



**BRIAN KEMP**  
GOVERNOR

**WALTER RABON**  
COMMISSIONER

June 28, 2024

Residents of Sapelo Island,

My name is Walter Rabon, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I would like to share several upcoming meeting dates and announcements with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my Chief of Staff, Taylor Fisher, at [taylor.fisher@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:taylor.fisher@dnr.ga.gov) or 404-463-8601.

#### Fire Mitigation Response

Many of you reached out to me and staff regarding the fire mitigation efforts taking place on Sapelo Island and the state funds that were appropriated for these efforts. Georgia DNR is currently under contract to mulch more than 80 acres of public land, including both Sapelo Island Heritage Authority property and Wildlife Management Area lands bordering the Hog Hammock community. This work will vastly reduce the risk of fire in and around Hog Hammock. The funds appropriated through the budget can only be used for mitigation purposes on public lands. The gratuities clause of the Georgia Constitution extends to departments of the state, prohibiting them from granting any donation or gratuity in favor of any person, corporation, or association. (Please see Article III, Section VI, Paragraph VI of the Georgia Constitution and the related court cases and Attorney General Opinions, including 2004 Opinion of the Georgia Attorney General Number 2004-3.) Therefore, your request for DNR to perform these services on private property would be in violation of the Georgia Constitution. We look forward to continuing our work with you and the other residents of the Hog Hammock Community. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any additional questions or concerns.

#### Sapelo Island Heritage Authority Meeting

The Sapelo Island Heritage Authority will meet on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the DNR Board Room located at 2 MLK Jr. Dr. SE, East Tower, Suite 1252, Atlanta, GA 30334.

The meeting will be streamed virtually via Zoom for those who cannot attend. The online stream will be view-only. Only items listed on the agenda will be open for comment. Those wishing to speak on agenda items will need to attend in person and will be limited to three minutes.

More information about the meeting, including the Notice and Agenda, can be found on the DNR website at <http://www.gadnr.org/sapelo-island-heritage-authority>.

Sapelo Island and DNR Community Meeting

A meeting of the Sapelo Island community and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will be held on Friday, August 23, 2024, at the University of Georgia Marine Institute on Sapelo Island from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance will have the opportunity to speak directly to DNR staff. A detailed agenda will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter Rabon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rabon".

Walter Rabon