

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

March 22, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

Loyce Turner, Chairman
Bill Carruth, Vice Chairman
Warren Budd
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson
Robert Leebern
Philip Watt
Earl Barrs, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Gene Bishop
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Mark Smith
Jim Walters
Philip Wilheit
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett Water
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Aaron Mitchell, Georgia power
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Colleen Kiernan, Sierra Club
Bob Curry, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Allen Barnes
Todd Holbrook
Becky Kelley
Dan Forster
Marlin Gottschalk
Dave Crass
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curty
Lisa Mehalko
John Bowers
John Biagi
Steve Friedman
Linda MacGregor
Jac Capp
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Terry West
Connie Buck
Vonetta Pryor
Doug Haymans
Candy Henderson
Ced Dolder
Suzanne Burnes
Brad Konwick
Mary Ann Evans

Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council

The March 22, 2011 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Earl Barrs. Chairman Barrs called on Loyce Turner, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

Dr. Turner called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate, for presentation of three action items.

Mr. Friedman stated that the first item for consideration was acquisition (purchase) of a Conservation Easement over 1,000± acres, Canoochee River, Warnell Tract, Bryan County. He further stated that permanent protection of the Warnell property by a conservation easement to be held by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will provide protection for 1,000 acres along the Canoochee River, allowing continued connectivity to the source population of indigo snakes, gopher tortoises, and associated species on Fort Stewart and other protected properties by prohibiting incompatible development and habitat fragmentation.

Mr. Friedman stated that the property is located in northwestern Bryan County on the eastern bank of the Canoochee River. He further stated that the property consists of intact, xeric sandhills, bottomland hardwoods, mesic bays, and planted slash pine. He added that the parcel lies immediately adjacent to the northwestern border of Fort Stewart with over two miles of shared boundary. He further added that the Warnell property is due east of the Evans County Public Fishing Area.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the board adopt the Resolution regarding this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Budd, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of a Conservation Easement over 1,000± acres, Canoochee River, Warnell Tract, Bryan County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the second item for consideration was recommending amendment of a 2009 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Darien and the Department to include the Butler Plantation House and approximately 18 acres, Altamaha River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), McIntosh County. He further stated that the City entered into an IGA with the Department in 2009 for the purpose of developing a visitor's center for ecological, historical and cultural education within the abandoned Dairy Barn. He added that in 2010 the City and the Department began discussions to add the Butler House and approximately 18 acres of surrounding property to the existing IGA.

Mr. Friedman stated that the advantages of this amendment are that the City would be able to sublease the Butler House to The Nature Conservancy (TNC). He further stated that the Department had been leasing the house to TNC, but discovered it could not continue to do so, except through some type of sub-lease agreement through a governmental entity. He added that the City also plans to restore two docks found on the property, which would make them accessible to the public for canoes and kayaks. He further added that the City has agreed to maintain the house and grounds.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Budd, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to amend a 2009 Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Darien and the Department to include Butler Plantation House and approximately 18± acres, Altamaha River Wildlife Management Area, McIntosh County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the last item for consideration was renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Dougherty County for the use of 0.81± acres for additional parking space and the use of the County's storage building adjacent to the Wildlife Resources Albany Regional Headquarters Office, Dougherty County. He further stated that the Department entered into a 10-year IGA with Dougherty County in 2001 for the purpose listed above and wishes to renew that agreement. He added that Dougherty County passed a Resolution on March 7, 2011 to allow the Wildlife Resources Albany Regional Headquarters to use the acres, and that the Department will continue to use the additional space for parking and equipment storage.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Budd, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to renew an Intergovernmental Agreement with Dougherty County for the use of 0.81± acres for additional parking space and the use of the County's storage building adjacent to the Wildlife Resources Albany Regional Headquarters Office, Dougherty County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.