

## **INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

### I. Who are the members of the Board of Natural Resources?

The Board of Natural Resources consists of 19 citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Georgia Senate. There is one member from each of the 14 congressional districts of the state. There are four “at large” members and one additional member from one of the coastal counties (Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, McIntosh, Glynn, and Camden Counties). The members are appointed for seven-year terms, which are staggered so that there is a continuity of experienced members on the Board. Each January, the Board elects its officers, which consists of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary.

### II. What are the Board's Powers and Duties?

By law (O.C.G.A. § 12-2-24), the Board has the power to establish the general policies to be followed by the Department of Natural Resources that is administered by the Commissioner of Natural Resources. It also enacts rules under the Administrative Procedures Act that govern the work of the Department.

The Board does not manage or administer the Department, which is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Division Director. The Board does, pursuant to law and subject to the approval of the Governor, appoint the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Director of the Environmental Protection Division. By its own policies, it approves the appointment of all other Division Directors. The Department consists of the Environmental Protection Division, the Coastal Resources Division, the Wildlife Resources Division, the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, and the Historic Preservation Division.

The Board does not issue environmental permits or make regulatory decisions in environmental matters. Further, it is not legally empowered to alter or modify permits or licenses.

The Board does not have any power to affect or deal with matters concerning The Stone Mountain Memorial Association, the Jekyll Island State Park Authority, or the Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority. The Commissioner, or his designee, is by law a member of the governing boards of those authorities, but the Board of Natural Resources does not act on any of the activities of those separate authorities. Pursuant to an Army Corps of Engineers lease, the Department is the “landlord” for the Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority, but does not have a role in the day-to-day operation of the facility located at Lake Lanier.

### III. When and where does the Board meet?

The Board holds regular meetings approximately 10 times a year. Those dates will be posted on the Department's website at [www.gadnr.org](http://www.gadnr.org). Most meetings will be held in the DNR Board Room at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E., Suite 1252 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. Some meetings may be held outside the Atlanta area, but those are rare and will be posted on the Department's website. No meetings are typically held in July or November. The Board's schedule of meetings and the places for those meetings are posted outside the Board Room in Atlanta or you may obtain a copy of the schedule on the Department's website or by calling 404-656-3500. The schedule is updated at the Chairman's discretion.

IV. How may you address the Board?

The Board's Chairman determines the agenda for each meeting. The printed agenda is posted on the Department's website. If you wish to address the Board on an item that is on the agenda, you may sign the appropriate sign-in sheet when you attend the meeting. The Chairman will call on you at the appropriate time.

Appearances before the Board are limited to three minutes per person. The Board asks that you present your position in writing as well, along with any supporting materials you wish to submit. Your written position and supporting material should be given to the Board Secretary. Please limit the number of people in a group who wish to speak on the same subject.

The committees of the Board meet prior to the full Board meeting (usually the afternoon before the full Board meeting but occasionally the same day as the full Board meeting). These committees deal with specific areas of concern to the Board, such as environmental rules, land purchases, and fishing and hunting regulations. The committees make recommendations to the full Board at its meeting. It is the Board's preference that members of the public present their concerns during the committee meetings. All Board Members in attendance are present for each committee meeting.

Please keep in mind that the Board does not make or review regulatory and permitting decisions of the Commissioner and the Division Directors and cannot modify or change those decisions.

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