

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Idlewilde Event Center
Indian Springs State Park
678 Lake Clark Road
Flovilla, GA 30216

Thursday, June 16, 2022
2:00 p.m.

Committee Members

Patrick Denney, Chair
Nick Ayers
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Billy New
Miki Thomaston
Bill Jones, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Davis
Gary Vowell

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Kate Iannuzzi
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Ted Will
Doug Haymans
Stephen Adams
Celisha Rosser Chapman
Alan Isler
Thom Litts
Emily Rushton

Richard Dunn, Director
Chuck Mueller
Jill Clark

The June 16, 2022 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Bill Jones.

Chairman Jones called on Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee. Mr. Denney called on Emily Rushton, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Resources Division, to present the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Rules 391-4-2, pertaining to Rule 391-4-2-.12 pertaining to trapping, and Rule 391-4-2-.31 pertaining to Fox, Grouse, Opossum, Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon, Squirrel, and Bobcat.

Ms. Rushton stated that the proposed changes are responsive to statutory changes by the General Assembly that expand the opportunity to hunt and trap raccoon and opossum. She further stated that specifically for raccoon and opossum, the proposed amendments provide for year-round trapping on private lands, provides for year-round hunting on private lands, expands hunting opportunities on wildlife management areas by 61 days, and removes any bag limit restrictions.

Ms. Rushton stated that these proposed changes were discussed at the April meeting and a virtual public meeting was held on May 24, 2022. She further stated that 136 people watched the entire presentation and at this time 44 comments were received with 40 in favor and 4 in opposition.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Ayers, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Rules 391-4-2, pertaining to Rule 391-4-2-.12 pertaining to trapping, and Rule 391-4-2-.31 pertaining to Fox, Grouse, Opossum, Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon, Squirrel, and Bobcat.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.