

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

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Paul Shailendra, Chair
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Patrick Denney
Charles DePriest
Dan Garcia
Mark Hennessy
Steve Hufstetler
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

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Government Relations
Susan Salter, GA EPD
Maggie Lee, The Current
Dave Williams, Capitol Beat News Service
Kathleen Bowen, Impact Public Affairs

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Taylor Brown Fisher
Cathy Barnette
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Artica Gaston
Mike England
Karl Burgess
Angie Johnson
Ted Will
Brent Womack
Chris Harper

Jeff Cown, Director
James Boylan
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski

The October 22, 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 for consideration is seeking approval to acquire 1,800± acres from PIJ, LLC., Treat Mountain Volunteer Public Access Area in Polk County. He further stated the Department will acquire this property for inclusion in Treat Mountain VPA, which is located within the Dugdown Corridor that connects Paulding Forest and Sheffield Wildlife Management areas with Talladega National Forest. He added that this area has been identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan as a high priority for conservation. He further added that this tract also contains remnant montane longleaf pine as well as the upper sections of the Devils Darning Needle Hollow. He stated this area is also known to harbor state tracked plant species and is characterized by steep topography within the bluff region of the corridor. He further stated that with board approval the intention is to take this project to the State Properties Commission, and, if approved, will close in November 2024.

Mr. Womack stated that the Department will acquire the property with Forest Legacy, GADOT Bat funds, Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP), and Stone Mountain funds. He further stated that as a condition of receiving multiple funds, 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 Forest Legacy Program, GOSP, and Stone Mountain funds.

A motion was by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the Paulk Trice PIJ, LLC. tract, 1800± acres as an addition to Treat Mountain VPA in the Dugdown Mountain Corridor, Polk County.

Mr. Womack stated that Item B is requesting approval to purchase 373± acres from Timber South, LLC., Treat Mountain Volunteer Public Access Area in Polk County. He further stated the Department will acquire this property for inclusion in Treat Mountain VPA, which is located within the Dugdown Corridor that connects Paulding Forest and Sheffield Wildlife Management Areas with Talladega National Forest. He added that this tract also contains the headwaters for Little Terrapin Creek, a tributary to Terrapin Creek in Alabama. He further added that Terrapin Creek is a high conservation priority for the state of Alabama and protecting the

headwaters in Georgia will help the continued health of the system. He stated that with board approval the intention is to take this project to the State Properties Commission, and, if approved, will close in November 2024. He further stated that the Department will acquire the property with GADOT Bat funds.

A motion was by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to purchase the Timber South, LLC. tract, 373± acres as an addition to Treat Mountain VPA in the Dugdown Mountain Corridor, Polk County.

Mr. Womack stated that Item C is requesting a revocable license agreement and permanent easement of up to 0.075± be granted by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation, at Amicalola Falls State Park in Dawson County. He further stated that the request from Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation is to provide electrical service to a communications tower and shelter from Dawson County in Amicalola Falls State Park. He added that the tower will improve radio reception within the park used by both Dawson County emergency services and DNR Law Enforcement. He further added that improved radio reception will enhance communication services for DNR law enforcement by ensuring more reliable communication in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Womack stated the request requires a revocable license agreement be issued by the State Properties Commissioner and a permanent easement be granted by the General Assembly. He further stated that because the tower is only for emergency services and not for commercial use, the recommendation to the State Properties Commission is that it be issued at no cost.

A motion was by Mr. Shailendra, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.075± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation at Amicalola Falls State Park, Dawson County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.