

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Lake Blackshear Resort Conference Center
Ballroom C
2459-H US Highway 280 West
Cordele, GA 31015

December 4, 2019

Attendees:

Committee Members

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

Board Members

Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Paul Shailendra
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Ag Council
Josh Hildebrandt, Office of the Governor
Jessica Rutledge, Flint Riverkeeper
Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network/Georgia Water Trails

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Chuck Mueller

The December 4, 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 Don McGowan, Region Operations Manager, to brief the Board on the Proposed Amendment to Chapter 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations pertaining to Ceylon WMA.

Mr. McGowan stated the proposed regulations are related to the Ceylon WMA, a new wildlife management area in Camden County. He further stated the department will lease this 16,000-acre tract along the Satilla River from The Conservation Fund, beginning January 1, 2020.

Mr. McGowan stated the proposed regulations establish regulated hunting opportunities for the 2020 turkey season and 2020-2021 hunting season. He further stated the proposed regulations are consistent with current science and are expected to maintain the population at healthy levels to provide consistent quality hunting opportunity, with 57 days of archery; 9 days of firearms deer hunting, which will be split into three (3) 3-day quota hunts with a quota of 100 each; and 27 days of turkey hunting opportunity in three (3) 9-day hunts with a quota of 40 hunters each and a bag limit of one (1) grouse per hunter per quota hunt.

Mr. McGowan stated for small game, the proposal is to have 185 days open for hunting and will coincide with the regular small game hunting season. He further stated it will be proposed that May 16-31 will be coyote season: no dogs allowed and no hog hunting during this period.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.