

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

August 23, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

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

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Smith
Jim Walters
Philip Wilheit
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Dr. Teresa Thompson, Georgia Southern University
David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates
Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett Water
Earnest Eavin, Cobb Water
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Corporation
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Karl Ledford, Georgia Transmission Corporation
Jack Dozier, Georgia Association of Water Professionals
Lewis Jones, King & Spalding
Juliet Cohen, Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Corey Babb, Metro North Georgia Water Planning District

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Allen Barnes
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Dan Forster
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Brad Gane
Doug Haymans
Steve Friedman
John Bowers
Jac Capp
Linda MacGregor
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Lauren Curry
Connie Buck
Eddie Henderson
Candy Henderson
John Biagi
Matt Thomas
Jane Hendricks
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee River

Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

The August 23, 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.

Chairman Turner called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate, for his presentation.

Mr. Friedman stated that the first item was for action on acquisition (donation) of 84.3± acres of real property, Burnside-View Subdivision, C. L. Lewis tract, Chatham County, Georgia. He further stated that the Department was contacted by a representative of the C. L. Lewis family with a request that the State and Department accept a donation of 84.3± acres of salt marsh.

Mr. Friedman stated that this donation would clear up any question of ownership of the salt marsh. He further stated that all costs of the donation would be covered by the C.L. Lewis family, and that there would be no long-term cost to care for the marsh. He added that the Lewis family has not indicated they will make a claim of donation of the property.

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

Discussion ensued regarding wetlands mitigation.

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 of acquisition (donation) of 84.3± acres of real property, Burnside-View Subdivision, C. L. Lewis tract, Chatham County, Georgia, and directs staff to investigate the possible wetlands mitigation opportunity on this property. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item was a briefing on the Petition for Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve, Richmond Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 17.22± acres, Bryan County, Georgia. He further stated that in June 2011, the Board of Natural Resources approved an addition to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Chapter 391-1-8, Procedures for Change of Use or Conveyance of Heritage Preserves.

Mr. Friedman stated that Georgia Transmission and Coastal Electric Membership Corporation (collectively called "Cooperative") requested the Department petition for a change of use of Heritage Preserve designated property as required under Chapter 391-1-8 on July 21, 2011. He further stated that the purpose of the petition is to permit the Cooperative to acquire easements where the Cooperative's Burnt Church – Tradeport Industrial Park 115 kV Transmission Line will be located so that a revocable license and permanent easement will be granted for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Cooperative's electrical power lines across 17.22± acres of the heritage preserve designated Richmond Hill WMA.

Mr. Friedman stated that the Cooperative will take reasonable efforts to control non-native vegetation should its construction or maintenance activities introduce non-native vegetation, will seed

the easement area with a mixture of mutually agreed upon native warm season grasses, and will contribute \$20,000.00 to the Wildlife Resources Division for its use in further offsetting of the impact of the change of use on the Richmond Hill WMA.

Mr. Friedman stated that the Department will hold public hearings within 90 days of the August Board meeting as required under the Rule and will bring the matter to the Board for a vote in either October or December.

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item was a briefing on Petition for Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve, Bullard Creek WMA, 0.064± acres, Jeff Davis County, Georgia. He further stated that the purpose of the petition is to permit Georgia Power to acquire a permanent easement for the construction, operation and maintenance of an early warning system to warn the public in the event of an emergency related to the operations of Plant Hatch as required by regulations of the Nuclear Energy Regulatory Commission. He added that the placement of this early warning system is part of a large system of at least 30 sirens that will be installed by Georgia Power in the area around Plant Hatch.

Mr. Friedman stated that Georgia Power will seed the easement area with a mixture of mutually agreed upon native grasses. He further stated that the Department will hold public hearings within 90 days of the August Board meeting as required under the Rule and will bring the matter to the Board for a vote in either October or December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.