

Minutes

Land Committee

Lake Blackshear Resort Conference Center
Ballroom C
2459-H US Highway 280 West
Cordele, GA 31015

December 4, 2019

Attendees:

Committee Members

Miki Thomaston, Vice Chair
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Dee Yancey
Bodine Sinyard, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Brother Stewart

Guests

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Ag Council
Josh Hildebrandt, Office of the Governor
Jessica Rutledge, Flint Riverkeeper
Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network/Georgia Water Trails

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Chuck Mueller

The December 4, 2019 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Chairman Bodine Sinyard.

Chairman Sinyard called on Miki Thomaston, Vice Chairman of the Land Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item for consideration would be the proposed purchase of a 3,192.6± acres conservation easement over a portion of Cabin Bluff and co-held with The United States of America (Navy). He stated the land will be purchased from The Nature Conservancy and Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. He further stated Cabin Bluff has a high conservation value and provides a buffer for Kings Bay Naval Base and Cumberland Island. He added the source of funds for the \$4 million is two (2) grants from the USFWS Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program for \$2 million; one (1) grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) for \$500,000; and one (1) grant from the USFS Forest Legacy Grant for \$1.5 million.

Mr. Friedman thanked the partners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service, for their support.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, 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 to purchase a 3,192.6+ acres conservation easement co-held with The United States of America (Navy), from The Nature Conservancy and Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc., in Camden County.

Mr. Friedman stated the next project is a donation of 346± acres, the Bunker Hill Tract, from Cygnus GA, LLC, which will become an addition to Fort Mountain State Park. He stated this is an important edge-holding for the park and will provide better access for equestrian users, mountain bikers and hikers. The property is valued at \$1.2 million and is a complete donation.

Mr. Friedman thanked Cygnus GA, LLC, for the donation.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire as a donation 346+ acres, Fort Mountain State Park, Bunker Hill Tract, Murray County.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item is requesting approval to grant Southern Fiberworks (SFW) a revocable license agreement and permanent easement of up to 9.11 ± acres at Georgia Veterans State Park in Crisp County. He further stated, in exchange, the park will receive high speed internet, which supports the park and will improve the experience of our visitors. He added Southern Fiberworks will also extend the fiber to Crisp County, which will allow them to improve their 911 service.

Mr. Friedman stated the area is Heritage Preserve dedicated, but the use of the Park for public recreation and overnight lodging is a permissible use and a change of use is not necessary. He further stated the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, so it is recommended they be granted at no cost.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement of up to 9.11 + acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Southern Fiberworks (SFW) at Georgia Veterans State Park, Crisp County.

Mr. Friedman stated the next two items are on the same property and he will present them together and request two motions. The proposal is to grant the City of Darien and Georgia Power separate revocable license agreements and permanent easements of up to 0.009+ acres at Fort King George Park in McIntosh County. He further stated a new host site and maintenance shed are being constructed in the park and need an underground sanitation line, as well as power. He stated the easement area is Heritage Preserve dedicated, but, since the new host site will benefit the use of the Park for public recreation, a change of use is not necessary. Since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, it is recommended they be granted at no cost.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend 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 0.009+ acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the City of Darien at Fort King George State Park, McIntosh County.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Evans, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend 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 0.009+ acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power at Fort King George State Park, McIntosh County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.