

Minutes

Land Committee

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

May 23, 2018

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dwight Davis, Chairman
Bill Jones, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra
Brother Stewart
Aaron McWhorter, Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Mark Mobley
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey

Guests

Mike Worley, GA Wildlife Federation
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Ryan Gesser, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
John Jolly, GEI Consultants, Inc.
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Rosa Chi, Georgia Power
Tim Earl, Georgia Power
John Eberhart, GA Earth Alliance
Jennett Gayer, Environment Georgia
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
Blake Raulerson, Georgia Farm Bureau
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Todd Holbrook
David Waller

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Matthew Smith
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Jeff Weaver
Thomas Barnard
Kevin Dyer
Adam Loudermilk
Doyte Chaffin
Matt Thomas
John Bowers

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Sydney Brogden
Dika Kuoh
Jim Cooley
Jason Metzger
Sarah Visser

The May 23, 2018 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Aaron McWhorter, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman McWhorter called on Mr. Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Land Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item A seeks the acquisition of 7,100± acres of real property in the Chattahoochee Fall Line Wildlife Management Area Hilliard Tract via the Nature Conservancy in Marion County. Mr. Friedman further stated that the Hilliard Tract is a strategic tract within the Fort Benning buffer zone, which is important to protect for national security. He added that the Hilliard Tract is located within a high priority zone as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan and that it is an important tract for recreation and conservation due to the presence of multiple species of concern. Mr. Friedman went on to state that the property will be acquired with state, federal, and private funds.

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 approval of the Acquisition (purchase) of 7,100± acres of real property, Chattahoochee Fall Line Wildlife Management Area, Hilliard Tract via the Nature Conservancy, Marion County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item B seeks the acquisition of 10± acres of real property, Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area Henderson Tract in Dawson County. Mr. Friedman further stated that the Henderson Tract acquisition will eliminate an inholding in the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area. He added that the WMA is actively used by the public for hunting and multiple other forms of recreation such as camping, hiking, canoeing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and more. Mr. Friedman went on to state that since the WMA is so close to Atlanta, the public use is very high. He added that the acquisition would expand the WMA, make management easier, and improve public recreation. Mr. Friedman then stated that the Department of Natural Resources will acquire the property with state funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, 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 10± acres of real property, Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area, Henderson Tract, Dawson County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.