

Minutes

Land Committee

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

June 23, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Via Teleconference Call

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dwight Davis, Chair
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chair
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Rob Leebern
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Nancy Addison, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Brother Stewart
Miki Thomaston
Dee Yancey

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Tina Johannsen

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The June 23, 2020 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Addison.

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

Mr. Friedman stated the two projects are located in Paulding and Polk Counties and will become additions to the Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area. He further stated Paulding and Sheffield WMAs are popular with the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping, and they have very high conservation values. He added that the department currently leases each of these tracts and can easily continue to manage them and these acquisitions will help with management, restoration, and will always ensure they are always available for public recreation.

Mr. Friedman stated that each tract is highly threatened to be sold. For instance, Hubble has already sold sixty-nine (69) acres of this piece that used to be part of the WMA and also sold three (3) additional parcels that the department used to lease from them as part of this WMA.

Mr. Friedman stated the first project, Item A, is the proposed purchase of approximately 542± acre of the Hubble Timber, LLC tract. He further stated that Hubble retained the right to harvest about 178 acres of the planted pine until May 31, 2020, which lowered the purchase price, and the harvest is now completed. He added the Nature Conservancy has agreed to pay all the cost to replant these acres to montane longleaf pine and the restoration can begin this fall.

Mr. Friedman stated the purchase price is \$1,355,000 and the source of funding is as follows: DNR Bond 144: \$355,000; USFWS Pittman-Robertson Grant: \$300,000; Knobloch Family Foundation (KFF): \$400,000; and The Nature Conservancy via Stone Mountain Industrial Park: \$300,000. He further stated he wanted to thank the partners for their support of this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, 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 of the Acquisition (purchase) of 542± acres of real property, Paulding Forest WMA, Hubble Timber, LLC, Hwy 278 Tract, Paulding and Polk Counties, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item, Item B, is the proposed purchase of the approximately 207 acres Benny M. Jones Company, LP, Dugdown Corridor Tracts. He further stated that these are three (3) parcels that are all connected to the existing WMA and that we currently lease.

Mr. Friedman stated the purchase price is \$600,000 and the source of funding is as follows: DNR Bond 144: \$76,425; USFWS Recovery Grant: \$323,575; Knobloch Family Foundation (KFF): \$100,000; and The Nature Conservancy via Stone Mountain Industrial Park: \$100,000. He further stated he wanted to thank the partners for their support of this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, 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 of the Acquisition (purchase) of 207± acres of real property, Paulding Forest WMA, BM Jones Company LP, Dugdown Corridor Tract, Paulding and Polk Counties.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.