

GA Natural Resources Foundation Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting of Friday, April 29, 2016, 10:30 a.m.
Sweetwater Creek State Park, Lithia Springs GA

The meeting was called to order by Georgia Natural Resources Board Chair, Amy Hillman. Board members in attendance were Sara Clark, Glen Wilkins, Steve Levetan, Dr. David Allen, Philip Wilheit, Jr., Robert Brown, Jr., Mike Clanton, Dr. Richie Bland, Commissioner Mark Williams and Mark Walker.

The minutes from the March 3, 2016, meeting were approved following a motion by Glen Wilkins, and a second by Steve Levetan.

The financial report was given by GNR Executive Director, Mark Walker, in the absence of Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Babaz, for the period July 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. The Financials presented were approved following a motion by Philip Wilheit, Jr. and a second by Sara Clark.

Chair Hillman called on Commissioner Mark Williams to present his report. He reported that he and his staff were still working on closing out the 2016 General Assembly legislation of interest to DNR and to the State of Georgia. This included the use of native wildlife used in movies being filmed in Georgia, and DNR's new Fiscal Year 2017 increased budget has been approved and will be signed by the Governor on Monday, May 2nd. The Commissioner also reported that the first Leadership Academy is going well and was designed for the purpose mainly for Employee Development Retention Program.

GNRF Director, Mark Walker, then presented an update and report on Weekend for Wildlife. The 29th WFW Fundraising Committee has already met and will meet again after the next DNR Board Meeting. Discussion was held again about how the Foundation should step up more to help take more responsibility with WFW.

Walker proceeded next with the Executive Director's Report. Chairman Hillman and Walker have been working through the logistics of securing a Constituency Relationship Management (CRM) System for the Foundation, and we have chosen CiviCRM. This is our donor, participation tracking and constituent management system. The software is basic, out of the box, but will be able to interface with the online donation form, it captures names and contacts who "LIKE" the Foundation on Facebook, which is at a pretty regular pace daily, and, of

course, will keep the data dynamic as any of the constituents information change so it's not static and inefficient like having to go back to Excel spreadsheets and make changes there in order to send acknowledgement letters, or pull donor recognition for the Annual Report, for example.

Walker had a site visit with Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon to what used to be Arrow Hatchey – is now called Five Arrow Farms with the two new owners. They still have Atlanta Clay Charities come out in late Feb. with about 300 to benefit Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The owner mentioned there is a fundraising reception the night before in downtown ATL. Discussions were held about locations for a cocktail reception downtown. Then, they went out on a Fri. & Sat. I think for their shoots and kind of family dinner at the end of it all with kids participating there as well.

Commissioner Williams & Deputy Commissioner Rabon asked Walker to speak at the charter DNR Leadership Academy Retreat at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center. He was the very first speaker at their "Focus on A Partner" dinner.

Walker reiterated to the Board about helping open the doors whereby the Board member and he could make the call, or at least, he could follow up on an opportunity the Board would help set up. He restated how this important activity is critical to the success of the Foundation efforts.

There was a review of the schedule of meetings for the balance of 2016 which were approved by the Board.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Park Manager, David Jordan, took the members on a Yurts tour after lunch was provided.

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