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

June 24, 2014

Attending:

Board Members
Philip Wilheit, Chairman
Ray Lambert, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Brother Stewart
Dee Yancey

Staff Members
Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Dave Crass
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Zachary Harris
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Doralyn Kirkland
Jac Capp
Keith Bentley
Jeff Cown
John Bowers
John Biagi
Doc Watson
Jeff Weaver
John Martin
Michael Chadwell
Mark Whitney
Vicki Gibbs
Mark McKinnon
Jenifer Hancock
Charlie Miller
Leigh Burns
Sally Winchester
Wally Woods
Ellen Graham
David Jordan

Visitors
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Tracy Hawkins, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Doug Cloud, Kazmarek Mowrey Cloud Laseter LLP
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Erica Techo, Morris News
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Adam Dye, Georgia Department of Agriculture
Leah Barnett, Georgia Conservancy
Mike Harris, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Matthew Smith, Georgia Farm Bureau
Ben Stowers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
The June 24, 2014 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation, for an inspirational message.

Chairman Wilheit adjourned the Board meeting to begin the Committee meetings.
The meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2014 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 2014 Board meeting.

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

Commissioner Williams recognized new DNR staff members, Mark McKinnon, Law Enforcement Division Public Affairs Officer and Vicki Gibbs, Administrative Assistant for Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, who were in attendance.

Commissioner Williams stated the campout held at Sweetwater Creek State Park as a part of Get Outdoors Georgia Day and the national Capital Camp-outs program on June 14, 2014 was a great success. He thanked Governor Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal, who attended the event and read camp fire stories to the children.

Commissioner Williams thanked Board members Duncan Johnson Jr., Ray Lambert, Paul Shailendra and Philip Wilheit for helping with the event. He stated the Department was very appreciative for their efforts.

Commissioner Williams thanked PRHSD staff members Sally Winchester, David Jordan and Ellen Graham, who were in attendance. He thanked them for their hard work in planning the campout and running such a successful event.

Commissioner Williams informed the Board about the new Ready Georgia app available for download. He stated this app was created by GEMA and the Department of Public Health and encourages residents to prepare, plan and stay informed for emergencies.

Commissioner Williams called on Mike Harris, former Wildlife Resources Chief on Nongame Conservation, who was presented with a plaque by Commissioner Williams and Mark Whitney, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, commending him for his service to Georgia and congratulating him on his great career with the Georgia DNR.

Commissioner Williams recognized Leigh Burns, Preservation Planner, CLG Coordinator and Outreach Program Manager of the Historic Preservation Division, for receiving the 2014 Atlanta Urban Design Commission Award of Excellence for her role in supporting historic preservation efforts in the City of Atlanta.

Commissioner Williams recognized Charlie Miller, Media and Communications Coordinator of the Historic Preservation Division, who runs the Centennial Farms Program for the Division. He stated the 2013 episode of Georgia Outdoors focusing on the Centennial Farms Program won a bronze medal in the Telly Awards.
Commissioner Williams called on Jud Turner, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his division update.

Director Turner updated the Board on the coastal buffer issue, specifically concerning the article by Susan Shipman published in the Savannah Morning News; Waters of the United States proposed rule by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Clean Power Plan proposed by EPA on June 2, 2014; ozone level and air quality of Georgia; and the Wilbros Plant trial.

Commissioner Williams called on Assistant Director Mark Whitney for a Wildlife Resources Division update.

Mr. Whitney updated the Board on the wildlife tag funding change effective July 1, 2014; the new license and boat registration system effective July 1, 2014; communication efforts with constituents using the WRD Facebook page and email addresses; and the wood storks downgrade to the "threatened" level.

Mr. Whitney thanked Mike Harris for his service and dedication to the Department to conserve and protect Georgia’s natural resources.

Mr. Whitney thanked Commissioner Williams and Deputy Commissioner Bryson for their participation during the campout at Sweetwater Creek State Park.

Commissioner Williams called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, for her division update.

Director Kelley presented each Board member with a Georgia State Parks reloadable gift card, compliments of the Friends of Georgia State Parks.

Director Kelley gave an update on the Partners Outdoors Conference held in Washington D.C. and the Sweetwater Creek State Park campout celebrating Get Outdoors Georgia Day.

Director Kelley recognized Sally Winchester, Marketing and Communications Manager, David Jordan, Sweetwater Creek State Parks Manager, and Ellen Graham, Resource Manager, for their hard work running the campout event.

Director Kelley presented Park Manager David Jordan with a proclamation signed by Governor Deal.

Commissioner Williams called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his division update.

