

GA Natural Resources Foundation Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting of Friday, October 28, 2016, 10:30 a.m.
DNR Board Room, East Tower, Atlanta, GA

The meeting was called to order by Georgia Natural Resources Foundation Board Chair, Amy Hillman. Board members in attendance were Sara Clark, Rob Leebern, Mike Clanton, Commissioner Walter Rabon and Executive Director Mark Walker. Steve Levetan and Glen Wilkins called in. Also attending were Wes Robinson and Amber Carter.

The minutes from the August 26, 2016, meeting held in the DNR Board Room were approved following a motion by Mike Clanton and a second by Sara Clark.

The financial report was given by GNRF Board Member, Mike Clanton, in the absence of Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Babaz, for the Fiscal Year 2016, for the period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, and then for current FY 2017 to date. The Financials presented were approved following a motion by Rob Leebern and a second by Sara Clark.

Chair Hillman then called for the Commissioner's Report. DNR Commissioner, Mark Williams, was unable to attend the GNRF Meeting and sent his regrets. Deputy Commissioner, Walter Rabon, gave the Commissioner's Report in his absence.

The 2016 Ranger of the Year was named and is Corporal Eddie Tompkins. Eddie was also awarded this year's Boating Officer of the Year. He documented 7,285 boating miles primarily on Lake Lanier this past year, which included 8 BUI arrests last year. We are proud of him and all he's done for our state.

Deputy Commissioner also stated that *Georgia Trend* just came out with their top 40 under 40. DNR's very own Desmond Timmons was not only named to the list, but also made the cover! Desmond is the Park Manager at FD Roosevelt State Park.

Deputy Rabon commended all of the Divisions on their work toward making all of their sites ADA compliant. A couple of weeks ago, an "ADA for State Governments" Conference was held and DNR was asked to present as the model agency. Each of our Divisions gave a fantastic presentation and represented DNR well. He stated that they are very proud of the strides they are making in ADA accessibility.

Next, he stated that DNR played an important role in the Hurricane Matthew relief efforts. Our State Parks welcomed over 10,000 evacuees, there were 8 Critical Action Teams deployed throughout the state, made up of WRD and Parks employees, who assisted with debris removal and search and rescue efforts. Our conservation rangers provided both security and cleared roadways. HPD came in afterward and accessed all of the many historical sites. Deputy Rabon said they are very pleased with the Divisions' proactive response and couldn't be more proud of this DNR agency.

Last, but not least, he directed everyone's attention to Edens Davis' resume in front of them. On behalf of Commissioner Williams, who is representing the Development Committee, he is recommending both Edens Davis and Lonice Barrett to join the Foundation Board at this time. Deputy Rabon concluded his report with no further questions.

Chair Hillman then made the motion as a result of the Report to confirm the two nominations, and they were seconded by Board Member Mike Clanton. There being no further discussion, Davis and Barrett were unanimously approved.

G NRF Executive Director, Mark Walker, was then called on to give an update on Weekend for Wildlife. The 29th WFW Fundraising Committee continues meetings and will meet again after the next DNR Board Meeting in December. Discussion was held about how the Foundation is taking more of a role in helping with the meetings, fundraising and any other ideas or suggestions in preparation of the 2017 Weekend for Wildlife.

Walker gave the Executive Director's Report next. He mentioned several visits and meetings he has recently had. Walker stated that the Foundation received a \$25,000 contribution to help provide more educational programming. In talking and working with the donors, this is an initial gift recognized in early Oct. as announcing their ongoing support for students, teachers and the community with perpetual giving. The donor actually would like for it to possibly resemble Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and the support received there in the past.

Other gifts the Foundation is working on include Walmart Foundation/Georgia Advisory Council in their current giving cycle in Georgia, Georgia Power Foundation, and Coral Management charitable giving which has committed to G NRF based on their per room contributions. All of these contributions total close to \$100,000 and had been recently received with Coral Cares donating at the DNR December Board Meeting.

Walker also reported that he has been able to work with Accounting Director and Deputy Accounting Director to help set up a new "business unit" through the State Accounting Office (SAO). The Commissioner may also be able to help streamline the process to start with SAO a little faster. Walker stated that the Georgia Department of Education already does this for their Georgia Education Foundation, so several staff plan to meet and discuss how they did it exactly.

Lastly, discussion was held about sharing more information for members to be able to distribute as they wish to help us close out the promotion and support of 2017 Weekend for Wildlife.

There was a brief overview of the GNRF Donor Reception date and information to be held at the Governor's Mansion on Thursday evening, November 17, 2016.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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