

Minutes
Land Committee
Unicoi State Park
Masters Hall 3/4
1788 Highway 356
Helen, GA 30545

May 24, 2017

Attending:

Committee Members

Dwight Davis, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Brother Stewart
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Evans
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley – Via Conference Call
Matt Sawhill
Bodine Sinyard – Via Conference Call
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Megan E. Spells, Georgia Department of Defense
Richard A. Batten, Georgia Department of Defense
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Randy Drummond, Georgia Department of Defense

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Bowers, John
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hayes
Chuck Mueller
Jon Ambrose
Steve Friedman – Via call-in
Mark Whitney
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Weaver
James Hamilton
John Erbele
Larry Blankenship
Bill Donohue
Brenda McMillian

The May 24, 2017 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by William Bagwell, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Bagwell called on Dwight Davis, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, who called on Wes Robinson, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. Robinson stated that the first three items would be presented in one motion. He further stated that the Items A-C are all additions to the Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area in Emanuel County and all will greatly increase the recreational opportunities along the Ochoopee Dunes trail. He added that all the tracts have gopher tortoises and stands of long leaf pines.

Mr. Robinson stated that Item A is a 5,332.73± tract, Item B is a 349.057± tract, and Item C is a 249.712± tract.

Mr. Robinson stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the items as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 5,332.73± acres of real property, Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Gambrell Tract, Emanuel County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 349.057± acres of real property, Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Karrh Tract, Emanuel County, as presented; the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the 249.712± acres of real property, Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Tickanetley Tract, Emanuel County, as presented.

Mr. Robinson stated that Item D is requesting approval to enter into a lease with Lee County for the Kinchafoonee Creek Boat Ramp. He further state that this will be a new ramp and open up access to the creek for recreation. He added that it will be a no-cost lease and while the Department will build the ramp and parking area, Lee County will provide the maintenance.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, 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 to enter into a lease with Lee County for the Kinchafoonee Creek Boat Ramp, 1.486± acres, Lee County, as presented;

Mr. Robinson stated that Item E is requesting approval of legislative action and to enter into a settlement agreement between the State of Georgia and Mapache, LLC for Racoon Key in Camden County. He further stated that Racoon Key is 1,720 acres of which 1,546 of those are marsh. He added

that the settlement states that the LLC will quitclaim 1,546± tidal marshland acres in Raccoon Key and in exchange the LLC will receive from the State a quitclaim to 105± acres in Raccoon Key, which will immediately be subject to a conservation easement to limit development.

Mr. Robinson stated that an additional 69± acres in Raccoon Key will be conditionally quitclaimed to the LLC, but if any portion of the 69 acres is not approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a mitigation bank within five years following the execution of the settlement agreement, the portion not approved will be quitclaimed from the LLC to the State with no restrictions.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission of legislative action and to enter into a settlement agreement between the State and Mapache, LLC for Raccoon Key, Camden County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.