

**GA Natural Resources Foundation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting of Friday, May 12, 2017, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Ponce City Market, Atlanta, GA**

The meeting was called to order by Georgia Natural Resources Foundation Board Chair, Amy Hillman. Board members in attendance were Glen Wilkins, Joe Hatfield, Cathy Hill, Edens Davis, Philip Wilheit, Jr., Rob Leebern, Sara Clark by phone, Commissioner Mark Williams and Executive Director Mark Walker. Guests attending were Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon, Wes Robinson, Amber Carter and Dr. David Crass, Director of GA DNR's Historic Preservation Division.

The minutes from the March 17, 2017 meeting held in the DNR Board Room were approved following a motion by Cathy Hill and a second by Joe Hatfield.

The financial report was given by Executive Director, Mark Walker, in the absence of Secretary/Treasurer. The Financials presented were approved following a motion by Edens Davis and a second by Glen Wilkins.

Chair Hillman then called for the Commissioner's Report. DNR Commissioner, Mark Williams, reported that First Lady, Sandra Deal, has championed a new water-safety initiative called SPLASH. The acronym stands for **S**upervision, **P**revention, **L**ook before you leap, **A**rms-length from a buddy, **S**wim lessons, and **H**ave a water safety plan. The campaign is aims to remind Georgians about the importance of water safety and prevent and reduce the number of water-related injuries and fatalities that occur in Georgia waters.

Commissioner stated that the program will be ongoing and not just for the summer, but is being highlighted and promoted heavily, of course, during the summer months for water safety and drowning prevention, both in the water and on the water with boating, etc. There will be a large social media presence with a free Lifetime Sportsman's License giveaway by participants submitting photos of themselves or family members wearing their life jackets while out on the water.

Additionally, Commissioner Williams gave a brief Weekend for Wildlife update for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and everyone is very excited and willing to help make this coming year's event even more special and successful than ever before. He reminded everyone to contact Amber Carter in the DNR Administrative Office, and Coordinator for the event, with any contacts, ideas or suggestions you may have as the Weekend for Wildlife Fundraising Committee has already been hard at work for 2018.

In closing, Commissioner Williams mentioned as the weather starts getting warmer, he would like to encourage all to reach out to their office, set up some site visits to Georgia's State Parks and Historic Sites, or take a ride along with one of our Law Enforcement. He encouraged members to get out in the field and interact with the staff.

G NRF Executive Director, Mark Walker, was then called on to give the Executive Director's Report. Walker stated that we have a special presentation to be made near the end of the meeting, and in view of time for our Ponce City Market Tour, the Foundation is generally working on several grants in support of G NRF that foundations have cycles coming up in the summer and early fall. Also, Walker stated that our G NRF Grants Committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to provide their recommendations to the G NRF Board for our Spring Grant Cycle 2017 to the five GA DNR Divisions. We will conduct the process via email.

Next, Chair Hillman led the New Business item. She stated that as we are building and working on our G NRF Board Development, we have both the positions of Vice Chair and our Secretary/Treasurer open at this time. With the immediate need to fill them, Chair Hillman opened the floor for nominations, discussion was held, and then there was a call for a vote. Edens Davis was nominated as Vice Chair and Cathy Hill was nominated as Secretary/Treasurer, and both were unanimously approved by the Board as the G NRF Officers, respectively, as well as Executive Committee Members.

Other Business included Chair Hillman calling on Mark Walker again for a special presentation. Walker stated that Williams Pipeline Company/Transco based in Texas has most graciously provided a contribution to the G NRF in the amount of \$200,000 specifically focused to support the efforts of GA DNR's Historic Preservation Division. This is one of the first times HPD has received this type of philanthropic support, and photos were made with the check presentation and more recognition to come for this significant donation to G NRF.

Lastly, discussion was held for overview of the rest of Georgia Natural Resources Foundation upcoming dates for 2017 which are provided in the Board email notices and packets, and Mark Walker stated that our annual G NRF Appreciation Reception should be set as soon as we hear back from the Governor's Mansion for this fall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned for an exclusive tour of Ponce City Market led by the Jamestown Management Staff for Ponce City Market, Brian LaBrie for Ellis & LaBrie Consulting LLC, and Dr. Crass for Georgia DNR HPD assisting with the tour.

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