

Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Banquet Room – Dining Hall
543 Elliott Trail
Mansfield, GA 30055

Tuesday, August 23, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

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

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Randy Dellinger
Tim Lowe
Gary Vowell

Guests

Andrea White, Georgia River Network
Max Brown, Georgia Audubon, Sierra Club
Lyndy Saparow, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Ted Will
Doug Haymans
Brett Albanese
Alan Isler
Jon Ambrose
Taylor Brown
Daniel Brown
Lindsey Brown
Whitney Fenwick
Jared Flowers
Jennifer Gadson
Brock Hoyt
Jessica James-Weems
Casey Jones
Thom Litts
Soheila Naji
Mark Patterson

Richard Dunn, Director
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller

The August 23, 2022 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Bill Jones, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Jones called on Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee. Mr. Denney called on Brett Albanese, Assistant Chief, Wildlife Conservation, for a briefing on the Proposed Rules Pertaining to Wild Animals, Subject 391-4-8.

Mr. Albanese stated the proposed rules being presented reflect the need to amend the statutory list of wild animals for which a license or permit is required. He further stated the proposed rules also prohibit certain wild animals that pose unnecessary risk to Georgia's wildlife that cannot be minimized through the license or permitting process.

Mr. Albanese stated the proposed new rule will provide definitions for the terms "Aquaria or tanks", "Tags", and "Wild Animal" necessary to clarify and ensure consistency across the subject rules. He further stated the new rule identifies species of wild animals that pose unnecessary risk to Georgia's wildlife and other natural resources and to the citizens of and visitors to this state and are thus prohibited, to include 1 family of mammals, 2 bird species, 1 family, 2 genera, and 3 species of fishes, and 1 family, 1 sub-family, and 1 species of invertebrates.

Mr. Albanese stated the proposed new rule identifies species of wild animals that are inherently dangerous to human beings and are subject to license or permit and insurance requirements, to include all species in 1 family of mammals, 1 family of reptiles, 1 family and 2 genera of fishes, and 3 genera and 2 species of invertebrates.

Mr. Albanese stated the proposed new rule identifies species of wild animals that pose a threat to Georgia's wildlife and other natural resources and are subject to license or permit requirements, to include 6 species of reptiles, 3 families and 1 genus of fishes, 9 families, 4 genera, and 2 species of invertebrates, and all freshwater or marine invertebrate wild animals not held in aquaria or tanks.

Mr. Albanese stated that members of the public will have an opportunity to participate in a virtual public hearing on September 13 and may comment on the proposals electronically by sending an email through the Wildlife Resources Division website, by telephone, or by submitting written statements by close of business on September 30, 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.