

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Conference Call
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower

March 24, 2020

Attendees:

Committee Members

Joe Hatfield, Chair
Dwight Evans, Vice Chair
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Mike Phelps
Dee Yancey
Nancy Addison, Board Chairman, Ex-officio

Board Members

Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Ronny Just, GA Power
Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Leah Dixon, GA Conservancy

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Josh Hildebrandt
Cathy Barnette
Steve Friedman
Tina Johannsen
Richie Golden

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Karen Hays

The March 24, 2020 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chair Nancy Addison.

Chair Addison called on Mr. Hatfield, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Mr. Hatfield called on Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief, Game Management, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), to present a briefing on Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Subject 391-4-2.

Ms. Johannsen stated the proposed amendments include changes to Rule 391-4-2-.03 pertaining to harvest recording and reporting requirements, Rule 391-4-2-.20 pertaining to general regulations for hunting alligators, Rule 391-4-2-.21 pertaining to alligator season, zones, quotas and limits, and Rule 391-4-2-.70 relating to wildlife management areas, other state lands, and federal areas.

Ms. Johannsen stated the proposed amendments include alligators in the harvest reporting system and will eliminate temporary tags and mailing harvest tags. She further stated the changes would require hunters to physically check alligators at an agency office and adjust the harvest reporting period from 72-24 hours.

Ms. Johannsen stated the proposal would establish alligator hunting zone 8A consisting of Fort Stewart Army Base. She further stated that Fort Stewart Army Base requested WRD consider creating an alligator hunting zone that enables the base to manage alligators through public hunting, with consideration for service members who are stationed onsite. She added there is currently no public alligator hunting access on the base so it is a net gain and will not impact the resource or status of Zone 8 opportunity.

Ms. Johannsen stated the proposal adjusts hunting opportunities on state-managed public lands (Chattahoochee Fall Line – Hilliard and Standing Boy Creek). She further stated the change reduces the two (2) general deer quota hunts from 100 to 50 hunters and increases deer hunting opportunity by adding a three (3) day antlerless only hunt, which is necessary to reduce the female segment of the population and account for any reduction in doe harvest from reducing the quota. She added the proposal would move the Youth Quota hunting opportunity, previously available at Standing Boy Creek WMA, to a designated Youth Quota field at Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA - Hilliard Tract. She further added the proposal would change the dove hunt date structure to 1st three Saturdays and thereafter on all dove fields to provide a quality hunting experience.

Ms. Johannsen stated the proposal will be given widespread distribution to the public and presented to the Board of Natural Resources for consideration and adoption at the May 19, 2020 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.