

**Minutes  
Land Committee  
Mercer University  
President's Dining Room  
1501 Mercer University Drive  
Macon, GA 31207**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Tim Lowe, Chair  
Charles DePriest, Vice Chair  
Nancy Addison  
Nick Ayers  
Randy Dellinger  
Patrick Denney  
Dan Garcia  
Penn Hodge  
Bill Jones  
Bodine Sinyard  
Gary Vowell  
Dwight Davis, Board Chair, Ex-officio

**Board Members**

Joe Hatfield  
Mark Hennessy  
Duncan Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Paul Shailendra

**Guests**

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club  
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble  
Seth Clark, Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative  
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Governmental Relations  
Joshua Andrews, Georgia Power Company  
Rosa Chi, Georgia Power Company  
Shelley Cartwright, Georgia Power Company  
Wayne Fuller, Reed Bingham State Park

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Donald Kirkland  
Cathy Barnette  
Artica Gaston  
Major Bob Holley  
Angie Johnson  
Steve Friedman  
Doug Haymans  
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director  
Karen Hays  
Jim Boylan

The April 25, 2023 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Davis called on Tim Lowe, Chairman of the Land Committee. Mr. Lowe called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item A is seeking approval to acquire 874± at Lake Seminole WMA-Featherfield Farms Tract in Seminole County. He further stated that the 874-acre Featherfield Farms connects Lake Seminole WMA to Lake Seminole State Park, which will improve the ability to manage both tracts and create a conservation corridor. He added that acquiring this tract would ensure permanent protection of its high conservation values and allows it to be managed for both recreation and conservation purposes. He further added that it will be an exceptional quail hunting property, protect more gopher tortoise habitat, and improve the corridor for wildlife.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department will acquire the property with a USFWS grant in the amount of \$1,770,000, a donation from the Knobloch Family Foundation in the amount of \$705,000, and a donation from the Dobbs Foundation in the amount of \$50,000. He further stated that as a condition of receiving these grants, an affidavit will be recorded against the tract stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the program it was acquired for without the prior approval of the USFWS, the Knobloch Family Foundation, and the Dobbs Foundation.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ayers, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the purchase from Thomasville National Bank Financial Services, Trustee of Wight Residuary Marital Trust of 874± acres as an addition to the Lake Seminole WMA, Seminole County.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item B is seeking approval to acquire approximately 2,057± acres, the Dawson Forest WMA – Cochran's Creek Tract, as an addition to Dawson Forest WMA. He further stated that the acquisition of this edge-holding from The Conservation Fund would increase public recreation and preserve a tract with high conservation values, that is threatened by rapid development. He added the purchase price is a significant bargain sale because The Conservation Fund received grants from the Knobloch Family Foundation, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He further added that the Department's funding will come from the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program in the amount of \$5,100,000, and two grants from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$1,300,000 and \$2,000,000. Mr. Friedman stated that as a

condition of receiving these grants, an affidavit will be recorded against the tract stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the program it was acquired for without the prior approval of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program, and the Knobloch Family Foundation.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the purchase from The Conservation Fund of 2,057± acres as an addition to Dawson Forest WMA, in Dawson County.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item C is seeking approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.54± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Heron Mill, at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglass County. He further stated that Heron Mill has requested a RLA and PE of up to 0.54± acres to add to the existing sanitary sewer line, which requires that an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission and a PE be granted by the General Assembly. He added that since the distribution line is not solely for use by the Department, the State Properties Commission will determine the appropriate consideration for this request. He further added the area is not heritage preserve designated.

A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.13± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power, at Jack Hill State Park, Tattnall County.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item C is seeking approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.13± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power, at Jack Hill State Park, in Tattnall County. He further stated the Department is installing a new laundry room at Jack Hill State Park and requested Georgia Power to install power to it. He further stated that installing the power requires an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission and a PE be granted by the General Assembly. He added that since the laundry room is solely for the use of the Department, the recommendation to the State Properties Commission is it be issued at no cost. He further added that this area is Heritage Preserve designated, but the laundry room is in line with the allowed uses within the designation, therefore a change of use is not necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Ayers, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.13± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power, at Jack Hill State Park, Tattnall County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.