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

March 27, 2018

Attending:

**Committee Members**
- Dee Yancey, Chairman
- Mike Phelps, Vice Chairman
- Nancy Addison
- William Bagwell
- Dwight Davis
- Dwight Evans
- Bill Jones
- Rob Leebern
- Mark Mobley
- Miki Thomaston
- Philip Wilheit
- Aaron McWhorter, Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

**Staff Members**
- Mark Williams, Commissioner
- Terry West
- Walter Rabon
- Kyle Pearson
- Wes Robinson
- Melanie Johnson
- Cathy Barnette
- Amber Carter
- Artica Gaston
- Matt Smith
- Dave Crass
- Steve Friedman
- Rusty Garrison
- Doug Haymans
- Eddie Henderson
- Becky Kelley
- Jeff Weaver
- Will Smith
- Ricky Boles
- Jon Ambrose
- John Bowers
- Kathy Knowlton
- Jodie Gardner

**Board Members**
- Duncan Johnson
- Bodine Sinyard
- Brother Stewart

**Guests**
- Mr. and Mrs. Bert Langley
- Linda MacGregor, City of Gainesville
- David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates
- Hutton Brown, Southern Environmental Law Center
- Neill Herring, Sierra Club
- Joe Cook, Georgia River Network
- Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
- Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
- Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeeper
- Jen Hilburn, Altamaha Riverkeeper
- Randy Quintrell, GMA & GA Paper & Forest Products Assn.
- Clay Jones, GA Association of Manufacturing
- Andrew Morris, Metro Water District
- Tim Perkins, Forsyth County Water
- Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
- Ronny Just, GA Power
- Leon Watkins, Whitestone Landfill
- Megan Huynh, Southern Environmental Law Center
- Richard Dunn, Director
- Lauren Curry
- Jac Capp
- Jeff Cown
- Karen Hays
- Chuck Mueller
- Laura Williams
- Sydney Brogden
- Erin Ruoff
- Dika Kuoh
- Jim Cooley
- Sarah Vesser
The March 27, 2018 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Dee Yancey.

Chairman Yancey called on Jon Ambrose, Chief of Nongame Conservation, Wildlife Resources Division.

Mr. Ambrose presented a proposed amendment to fresh-water turtle regulations. He stated that the Board had been previously briefed on the proposed changes in January of 2018. Mr. Ambrose went on to state that the demand for U.S. fresh-water turtles has increased significantly in recent years, leading to a decline in overall fresh-water turtle population. He added that many other southeastern states have added protections to conserve the populations of fresh-water turtles.

Mr. Ambrose discussed the violations that law enforcement had found regarding fresh-water turtle regulations. He went on to discuss the proposed changes to fresh-water turtle regulations and stated the proposed changes were posted publicly and two public comment meetings were held to discuss the changes.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the proposed amendments to fresh-water turtle regulations, chapter 391-4-16.

Chairman Yancey thanked Mr. Ambrose.

Chairman Yancey called on John W. Bowers.

Mr. Bowers gave a briefing on proposed amendments to hunting regulations for WMAs and other state lands. He stated that the proposal was to delay the start of turkey season on Cedar Creek WMA for the 2019 turkey season to accommodate an ongoing research project occurring in the WMA. He went on to state that there is a concern in the lack of productivity among turkey populations in the area during the spring season. He added that spring season should go along with peak egg laying, and that the 2018 season appears to be ahead of that mark. He further stated that the research project can determine the cause of this anomaly and justifies the proposed delay to the start of the 2019 turkey season in Cedar Creek WMA.

Mr. Bowers gave a briefing on a proposed property amendment to Ohoopee Dunes WMA. Mr. Bowers stated that the size of the WMA is about to be tripled and the proposed regulation changes provided for increased archery hunting opportunities, additional firearm deer hunting opportunities, and substantial increases to small game hunting and turkey hunting opportunities in the area.
Mr. Bowers stated that these proposals would be publicly noticed with a comment closing date at the end of April. He further stated that the results of that comment period would be presented to the Board for their vote on the matter in May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.