

GA Natural Resources Foundation Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting of Friday, August 11, 2017, 10:00 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 Joe Hatfield, Cathy Hill, Philip Wilheit, Jr., and Glen Wilkins by phone, Commissioner Mark Williams and Executive Director Mark Walker. Guests attending were Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon, and Wes Robinson.

The minutes from the May 12, 2017 meeting held at Ponce City Market in Atlanta, GA were approved following a motion by Joe Hatfield and a second by Cathy Hill.

The financial report was given by GNRF Secretary/Treasurer, Cathy Hill. Secretary/Treasurer Hill called on Executive Director, Mark Walker, to give the report for End of Fiscal Year 2017. The Financials presented were approved following a motion by Cathy Hill and a second by Glen Wilkins.

Chair Hillman then called for the Commissioner's Report. DNR Commissioner, Mark Williams, reported that the SPLASH program continued through the summer and has been able to help many guests and visitors to the State Parks as well as throughout the state on Georgia's lakes and rivers. He 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 30th Anniversary. Everyone is working hard to help make this coming year's event even more special and successful than ever before. Commissioner 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 meeting and working for 2018.

In closing, Commissioner Williams mentioned that we are entering into the hurricane season. We hope not see storms like we had last year in October 2016 with Hurricane Matthew, but that DNR is standing ready and able to assist the citizens and any evacuees in the case that mandatory evacuations take place by our opening up Georgia State Parks, Law Enforcement assistance is provided, etc. He encouraged GNRF Board Members to also get out in the field and interact with the staff when possible, and especially if they are out during the end of the summer and Labor Day Weekend.

G NRF Executive Director, Mark Walker, was then called on to give the Executive Director's Report. In view of time for other items to be discussed, Walker basically reported that the items coming up on the agenda for Old, New and Other Business were updates from the Director's Report as well. He also asked everyone to please note the upcoming dates for the remainder of 2017, and of course, the 2018 Weekend for Wildlife dates for the 30th Anniversary.

Next, Chair Hillman led the New Business discussion. She stated that G NRF Board Development Committee continues to work and build the board membership. Other nominations will be forthcoming soon for several other board members as recommended by the Development Committee. Executive Committee Member, Cathy Hill, then asked about the By-laws and if they included the Immediate Past Chair serving as a member of the Executive Committee. Commissioner stated that they made sense as several of the past Chairs have stayed involved and on the Board. Chair Hillman then asked G NRF Members Lonice Barrett and Joe Hatfield to take a look at the current By-laws and see what revisions needed to be made and brought back for a revised version and approval from the Board.

Other Business included Chair Hillman making the announcement that at the next G NRF Board Meeting held on October 13th, new G NRF Board Officers will be elected. Everyone please make an effort to be in attendance and help support our leadership as we continue to grow and move the Foundation forward. She also mentioned looking at our Terms of Office for each Board Member, especially as it relates to the By-laws and any revisions, updates or amendments recommended for approval at the next meeting.

Lastly, Chair Hillman thanked everyone for attending and continuing to support the efforts of G NRF. She announced that there will be a "friendly competition" between the G NRF and DNR Boards of Directors to see which Board can get the highest value amount in Silent Auction items this coming year for the 2018 Weekend for Wildlife. There will also be an individual winner recognized from the winning Board with the highest value brought from their item secured.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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