

Minutes
State Parks and Historic Sites Committee
Cloudland Canyon State Park
Group Shelter
122 Cloudland Canyon Park Road
Rising Fawn, GA 30738

Tuesday, August 24, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members

Joe Hatfield, Chair
Miki Thomaston, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Dwight Evans
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Billy New
Dee Yancey, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nick Ayers
Dwight Davis
Bill Jones
Tim Lowe
Bodine Sinyard

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Cathy Barnette
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Taylor Brown
Clint Peacock
Scott Robinson

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

The August 24, 2021 meeting of the State Parks and Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Yancey called on Joe Hatfield, Chairman of the State Parks and Historic Sites Committee.

Mr. Hatfield called on Taylor Brown, Chief of Grants, for a briefing on Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2022-2026.

Ms. Brown stated the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federally funded grant program via the Department of the Interior-National Park Service and is administered at the state level. She further stated the funds are derived from the revenue from oil and gas lease sales on the Outer Continental Shelf. She added that each state receives an appropriation based on a formula that includes the state's population.

Ms. Brown stated the LWCF application is comprised of criteria, which accumulate a total score. She further stated criteria are derived from findings in Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Ms. Brown stated that Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a statewide blueprint for maintaining and sustaining public outdoor recreation resources to meet the demands of Georgia's diverse and growing population. She further stated the goal is to meet the needs of all current and future Georgians by increasing the access and engagement of our state's abundant natural resources through outdoor recreation opportunities in the state of Georgia.

Ms. Brown stated that the need for SCORP is to keep Georgia eligible for Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars through the National Parks Service. She further stated these funds are available for grants to local governments to acquire recreation land as well as develop and renovate outdoor recreation facilities. She added that the SCORP process is used to create the grading criteria for LWCF applications. She further added that SCORP affirms the multiple benefits that parks have on physical health, mental well-being and the economic vitality of communities served by the conservation of those parks and greenspaces. She stated that SCORP also provides guidance to Georgia's policymakers, practitioners, and citizens as they work together to protect key resources and address the outdoor recreational needs of Georgia's citizens.

Ms. Brown stated the mandatory components of the plan are an evaluation of the supply and demand of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in Georgia; certification by the

Governor that ample opportunity for public participation has taken place in plan development; and a program for implementation of the plan.

Ms. Brown stated the public comment period is from August 24 – September 24, 2021, and a virtual public meeting will be held on September 13, 2021. She further stated the proposal will be brought before the Board of Natural Resources for approval at the September 28, 2021 board meeting and will be transmitted to the Governor for certification. She added the proposal will then be sent to NPS for final approval and will be effective in January 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.