Director Woodward updated the Board on the opening of food shrimp harvest season on June 10, 2014; the red snapper eight day mini season following data collection; and an online survey using GovDeliv concerning the spotted sea trout management.
Commissioner Williams called on Dave Crass, Historic Preservation Division Director, for his division update.

Director Crass gave an update on the archaeological project at Ossabaw Island; a WSB news feature on Magnolia Springs State Park; and the CSS Georgia.

Commissioner Williams called on Colonel Eddie Henderson, Director of the Law Enforcement Division, for his division update.

Colonel Henderson gave an update on Memorial Day boating statistics; the increased number of drownings in 2014; the LED Special Permit Unit falconry training at Georgia Southern in preparation for inspections; and Captain Wade Law’s graduation from the FBI National Academy at Quantico.

Colonel Henderson presented each Board member with a Boating Safety and Regulation booklet.

Commissioner Williams stated the Department is actively working with GEMA on hurricane preparedness.

Commissioner Williams stated the Capital Outlay Status Report for June was located in the Board member’s packet.

Commissioner Williams stated there being no further business, his report was concluded.

Chairman Wilheit informed the Board he would be implementing an Information Technology Committee beginning in August. He stated all divisions at DNR are impacted by IT and the Department needs to be prepared for advancing technology. He requested any members interested in being on the Committee to contact him.

Discussion ensued following Mr. Stewart’s inquiry concerning invasive mussels in the waterways of Kansas and Texas.

Chairman Wilheit called on Mr. Lambert for the report of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. McWhorter and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed Grant Criteria for the Award of Regional Water Plan Seed Grants; State Fiscal Year 2015. (Grant Criteria attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to miscellaneous changes and updates. (Copy of the proposed amendments attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Mr. Lambert congratulated Mr. Hudson on the birth of his grandchild.
Mr. Lambert stated Weekend for Wildlife would be held February 6-7 in 2015. He encouraged all Board members to attend.

Chairman Wilheit called on Mr. Bagwell for the report of the Land Acquisition Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for a five-year extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the City to operate and manage the Fargo Golf Course, Stephen C. Foster State Park, 70+ acres, Clinch County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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 to enter into a five-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the City to operate and manage the Administrative Building, Stephen C. Foster State Park, Clinch County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

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 fifty-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Department for GFC to operate and manage the Wooten Tract Barn Area, Oconee Wildlife Management Area, 27+ acres, Greene County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Phelps and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Corley Family to donate public and administrative access easements to the Department in exchange for the State Properties Commission issuing a Revocable License and Permanente Easement by the General Assembly to the Corley Family along Blue Car Body Road, Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area and Sheffield Wildlife Management Area, Polk and Paulding Counties. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Wilheit read a thank you letter from Lauren Curry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Philip A. Wilheit, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

William A. Bagwell, Jr., Secretary
Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

June 24, 2014

Attending:

**Committee Members**
Ray Lambert, Chairman
Walter Hudson, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Aaron McWhorter
Mike Phelps
Philip Wilheit, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

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Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Brother Stewart
Dee Yancey

**Visitors**
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Tracy Hawkins, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Doug Cloud, Kazmarek Mowrey Cloud Laseter LLP
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Erica Techo, Morris News
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
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Mike Harris, US Fish and Wildlife Service
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David Jordan
The June 24, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, who called on Jac Capp, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch.

Mr. Capp briefed the Committee on EPD’s Watershed Protection Branch. This briefing included information on the major river basins and aquifers in Georgia, Water Quality Standards, water monitoring, total maximum daily loads (TMDL), the Watershed Regulatory Program, the Lower Flint River basin, coastal permitting, the Governor’s Water Supply Program, Regional Water Planning councils, outreach, and the Watershed Branch’s expenditures.

Discussion ensued on the geographical impact of the major river basins along Georgia’s coast.

Chairman Lambert called on Mr. Capp to request the Committee’s approval of the Proposed Grant Criteria for the Award of Regional Water Plan Seed Grants for the State Fiscal Year 2015.

Mr. Capp stated the goal of the program is to support and encourage local governments and other entities engaged in water planning activities as they collect and manage water planning data and undertake their implementation responsibilities as provided in the applicable Regional Water Plans.

Mr. Capp stated the available funds for SFY-2015 are $150,000. He further stated these funds will provide 60% of a total project cost. He added grant recipients will be required to provide the remaining 40% of project costs in the way of match, with a minimum of 10% of the total project cost in the form of a cash match.

Mr. Capp stated a competitive process for selecting projects will be used. He further stated eligible projects include activities that address critical information needs or data gaps; tracking available monitoring data and reporting on water resource conditions; developing regional guidelines for regional water plan implementation; preparing and distributing technical guidance on high priority regional water plan management practices; and providing Regional Water Plan implementation training and other technical assistance to supporting implementation of management practices detailed in Regional Water Plans. He added all public agencies/entities (local, regional and State units of government, regional commissions, resource conservation and development councils, schools, etc.) are eligible to receive the grant.

