

Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

August 30, 2016

Attending:

Committee Members

Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Philip Watt, Vice Chairman
Dwight Evans
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Philp Wilheit
William Bagwell, Board Chair, ex-officio

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Terry West
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
John Biagi
John Bowers
Karl Burgess
Lt. Wayne Hubbard
Capt. Johnny Johnson
Capt. Bob Lynn
Jan McKinnon
Maj. Stephen Adams
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver
Antoinette Norfleet
Mark Walker
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Doralyn Kirkland
Dika Kuoh
Chuck Mueller

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis (via conference call)
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert, Jr.
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Matt Sawhill
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner and Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Andrew Schock, TCF
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy
Robert Ramsay, Georgia Conservancy
Jonathan Harding, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Carolyn Pait, Oglethorpe Power Corporation

The August 30, 2016 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

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Chairman Bagwell called on Duncan Johnson, Jr., Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee. Chairman Johnson called on Lieutenant Wayne Hubbard of the Law Enforcement Division's Special Permit Unit to present the film production wildlife permit and propose a new rule for issuance of the permit.

Mr. Hubbard stated that the law passed in response to the growing film industry in Georgia and the numerous requests for the use of native wildlife in film production. He further stated that House Bill 840 established the Film Production Wildlife Permit. He added that prior to the passage of HB 840, no Georgia law was in place to allow for this activity.

Mr. Hubbard further stated that traditionally wildlife has only been used for educational purposes. He further stated that a permit holder must meet requirements of all applicable local, state and federal agencies. He added that this permit allows the use of wildlife in film production just as wild animals (exotics) are currently used.

Mr. Hubbard stated that the purpose of this regulation is to protect wildlife and the citizens of Georgia by establishing regulations for the possession and exhibition of wildlife to be used in the film industry. He further state that this regulation provides and establishes permit requirements and requirements for animal origin, humane care, use and handling, and reporting.

Mr. Hubbard stated that Section 2 of the rule sets the term of the permit, requires the possession of pre-requisite licenses and sets age and experience requirements. He further stated that this section of the rule also requires possession of liability insurance, and responsibility for any costs associated with the escape, capture and disposition of any permitted animal. He added that this section addresses care, confinement, humane handling, and transportation of permitted animals.

Mr. Hubbard stated that Section 3 of the rule defines the animals which may be held under this permit. He further stated that no animals will be taken from the wild for purposes of this permit. He added that this section also requires rabies pre-exposure criteria for handlers of rabies vector species animals.

Mr. Hubbard stated that Section 3 also sets health certificate and micro-chip I.D. requirements. He further stated that this section requires permit holder to allow inspections and allows Film Production Wildlife Permit holder to also provide educational programs.

Mr. Hubbard stated that Section 4 of the rule requires reports of previous year activity prior to renewal, annual veterinary health report, and reporting of injury to animals, handlers or members of the general public. He further stated that notification is required of transport of permitted animals to production/education venues and immediate reporting of any escape. He added that an accurate inventory is to be maintained with the Department and approval must be obtained before any transfer of permitted animals.

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Mr. Hubbard stated that the last section is the penalty section. He further stated that the rule reads “Film Production Wildlife Permit” holders in violation of this rule shall be subject to revocation or suspension of their permit in accordance with O.G.GA. 27-2-25.

Mr. Hubbard stated that public hearings were held on July 13, 2016 and July 14, 2016. He further stated that no oral or written comments were received and therefore no changes have been made to the proposed rule. He added that he requested favorable consideration of the proposed rule changes.

Mr. Wilheit asked for the length of the permit.

Mr. Hubbard stated that the permits run from April 1-March 31 and need to be renewed each year.

Mr. Johnson requested a motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to adopt the Wildlife Film Permit Rule.

Mr. Johnson called on Captain Bob Lynn who gave a presentation on Coastal Enforcement.

Mr. Johnson called on Captain Johnny Johnson who gave a presentation on the Lake Lanier Poker Run Incident.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.