

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

**June 28, 2011**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

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

Board Members

Dennis Billew  
Mabel Jenkins  
Phyllis Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Aaron McWhorter  
Jim Walters  
Philip Wilheit  
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company  
Kurt Ebersbach, Green Law  
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks  
Glenn Flake, Friends of Georgia State Parks, Chattahoochee Bend  
Karl Ledford, Georgia Transmission  
Dale Kemmerick, Retired  
Walter Jones, Morris News Service  
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia  
Aaron Mitchell, Georgia Power  
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Kelly Jordan, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance  
Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy  
Maggie Lee, Freelance Reporter  
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power  
Kathryn Keisler, Green Law

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Allen Barnes  
Todd Holbrook  
Homer Bryson  
Spud Woodward  
Becky Kelley  
Dan Forster  
Dave Crass  
Emily Hitchcock  
Kyle Pearson  
Steve Friedman  
Doug Haymans  
Jim Ussery  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Mark Smith  
Jac Capp  
Paul Nelson  
John Bowers  
Lauren Curry  
Wally Woods  
Ben Stowers  
David Clark  
John Biagi  
Sally Winchester  
Connie Buck  
Tim Banks  
Elizabeth Starkey  
Lon Revall  
Eric VanDeGenachte  
Sherry Crew-Jay  
Cathy Barnette  
Mary Ann Evans  
Hellen Harris

The June 28, 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, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that the first item for consideration was acquisition (purchase) of 1± acre of real property, Ocmulgee River, Joe Popper tract, Jasper County. He further stated that this is an important tract of land along the Ocmulgee River that will provide needed boating access at one of the best fishing locations along the Ocmulgee.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve this item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Carruth, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for acquisition (purchase) of 1± acre of real property, Ocmulgee River, Joe Popper tract, Jasper County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item for consideration was for approval to renew Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Transportation (DOT) for management of 92.7± acres located along the Silver Comet trail in Polk County. He further stated that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) entered into a MOU with DOT on September 24, 2001 for the portion of the trail that runs through Polk County. He further stated that the original agreement was for a term of 10 years and that the agreement allows DNR to extend for five consecutive 20 year terms. He added that the current MOU will expire on September 24, 2011.

Mr. Friedman stated that this agreement allows DNR to maintain public park trails and other facilities located on a right-of-way owned by DOT. He further stated that the Silver Comet Trail is very popular with the citizens of Georgia and provides for biking, hiking and horseback riding. He added that the Silver Comet Trail is over 61 miles long, traveling through Cobb, Paulding and Polk Counties.

Mr. Friedman stated that this MOU only covers the portion through Polk County and that the remaining portion of the trail is covered under a separate MOU between DNR and DOT, which does not expire until December 2027. He further stated that the Silver Comet Trail is maintained by the PATH Foundation.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Carruth, seconded by Dr. Watt and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to renew the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation for management of 92.7± acres located along the Silver Comet Trail, Polk County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the final item for consideration was action on proposed adoption of Rule Making for Procedures for Change of Use or Conveyance of Heritage Preserves, Chapter 391-1-8. He further stated that the Board was briefed on his proposed Rule at the April 27, 2011 and May 25, 2011 meetings. He added that after the May meeting, notice of the proposed Rule was given as required by law and an opportunity was provided for interested persons to submit their comments in writing.

Mr. Friedman stated that the Rule is needed to set forth the specific procedures to carry out the new law (HB 90) that was signed in May 2011, which makes it possible to transfer a Heritage Preserve property to a county or city, subject to a conservation easement, as well as the procedure where a change of use can be considered under O.C.G.A. § 12-3-76.

Mr. Friedman noted the recommendations that were received during the public comment period and requested that the Committee recommend the Board approve the item as presented.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Carruth, seconded by Mr. Hudson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Rule Making Procedures for Change of Use or Conveyance of Heritage Preserves, Chapter 391-1-8. (Rule Making Procedures attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.