

The December 2, 2025, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairwoman Lesley Reynolds.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Dr. John Wells, President of Young Harris College, for a moment of inspiration.

Chairwoman Reynolds adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

Chairwoman Reynolds called the December 2, 2025, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources back to order.

Chairwoman Reynolds called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on October 28, 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on October 28, 2025.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Cown updated the Board on EPD Agency Legislation for the 2026 Legislative Session, the upcoming State Water Council meeting, a drought update, and an update on EPD since the Federal Government reopened.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Walter Rabon, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Rabon began by recognizing Colonel Mike England for his 35 years of faithful service to the State of Georgia.

Commissioner Rabon called on Soheila Naji to present the proposed Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Program.

Ms. Naji stated that earlier this year, the General Assembly authorized the establishment of the Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund to provide matching grants for the fee-simple acquisition or purchase of permanent historic preservation easement on qualified Georgia battlefields. She further stated the Department is responsible for developing and administering the program.