

**Minutes**

**Land Committee**

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

April 25, 2018

**Attending:**

**Committee Members**

Dwight Davis, Chair  
Dwight Evans  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Mike Phelps  
Paul Shailendra  
Brother Stewart  
Aaron McWhorter, Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

**Board Members**

Nancy Addison  
Duncan Johnson  
Mark Mobley  
Bodine Sinyard  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Wilheit  
Dee Yancey – VIA CONFERENCE CALL

**Guests**

Joe Tanner  
Bryan Tolar  
Taylor Ongenon  
Chris Manganello  
Scott Tanner  
Bill Hodges

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Terry West  
Walter Rabon  
Melanie Johnson  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Matthew Smith  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Eddie Henderson  
James Hamilton  
Artica Gaston  
Jeff Weaver  
Thomas Bernard  
John Bowers  
Matt Thomas  
Mike England

Richard Dunn, Director  
Lauren Curry  
Jac Capp  
Jeff Cown  
Karen Hays  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Sydney Brogden  
Sarah Visser  
Erin Ruoff  
Diki Kuoh  
Jim Cooley

The April 25, 2018 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Chairman McWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter called on Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Land Committee.

Chairman Davis called on Mr. Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item A seeks the acquisition (purchase) of 139.3± acres of real property, Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area, Davison Tract, in Dawson County. Mr. Friedman added that the land would be for conservation and recreational purposes and will provide additional protection along Amicalola Creek and its tributaries. He went on to state that Dawson Forest is actively used by the public for hunting, camping, hiking, canoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, endurance training, and wildlife viewing. Mr. Friedman then stated that since the area was so close to Atlanta, public use is very high and the expansion of the WMA will make management easier and improve the public's ability to recreate.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, 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 of the Acquisition (purchase) of 139.3± acres of real property, Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area, Davison Tract, Dawson County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item B seeks the acquisition (purchase) of 51.28± acres of real property, Cloudland Canyon State Park, Drummond Tract, in Dade County. Mr. Friedman added that the Drummond Tract is an important in0holding for the State Park and contains a key portion of the Bear Creek Trail, which passes through it. Mr. Friedman further stated that the Department will acquire the property with State and private funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, 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 of the Acquisition (purchase) of 51.28± acres of real property, Cloudland Canyon State Park, Drummond Tract, Dade County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item C seeks the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.449± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Flint Energies and Flat Creek Public Fishing Area in Houston County. Mr. Friedman went on to state that to improve public access to some of the PFAs, night fishing will be introduced on May 1, 2018. He added that this request for 0.449± acres is to install, operate, and maintain underground electrical equipment and aboveground poles for lighting the boat ramp, dock, and restroom facilities at Flat Creek Public Fishing Area. Mr. Friedman then stated that since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, 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 grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.449± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Flint Energies at Flat Creek Public Fishing Area, Houston County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item D seeks the approval via Executive Order to demolish the Red Top Mountain State Park Beach Building in Bartow County. Mr. Friedman added that when built, the Beach building provided guests restrooms and their primary public access to the beach. However, today the building is structurally unsound and not open to the public. Mr. Friedman went on to state that costs to repair the building are not reasonable, so the Department plans to remove the structure and then replace it with a new restroom facility. Mr. Friedman then stated that due to the size of the structure, an Executive Order from the Governor is needed before demolition can begin.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval via Executive Order to demolish the Red Top Mountain State Park Beach Building, Bartow County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item E is Briefing on Petition for Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve to widen SR 52 ALT at Town Branch, Chief Vann House Historic Site, up to 0.194± acres in Murray County. Mr. Friedman added that the Georgia Department of Transportation submitted a letter of petition requesting change of use of heritage preserve designated property as required under Chapter 391-1-8 in March 2018. GDOT has plans to replace the bridge at Town Branch along SR 52 ALT. Mr. Friedman went on to state that GDOT is petitioning the Department for a revocable license and a permanent easement over up to 0.194± acres. Mr. Friedman then added that the proposed change of use is an imperative and unavoidable necessity for which no other solution exists and will improve public safety by changing how drivers approach the new bridge. Mr. Friedman further stated that GDOT will implement a number of erosion-control and remediation measures to minimize the impact of the project on the heritage preserve during and after construction. These would include the use of slit fences, hay bales, fabric and rock ditch check dams, and riprap to control erosion during construction. Following construction, these materials will be removed and the area will be graded and grassed to return the land to its original condition. Mr. Friedman finished by stating the Department will hold a public hearing in May 2018 as required, giving the Board and public at least 30 days' notice, and will bring the matter back to the Board for a vote in August 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.