Mr. Capp stated EPD would begin soliciting application in July and ending on October 31, 2014. He further stated EPD would be reviewing these application is November and would be executing contracts with applicants in January of 2015.

Mr. Capp stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve this item, as presented.
A motion was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. McWhorter and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the Proposed Grant Criteria for the Award of Regional Water Plan Seed Grants; State Fiscal Year 2015, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Keith Bentley, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to request the Committee’s approval of the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to miscellaneous changes and updates.

Mr. Bentley stated EPD regularly updates rules to incorporate changes to the U.S. EPA rules, update references to the most current document and clarify requirements.

Mr. Bentley stated EPD is proposing eight rule changes. He further stated the details of these changes could be found in the Board member’s packet.

Mr. Bentley stated the Committee was briefed on this item in March and a public hearing was held in May. He further stated no comments were received during the public notice period.

Mr. Bentley stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve this item as presented.

Discussion ensued following a question from Mr. Davis concerning the former Pollution Prevention Assistance Division.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to miscellaneous changes and updates, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Jeff Cown, Chief of the Land Protection Branch, to brief the Committee on the proposed amendments to Rules for Hazardous Site Response, Chapter 391-3-19.

Mr. Cown stated EPD had convened a broad-based group of stakeholders in March of 2014. He further stated invitees included members of the Georgia Industry and Environmental Coalition, the Georgia Brownfield Association, the City of Atlanta, DeKalb County, Georgia Power, the Atlanta Gas Light Company, Green law, and an owner of the listed property. He added stakeholder input was incorporated when possible.

Mr. Cown stated EPD proposes to repeal two subparagraphs in their entirety and amend two subparagraphs. He further stated these amendments will be more cost effective while still being protective of human health and the environment. He added the Division is proposing amendments to the following rules:
- Rule 391-3-19-.03 “Hazardous Waste Management and Hazardous Substance Reporting Fees” is being amended to remove references to the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division.
- Rule 391-3-19-.04 “Release Notification” is being amended to delete duplicative notification requirements for soil releases being addressed under the Hazardous Site Reuse and Redevelopment Act, to provide alternative notification concentrations for certain groundwater releases, to allow for a ninety-day deferment of listing determinations, to correct certain errors, and to remove obsolete language.
- Rule 391-3-19-.05 “Reporting of Releases Exceeding Reportable Quantities and Listing of Sites on the Hazardous Site Inventory. Amended.” is being amended to correct an error in wording and to provide additional mechanisms for the de-listing of sites on the hazardous site inventory.
- Rule 391-3-19-.06 “Corrective Action” is being amended to revise the standards for delineation of releases, to change the requirements for public participation, and to incorporate the use of Uniform Environmental Covenants into the procedures for corrective action.

Mr. Cown stated a public hearing would be held in July of 2014. He further stated EPD anticipates requesting the Board’s adoption of the rule revisions at the August 26, 2014 Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Minutes
Land Acquisition Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

June 24, 2014

Attending:

**Committee Members**
William Bagwell, Chairman
Mike Phelps, Vice Chairman
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Dwight Evans
Walter Hudson
Bill Jones
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Tracy Hawkins, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Doug Cloud, Kazmerek Mowrey Cloud Laseter LLP
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Erica Techo, Morris News
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Adam Dye, Georgia Department of Agriculture
Leah Barnett, Georgia Conservancy
Mike Harris, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Doug Fulcher, Oglethorpe Power
Matthew Smith, Georgia Farm Bureau
Ben Stowers, Georgie Natural Resources Foundation
The June 24, 2014 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item for the Committee’s consideration would be the approval of a five-year extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Fargo and the Department for the city to operate and manage the Fargo Golf Course at Stephen C. Foster State Park.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department entered into an IGA with the City of Fargo in 2009 for the city to manage the premises known as the Fargo Golf Course. He further stated this IGA prevented the golf course from closing and continued to provide recreational opportunities for the region. He added the City of Fargo has agreed to extend the original IGA to continue to manage the golf course for an additional five year term at no charge to the Department.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for a five-year extension to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the city to operate and manage the Fargo Golf Course, Stephen C. Foster State Park, 70+ acres, Clinch County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item for the Committee’s consideration would be the approval to enter into a five-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the City to operate and manage the Administrative Building at Stephen C. Foster State Park.

