

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

**Monday, May 20, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Paul Shailendra, Chair
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Patrick Denney
Charles DePriest
Dan Garcia
Mark Hennessy
Brent Layton
Harley Yancey
Joe Hatfield, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Jeff Andrews
Bill Jones
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Lesley Reynolds
Bodine Sinyard

Guests

Debbie Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition
Damon Kirkpatrick, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Agriculture Council
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Michael O'Reilly, The Nature Conservancy
Brent Churchwell, Senate Budget Office
Mike Oetker, Regional Director, SE Region, USFWS

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Taylor Brown Fisher
Cathy Barnette
Kyle Pearson
Artica Gaston
Mike England
Doug Haymans
Angie Johnson
Ted Will
Brent Womack
Anthony Rabern

Jeff Cown, Director
James Boylan
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski
Katie Hegarty

The May 20, 2024 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Joe Hatfield, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Hatfield called on Mr. Paul Shailendra, Chair of the Land Committee. Mr. Shailendra called on Brent Womack, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Womack stated the first item on the agenda, Item A, is requesting approval to purchase Phase 1 from Corinne Gordon Grizzard, 12.5± acres, as an addition to the Black Rock Mountain State Park, in Rabun County. He further stated this park receives high visitation and is located at the highest elevation of any state park in Georgia. He added that protecting the inholding will prevent impacts to the viewshed and prevent the tract from being sold for development. He further added that this park is popular for sightseeing and enjoying the long-range mountain views. He stated this acquisition is Phase 1 of a 2-phase project to acquire the entire inholding from this landowner. He further stated that Phase 2 will close in January 2025.

Mr. Womack stated the Department will acquire the property with State Park Revenue Funds in the amount of \$187,500, and a donation from the Knobloch Family Foundation (KFF) in the amount of \$250,000. He further stated that as a condition of receiving the KFF donation, 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 programs it was acquired for without the prior approval of the KFF.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase Phase 1 from Corinne Gordon Grizzard, 12.5± acres, as an addition to the Black Rock Mountain State Park, in Rabun County.

Mr. Womack stated the second item, Item B, is requesting approval to purchase from The Nature Conservancy, 177± acres, as an addition to the Conasauga River Wildlife Management Area, in Murray County. He further stated the Department will acquire the Springbank tract along the Conasauga River for inclusion in the Conasauga River WMA. He added this WMA is popular for hunting, fishing, and studying nature. He further added that this tract will permanently protect riparian areas along the mainstem of the Conasauga River and help maintain water quality needed by native fish and mussel species found in the watershed.

Mr. Womack stated the Department will acquire the property with a Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) Grant. He further stated the Department is purchasing this tract

from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) who received a grant from the Knobloch Family Foundation (KFF), allowing TNC to sell it to the Department for a total purchase price of \$550,000 and below appraised value. He added that as a condition of receiving the grant and funding, 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 programs it was acquired for without the prior approval of the GOSP and the KFF.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. DePriest, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase from The Nature Conservancy, 177± acres, as an addition to the Conasauga River Wildlife Management Area, in Murray County.

Mr. Womack stated the last item on the agenda, Item C, is seeking approval to renew the Tuckasee King Boat Ramp lease with Effingham County, 2.9± acres, to continue to provide public access to the Savannah River, in Effingham County. He further stated this is an existing boat ramp that the DNR has operated since 1973 and that the lease of this property would contribute greatly to meeting recreation needs. He added that Effingham County will be responsible for general facility maintenance at no cost to the Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. DePriest, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to renew the lease with Effingham County, 2.9± acres, for a boat ramp to continue to provide public access to the Savannah River, in Effingham County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.