

Minutes

Land Committee

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

October 24, 2018

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dwight Davis, Chairman
Bill Jones, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Ray Lambert
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Brother Stewart
Aaron McWhorter, Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Mark Mobley – Via Conference Call
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Philip Wilheit

Guests

Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, Inc.
Kevin Berry

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson – Via Conference Call
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Karl Burgess
Brittney Tellencamp
Mark Whitney

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams
Sydney Brogden
Dika Kuoh
Jim Cooley
Sarah Vesser
Donald Kirkland

The October 24, 2018 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Chairman Aaron McWhorter.

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

Mr. Friedman stated that Item A is a continuation of the Canoochee Sandhills WMA, and proposes the acquisition of the 3,359± acre tract from The Conservation Fund (TCF) in Bulloch county. He further stated that this property has high conservation values and will be exceptional for recreation as a WMA. He added TCF will sell a conservation easement to the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), lowering the price to \$4 million, and the funds will be sourced from DNR bond 141 (\$1,850,000), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$1,000,000), Knobloch Family Foundation (\$500,000), the Bobolink Foundation (\$500,000), and The Conservation Fund (\$150,000).

Mr. Friedman stated that he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, 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 3,359± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills WMA, The Conservation Fund Tracts, Bulloch and Bryan Counties, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item B seeks to acquire the Lanahassee WMA from Webster County. He further stated that this property is expected to become a popular Wildlife Management Area due to its high conservation values, and public fishing and canoeing opportunities. He added that The Conservation Fund would sell an easement to the National Resources Conservation Service, as it did in the previous item.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Stewart 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 4,373± acres of real property, Lanahassee WMA, The Conservation Fund Tract, Webster County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item C is seeking approval to acquire 1201.9± acres of the Rist Tract, located in McIntosh County, and part of the Townsend WMA. He further stated that this property is surrounded by the Townsend WMA, and the Townsend Bombing Range, making this tract an in-holding, but that this acquisition will eliminate that in-holding, increase recreation opportunities, and improve management of this WMA. He added that The Nature Conservancy will acquire the property, then sell a restrictive easement to the Navy, and, pending that easement, will be acquired from the Navy.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lambert 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 1,201.9± acres of real property, Altamaha River Townsend WMA – Rist Tract, McIntosh County, as presented.

Mr. Jones asked how many protected tortoise populations are on the Canoochee Sandhills property. Mr. Friedman stated that there is one population of tortoises on the property.

Mr. Jones asked for a status update on the number of tortoise populations, relative to the goal of 65 populations by the year 2020. Mr. Friedman stated that the original number was 36, but today there are 49. He further stated including projects that have been approved or awaiting approval, the number is 55.

Mr. Sinyard asked if anyone from the Knobloch Group was in attendance. Mr. Friedman stated they were not.

Mr. Davis asked about the existence of a road on the property. Mr. Friedman showed where the road is located on the Rist Tract.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.