Mr. Friedman stated the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division negotiated an IGA with the City of Fargo to allow the city to occupy and operate the Administrative Building at 11 Suwanee River Drive in Fargo, GA. He further stated since signing the 2009 lease agreement the city has found it advantageous to occupy the Administrative Building due to expanding administrative needs in Fargo. He added the city provides water to the park manager’s residence and host camping sites in Stephen C. Foster State Park in exchange for leasing the building.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a five-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the City to Operate and Manage the Administrative Building, Stephen C. Foster State Park, Clinch County, as presented.
Mr. Friedman stated the next item for the Committee's consideration would be the approval to enter into a fifty-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Department for GFC to Operate and Manage the Wooten Tract Barn Area, Oconee Wildlife Management Area, 27± acres, Greene County.

Mr. Friedman stated the Wooten Tract was acquired as an addition to the Oconee Wildlife Management Area on October 16, 2013. He further stated a large barn is located on the property which the Department could find no current benefit to occupy. He added the GFC intends to use the barn and the 27± acres for office space, training exercises, and storage purposes.

Mr. Friedman stated to benefit the Department and for occupying the barn area, GFC will maintain the condition of the barn structure and surrounding premises at no cost to the Department.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Mr. Bagwell commended staff for working with the Georgia Forestry Commission to provide management of the barn on this property.

A motion as made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a fifty-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Department for GFC to operate and manage the Wooten Tract Barn Area, Oconee Wildlife Management Area, 27± acres, Greene County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the final item for the Committee's consideration would be the approval for the Corley family to donate public and administrative access easements to the Department in exchange for the State Properties Commission issuing a revocable license and permanent access easement by the General Assembly to the Corley family along Blue Car Body Road at Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area and Sheffield Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Friedman stated the Corley family owns property adjacent to the two WMAs and the Corley family will donate easements conveying public access and administrative access up to 6± acres. He further stated within Paulding Forest WMA along Blue Car Body Road in Polk County, the Corley family will receive a revocable license from the State Properties Commission and a permanent easement subject to approval from the from the General Assembly over 3± acres. He added that because the exchange of easements will benefit the Department, the recommendation is the revocable and permanent easements are issued to the Corley family at no cost.

Mr. Friedman stated the easement exchange will provide public access to the area for recreation and allow Department personnel to more easily patrol and maintain the WMAs.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.
Discussion ensued concerning the owners of the surrounding property.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Corley Family to donate public and administrative access easements to the Department in exchange for the State Properties Commission issuing a Revocable License and Permanent access easement by the General Assembly to the Corley Family along Blue Car Body Road, Paulding Wildlife Management Area and Sheffield Wildlife Management Area, Polk and Paulding Counties, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

June 24, 2014

Attending:

Committee Members
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Walter Hudson
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Philip Wilheit, Board Chair, ex-officio

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Wally Woods
Ellen Graham
David Jordan
The June 24, 2014 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Duncan Johnson Jr., Vice Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee.

Vice Chairman Johnson called on Major Doc Watson, Chief Pilot, for an informative presentation of the Law Enforcement Division’s Aviation Unit.

Major Watson gave an overview of the aviation unit including information on the aircraft, scheduling priorities and a detailed description of the unit’s capabilities and missions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
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Wildlife Resources Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
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June 24, 2014

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The June 24, 2014 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Mark Mobley, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management, to brief the Committee on the proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2-.40 and Chapters 391-4-2-.43 through 391-4-2-.56, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations.

Mr. Bowers stated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the primary authority for regulating migratory birds. He stated the USFWS annually establishes a framework within which the states must set their migratory bird hunting season.

Mr. Bowers stated the framework for mourning doves has changed to provide an additional 20 days of opportunity. He stated the proposed amendments adjusts dove season to reflect long-standing public desire for additional late-season opportunity and maximizes dove hunting opportunity.

Mr. Bowers stated the proposed changes for the waterfowl hunting dates are within the framework anticipated to be offered by the USFWS later this summer.

Mr. Bowers stated WRD anticipates presenting the final proposal at the August 26, 2014 Board meeting.

Chairman Mobley called on John Biagi, Chief of Fisheries Management, to brief the Committee on the proposed amendments to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3-.06, Size Limit Regulations.

Mr. Biagi stated WRD developed three short angling participation/resource preference surveys. He stated the link to the survey was emailed to 65,000 current fishing license holders using GovDeliv. He further stated WRD received around 30,000 survey responses.

Mr. Biagi stated the proposed changes will replace the current protective slot length limit for largemouth bass from Lake Oconee with a minimum length limit; modify the current minimum length limit for largemouth bass from the lower Ocmulgee River between Macon, Georgia and its confluence with the Oconee River; and modify the current minimum length limit of shoal bass from the upper Flint River.

Mr. Biagi stated WRD anticipates presenting the final proposal at the August 26, 2014 Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.