate the mandatory pre-application meeting, reduce the required local match from 40 percent to 10 percent to improve accessibility for smaller communities, revise eligible activities to align with the current regional water plans, clarify the grant evaluation process, and transition applications to an online submission process. Ms. Craw noted that the recommendations were developed through a targeted stakeholder process with regional water planning council chairs, who supported the proposed changes.

Ms. Craw requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Grant Programs, Chapter 391-3-21.09, pertaining to the Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Program.

Chairman Lambert called on Sarah Visser, Chief of the Land Protection Branch, to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 319-3-4.

Ms. Visser provided a briefing on proposed revisions to the Solid Waste Rules. She explained that the revisions align the Board's rules with statutory changes enacted by the General Assembly that became effective January 1, 2026.

Ms. Visser stated that the proposed amendments clarify local government verification requirements for zoning and solid waste management plan consistency, update public participation and meeting notification requirements, and remove an outdated provision restricting regional landfills from accepting waste outside their service areas, consistent with legislative changes and applicable court decisions. She noted that staff anticipate holding a public hearing in July and returning to the Board in September with a recommendation for adoption.

Chairman Denney asked Ms. Visser to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management, Chapter 391-3-24.

Ms. Visser also presented proposed revisions to the Lead-Based Paint Rules. She explained that the amendments are necessary to maintain Georgia's primacy by aligning state regulations with updated federal EPA requirements. The proposed changes update terminology throughout the rule, lower allowable dust lead action levels to reflect current federal standards, revise reporting requirements following lead abatement activities, and modernize administrative procedures by removing outdated paper-based processes and correcting technical references.

In response to a Board member's question, Ms. Visser explained that the revised dust lead standards apply following renovation or abatement activities and that EPD conducts inspections based on complaints, observed work, and risk-based priorities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes
Land Committee
F.D. Roosevelt State Park
1984 Group Camp Rd.
Pine Mountain, GA 31822**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Mark Hennessy, Chair
Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews
Randy Dellinger
Dan Garcia
Joe Hatfield
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Lesley Reynolds
Harley Yancey (via conference call)
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Bodine Sinyard

The June 23, 2026, meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Mark Hennessy, Chair of the Land Committee, who then called on Brent Womack, Chief of Real Estate, to present the items.

Mr. Womack presented a request for approval to add mitigation credit language to the deeds of approximately 8,458 acres conveyed by donation from the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) across Long, Jeff Davis, and Montgomery counties.

Mr. Womack noted that since 2021, the Department has partnered with DOT to acquire more than 11,000 acres across 11 counties for conservation and public recreation, and that the Board had previously approved acceptance of the donated properties, as well as reversionary deed language requested by DOT and the State Properties Commission.

Mr. Womack explained that DOT and the State Properties Commission subsequently requested that mitigation credit language also be added to the deeds for approximately 8,458 acres associated with the Townsend and Buller Creek Wildlife Management Areas. DOT will retain all

wetland and stream mitigation credits generated from these tracts, subject to restrictive covenants for wetlands.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to add mitigation credit language of approximately 8,458+ acres conveyed by donation by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), in Long, Jeff Davis, and Montgomery Counties.

Mr. Womack presented a request for approval of the acquisition by purchasing the first phase of The Conservation Fund Charlton County Project. The acquisition consists of approximately 2,900 acres and represents the first phase of a 3,964-acre project located along Trail Ridge adjacent to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Womack noted that the property provides critical habitat near the Okefenokee Swamp and will expand public recreation opportunities. Upon acquisition, the tract will be managed as a wildlife management area along with an adjacent conservation tract totaling 3,833 acres slated for future conveyance to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for expansion of the refuge.

Mr. Womack stated that The Conservation Fund will place a deed restriction prohibiting future mining or mineral extraction activities. Funding sources include the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pittman-Robertson grant. The acquisition cost is \$8,230,316, with closing targeted for August 2026. A second phase of 1,064 acres is anticipated for board consideration with a projected March 2027 closing.

Mr. Womack responded to a question from Mr. Hatfield regarding appraisal selection and the higher appraisal value. Mr. Womack explained that the negotiated purchase price from the seller was lower than the selected appraisal value, and that the State is required to submit one of two certified appraisals, which are both completed by qualified appraisers.

Mr. Bill Jones commended the project, noting its significance as a major conservation achievement for the state. He highlighted that the property was formerly associated with proposed titanium mining near the Okefenokee Swamp and described the acquisition as the result of extensive public, stakeholder, and organizational engagement over several years. He also noted the broader importance of the project in relation to the upcoming designation of the Okefenokee as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and expressed appreciation for those involved in advancing the effort.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, and carried with one dissenting vote, that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 2,900+ acres from The Conservation Fund, 1st Phase of the Charlton County Project, Charlton County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
State Parks and Historic Sites Committee
F.D. Roosevelt State Park
1984 Group Camp Rd.
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Harley Yancey, Chair (via conference call)
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Randy Dellinger
Dan Garcia
Mark Hennessy
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Jeff Andrews
Joe Hatfield
Steve Hufstetler
Lesley Reynolds

The June 23, 2026, meeting of the State Parks and Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chair of the State Parks Committee, who called on Ellen Graham, Chief of Resource Management.

Ms. Graham presented a request to renew the agreement between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the North Georgia Mountains Authority. She explained that the revisions primarily update the agreement to reflect operational changes, including the return of George T. Bagby State Park, Smithgall Woods, and Hardman Farm to State Parks management, and clarify current management responsibilities.

Ms. Graham requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Garcia and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the New Agreement Between the Department of Natural Resources and the North Georgia Mountains Authority regarding operation of specific facilities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
F.D. Roosevelt State Park
1984 Group Camp Rd.
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Tuesday, June 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Steve Hufstetler, Chair
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair
Jeff Andrews
Dan Garcia
Mark Hennessy
Duncan Johnson
Mike Peavy
Lesley Reynolds
Bodine Sinyard
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Randy Dellinger
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

The May 19, 2026, meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Steve Hufstetler, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on Dr. Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief of Game Management, to present the proposed amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, pertaining to hunting on Wildlife Management Areas.

Dr. Johannsen stated that the proposed hunting regulation changes were primarily housekeeping items and included a response to legislation authorizing the use of drones to locate feral hogs on private property. She further stated that the proposed rule would clarify that drones may not be used for this purpose on public lands or Wildlife Management Areas.

Dr. Johannsen stated that hunting regulations were also being established for the newly acquired Upatoi Ravines property, including deer, small game and turkey seasons. She further stated that additional changes would clarify that other types of hunting and dog training are not permitted during quota hunts, particularly quail quota hunts.

Dr. Johannsen stated that the opening day of fall quail season would remain the second Saturday in November and that the proposed changes would clarify regulations regarding nighttime hunting of coyotes and hogs on public lands. She further stated that bobcat and fox may be hunted at night with centerfire rifles on private lands, but that such hunting is not permitted on public lands. Dr. Johannsen added that coyotes may be pursued at night with small game weapons when legally hunting raccoons or opossums.

The Board discussed the prohibition on electronic communication equipment and whether the provision applied to drones. Dr. Johannsen stated that the existing prohibition included cell phones and that the provision was considered in determining that drones should not be permitted on public lands.

Dr. Johannsen requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hennessy and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, pertaining to Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.