

Minutes

Land Committee

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

September 24, 2019

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dwight Davis, Chair
Miki Thomaston, Vice Chair
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Mike Phelps
Paul Shailendra – Via Conference Call
Dee Yancey
Bodine Sinyard, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Brother Stewart – Via Conference Call

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Agriculture Council
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Jim Renner, Southern Ionics Minerals
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Jake Tench, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katie Gregory, McGuire Woods
Ronny Just, GA Power
Jason Wilhelm, Office of the Governor
Leah Dixon, GA Conservancy

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Carolyn Belcher
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Chuck Mueller
Donald Kirkland
Dika Kuoh

The September 24, 2019 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Chairman Bodine Sinyard.

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

Mr. Friedman stated that the first project is the proposed purchase of 1,914.6± acres from Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. (OSI), to acquire two tracts within one option. OSI will acquire these from Rayonier and then sell them to the Department at a discount. The first tract is 262± acres and part of the Moody Forest WMA, in Appling County. The second tract is 1,650± acres, located in Wayne and Brantley Counties, and will become a part of the Sansavilla WMA. Both tracts have high conservation values for gopher tortoises, longleaf pine and will be exceptional recreation properties for hunting, hiking and nature study. The Wayne County tract has a federally endangered plant called the hairy rattleweed, and this is the highest quality tract for this plant.

Mr. Friedman stated the purchase price, which OSI will reduce by about \$450,000, due to a federal grant they received from the USFWS, is \$3,514,298. Mr. Friedman further stated the Department is very appreciative of the support of OSI, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Knobloch Family Foundation.

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

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 of the purchase of 1,914.6+ acres of real property, Moody Forest WMA, Appling County, and Sansavilla WMA, Wayne and Brantley Counties, Rayonier Tracts, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the second project is approval to grant Georgia Power a revocable license agreement and permanent easement of up to 0.75± at Fort Yargo State Park in Barrow County, for the Victor Lord Park, which is operated by the county. He further stated since 1970, a portion of this park has been leased to the county, and the total leased acreage is around 103± acres. The county has a number of recreation fields within this area, so the request is to provide underground power to those fields.

Mr. Friedman stated since the easements are to the benefit of the department and the public, the recommendation is that they be granted at no cost.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, 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 granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.75± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power at Fort Yargo State Park for Victor Lord Park, Barrow County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.