

**Minutes  
Land Committee  
Idlewilde Event Center  
Indian Springs State Park  
678 Lake Clark Road  
Flovilla, GA 30216**

**Thursday, June 16, 2022  
2:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members**

William Bagwell, Acting Chair  
Nick Ayers  
Dwight Davis  
Patrick Denney  
Dwight Evans  
Billy New  
Gary Vowell  
Bill Jones, Board Chair, Ex-officio

**Board Members**

Nancy Addison  
Joe Hatfield  
Duncan Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Miki Thomaston

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Kate Iannuzzi  
Donald Kirkland  
Cathy Barnette  
Artica Gaston  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Steve Friedman  
Ted Will  
Doug Haymans  
Stephen Adams  
Celisha Rosser Chapman  
Alan Isler  
Thom Litts  
Emily Rushton

Richard Dunn, Director  
Chuck Mueller  
Jill Clark

The June 16, 2022 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Bill Jones, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Jones called on Mr. William Bagwell, Acting Chairman of the Land Committee, in the absence of Chairman Tim Lowe.

Mr. Bagwell called on Donald Kirkland, in the absence of Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Kirkland stated that the Department is seeking approval to acquire 656± acres as an addition to the Oaky Woods WMA, in Houston County. He further stated that the 656-acre Paul Tract acquisition is one of three inholdings within the 11,153-acre Oaky Woods Wildlife Management Area (WMA) along the Ocmulgee River in middle Georgia. He added that these inholdings have been a regional conservation priority for over 18 years, but until now none of the three tracts ever came up for sale. He further added that the Paul tract has approximately 2.5 miles of river frontage, 451 acres of uplands that can be restored with improved timber management and fire, and 205 acres of bottomland hardwoods. He stated that acquiring the Paul tract would improve our ability to manage the existing WMA and add more black bear habitat and recreation land to Georgia protected areas. He further stated that the property has legal access that would allow for the development of a few homes on the uplands if it were not protected.

Mr. Kirkland stated that the Department will acquire the property with federal and private funds. He further stated that the purchase price is \$1,806,048, and the source of funding is as follows:

USFWS Pittman-Robertson	\$1,306,048
Knobloch Family Foundation (KFF)	\$ 500,000

He further stated that as a condition of receiving the acquisition funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the property stated that it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the programs it was acquired for without the prior approval of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Knobloch Family Foundation.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. New, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Acquisition (purchase) of approximately 656.745± acres as an addition to the Oaky Woods WMA, Houston County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.