

**Minutes
Land Committee
Ogeechee Technical College
Jack Hill Building, Oak Room
20 Joe Kennedy Boulevard
Statesboro, GA 30458**

**December 7, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Dwight Evans, Chair
Dwight Davis, Vice Chair
William Bagwell
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Dee Yancey, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert

Guests

Russell Kent, Public
John D'Andrea, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Lyndy Saparow, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Taylor Brown
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Bill Donohue
James Hamilton
Brenda McMillian

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The December 7, 2021 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Yancey called on Dwight Evans, Chairman of the Land Committee. Mr. Evans called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item is requesting approval for conveyance (donation) of five properties from the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), approximately 8,794+ acres, in Long, Taylor, Lee, and Montgomery Counties, for recreation and conservation purposes. He further stated the project will secure five tracts acquired by DOT as mitigation properties, which since they were acquired the Department has managed as public Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). He added these tracts have high conservation values, serve as buffers to existing WMAs, and provide public recreation opportunities.

Mr. Friedman stated the DOT will donate these tracts to the Department; however, DOT will retain all wetland and stream mitigation credits.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the conveyance (donation) from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 6,960± acres, Townsend WMA in Long County.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the conveyance (donation) from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 685± acres, Black Creek in Taylor County.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Ms. Thomaston, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the conveyance (donation) of property from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 142± acres, Neyami Savannah Natural Area in Lee County.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Mr. New, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the conveyance (donation) of property from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 1,007± acres, Raleigh Joyce Mitigation Tract, Montgomery County.

A motion was made by Mr. Denney, seconded by Mr. Davis, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the conveyance (donation) from the Georgia Department of Transportation of approximately 2.5± acres, Raleigh Joyce Mitigation Tract, Montgomery County.

Mr. Friedman stated the second item is seeking approval to acquire by donation a 3,028± acres conservation easement in Treutlen County for conservation purposes. He further added the donation of this conservation easement will protect a property with high conservation values. He added Rosemont Plantation has extensive frontage along the Oconee River, a large bottomland hardwood system, and upland longleaf pine sandhills with a large gopher tortoise population. He further added the property is located just downstream of the Riverbend Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the acquisition (donation) of a 3,028+ acres conservation easement, Rosemont Plantation, Treutlen County.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item on the agenda is requesting approval for granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 1,200 feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Canoochee EMC at Morgan's Bridge Boat Ramp, in Bryan and Chatham Counties. He further stated the Canoochee EMC has requested a RLA and PE of up to 1,200 feet to replace their overhead power line that crosses the Ogeechee River from Bryan County to Chatham County, with an underground line which will provide more reliable service. He added that Canoochee EMC will bore under the Ogeechee River to replace the line. He further added that this area is not Heritage Preserve designated, therefore a change of use is not necessary. Mr. Friedman stated that providing an underground power line requires a RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA). He further stated that since the power line has no benefit to the Department, SPC will determine a cost for this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Denney, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend 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 1,200 feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Canoochee EMC at Morgan's Bridge Boat Ramp, in Bryan and Chatham Counties.

Mr. Friedman stated the last item is requesting approval for Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 6,000± square feet by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County.

Mr. Friedman stated that Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (DDCWSA) has requested a RLA and PE of up to 6,000± square feet to remediate a dilapidated culvert outlet. He further stated that in Sweetwater Creek State Park, DDCWSA has identified a culvert underneath Riverside Parkway, in which an outlet is in poor condition and requires repairs. He added that providing culvert repairs requires a RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA). He further added that since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost and that SPC see the PE from the General Assembly in 2022.

Mr. Friedman stated the easement area is Heritage Preserve (HP) designated, however since the easement supports public park recreation a HP change of use is not necessary. He further stated that Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) encumber the easement property, but since the culvert reduced high water velocities at the outlet, no conversion of LWCF encumbered property is needed.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend 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 6,000± square feet by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and General Assembly (GA) to Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.