

Minutes
Land Acquisition Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

June 24, 2014

Attending:

Committee Members

William Bagwell, Chairman
Mike Phelps, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Walter Hudson
Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Dee Yancey
Philip Wilheit, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Brother Stewart

Visitors

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Tracy Hawkins, Georgia Power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Doug Cloud, Kazmarek Mowrey Cloud Laseter LLP
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Erica Techo, Morris News
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Adam Dye, Georgia Department of Agriculture
Leah Barnett, Georgia Conservancy
Mike Harris, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Matthew Smith, Georgia Farm Bureau
Ben Stowers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Dave Crass
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Zachary Harris
Mary Walker
Russ Pennington
Doralyn Kirkland
Jac Capp
Keith Bentley
Jeff Cown
John Bowers
John Biagi
Doc Watson
Jeff Weaver
John Martin
Michael Chadwell
Mark Whitney
Vicki Gibbs
Mark McKinnon
Jenifer Hancock
Charlie Miller
Leigh Burns
Sally Winchester
Wally Woods
Ellen Graham
David Jordan

The June 24, 2014 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item for the Committee's consideration would be the approval of a five-year extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Fargo and the Department for the city to operate and manage the Fargo Golf Course at Stephen C. Foster State Park.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department entered into an IGA with the City of Fargo in 2009 for the city to manage the premises known as the Fargo Golf Course. He further stated this IGA prevented the golf course from closing and continued to provide recreational opportunities for the region. He added the City of Fargo has agreed to extend the original IGA to continue to manage the golf course for an additional five year term at no charge to the Department.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for a five-year extension to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the city to operate and manage the Fargo Golf Course, Stephen C. Foster State Park, 70± acres, Clinch County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item for the Committee's consideration would be the approval to enter into a five-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the City to operate and manage the Administrative Building at Stephen C. Foster State Park.

Mr. Friedman stated the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division negotiated an IGA with the City of Fargo to allow the city to occupy and operate the Administrative Building at 11 Suwannee River Drive in Fargo, GA. He further stated since signing the 2009 lease agreement the city has found it advantageous to occupy the Administrative Building due to expanding administrative needs in Fargo. He added the city provides water to the park manager's residence and host camping sites in Stephen C. Foster State Park in exchange for leasing the building.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a five-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fargo and the Department for the City to Operate and Manage the Administrative Building, Stephen C. Foster State Park, Clinch County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item for the Committee's consideration would be the approval to enter into a fifty-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Department for GFC to Operate and Manage the Wooten Tract Barn Area, Oconee Wildlife Management Area, 27± acres, Greene County.

Mr. Friedman stated the Wooten Tract was acquired as an addition to the Oconee Wildlife Management Area on October 16, 2013. He further stated a large barn is located on the property which the Department could find no current benefit to occupy. He added the GFC intends to use the barn and the 27± acres for office space, training exercises, and storage purposes.

Mr. Friedman stated to benefit the Department and for occupying the barn area, GFC will maintain the condition of the barn structure and surrounding premises at no cost to the Department.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Mr. Bagwell commended staff for working with the Georgia Forestry Commission to provide management of the barn on this property.

A motion as made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to enter into a fifty-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Department for GFC to operate and manage the Wooten Tract Barn Area, Oconee Wildlife Management Area, 27± acres, Greene County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the final item for the Committee's consideration would be the approval for the Corley family to donate public and administrative access easements to the Department in exchange for the State Properties Commission issuing a revocable license and permanent access easement by the General Assembly to the Corley family along Blue Car Body Road at Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area and Sheffield Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Friedman stated the Corley family owns property adjacent to the two WMAs and the Corley family will donate easements conveying public access and administrative access up to 6± acres. He further stated within Paulding Forest WMA along Blue Car Body Road in Polk County, the Corley family will receive a revocable license from the State Properties Commission and a permanent easement subject to approval from the from the General Assembly over 3± acres. He added that because the exchange of easements will benefit the Department, the recommendation is the revocable and permanent easements are issued to the Corley family at no cost.

Mr. Friedman stated the easement exchange will provide public access to the area for recreation and allow Department personnel to more easily patrol and maintain the WMAs.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Discussion ensued concerning the owners of the surrounding property.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Corley Family to donate public and administrative access easements to the Department in exchange for the State Properties Commission issuing a Revocable License and Permanent access easement by the General Assembly to the Corley Family along Blue Car Body Road, Paulding Wildlife Management Area and Sheffield Wildlife Management Area, Polk and Paulding Counties, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.