

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

March 26, 2019

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dwight Evans, Chair
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Duncan Johnson
Tim Lowe
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Billy New
Dee Yancey
Bodine Sinyard, Board Chairman, Ex-officio

Board Members

Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Mike Phelps
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin Newberry & Tribble
John Eberhart, GA Earth Alliance
Fletcher Sams, Altamaha Riverkeeper

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Melanie Johnson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Houston Webb
Col. Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
John Bowers
Don McGowan
Tina Johannsen
Ted Will
Brad Bullard
Matt Thomas
Capt. Stan Elrod
Cpl. Brian Adams

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Jim Cooley
Donald Kirkland
Dika Kuoh
Sarah Vesser
Sydney Brogden
Jennifer Welte

The March 26, 2019 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bodine Sinyard. Chairman Sinyard called on Dwight Evans, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Mr. Evans called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management, and Don McGowan, Region Operations Manager.

Mr. Bowers stated the first item for consideration would be a briefing on the proposed amendments to hunting regulations, Chapter 391-4-2.

Mr. Bowers stated the proposed hunting regulations include amendments to reflect statutory changes, shift bear season in the central zone, adjust either sex firearms days for deer, extend archery season for urban counties meeting criteria, regulate hunting and other activities on wildlife management areas and other public lands, and housekeeping changes. He further stated the final proposal and any public comments received would be presented to the Board at the May Board meeting.

Mr. Bowers briefed the Board on possible legislation regarding air rifles going through the General Assembly.

Mr. Stewart asked about permits for nuisance geese in Georgia. Mr. Bowers stated that rules regarding permits are set by federal framework and permits are issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Evans called on Dr. Tina Johannsen, Program Operations Manager.

Dr. Johannsen stated Item B was an action on the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, Pertaining to Federally-Regulated Migratory Birds.

Dr. Johannsen stated the proposed migratory bird hunting season dates for 2019-2020 are within the frameworks provided by the USFWS. She further stated that the Mallard bag limit has been reduced.

Dr. Johannsen stated that she would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, Pertaining to Federally-Regulated Migratory Birds, as presented.

Mr. Evans called on John Bowers for a briefing on proposed amendments to general regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, pertaining to the Georgia WRD Land Pass.

Mr. Bowers stated that the proposed amendments respond to ongoing customer service enhancements. He further stated that this rule will exempt people who have paid for WRD camping opportunities from the WRD Land Pass requirement during their paid camping dates.

Mr. Bowers stated the proposal and public comments would be presented to the Board at the May board meeting.

Mr. Evans called on Ted Will, Assistant Chief of Fisheries Management, to brief the Board on Item D, Proposed Amendments to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, Pertaining to Public Fishing Areas.

Mr. Will stated the proposed amendments will enhance DNR's ability to provide greater customer service. He further stated the proposal will allow potential harvesting of Grass Carp.

Mr. Will stated the final proposal and any public comments would be presented to the Board at the May Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.