

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

April 29, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

William Bagwell, Chairman
Mark Mobley, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Mike Phelps
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey
Rob Leebern, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Mark Smith

Visitors

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
April Ingle, Georgia River Network
Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeeper
Aaron Mitchell, Georgia Power
Max Zygmunt, MZCZ Law
Lauren Joy, SELC
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
David Ward, JTA
Dave Williams, Metro Atlanta Chamber
Matt Harper, GEFA
Gary Kelly, Baker County Land Owner
Ashton Bailey, GreenLaw
Ronnie Just, Georgia Power
Lauren George, Southern Environmental Law Center

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Jac Capp
Keith Bentley
Lauren Curry
Mark Whitney
John Bowers
Eddie Henderson
Kyle Pearson
John Martin
Michael Chadwell
Mary Ann Evans
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Nap Caldwell
Doralyn Kirkland
Wally Woods
Lon Revall

The April 29, 2013 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Rob Leeborn.

Chairman Leeborn called on William Bagwell, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item for consideration was a briefing on a petition for Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve for 3.146± acres at Oaky Woods Wildlife Management Area in Houston County. He further stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation submitted the petition requesting Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve for the purpose of widening SR 96 at the Ocmulgee River from CR 540 to SR 87.

Mr. Friedman stated he planned to bring the item to the Board for action at the June 2013 meeting.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item for consideration was granting approval of a Revocable License and Permanent Easement by the State Properties Commission to The University of Georgia of the University System of the Board of Regents (Regents) over 3.3± acres for a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress over the Wormsloe State Historic Site in Chatham County.

Mr. Friedman stated Wormsloe State Historic Site will be donating 15 acres to Regents and UGA will operate the property as a historical and ecological Nature Preserve for scientific, historical, educational, and aesthetic purposes.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant approval of a Revocable License and Permanent Easement by the State Properties Commission to The University of Georgia of the University System of the Board of Regents (Regents) over 3.3± acres for a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress over the Wormsloe State Historic Site, Chatham County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the next item for consideration was acquisition (purchase) of 1,175± acres of real property, Altamaha River-Penholoway Swamp, Boyles Island Tract Phase II via The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Wayne County.

Mr. Friedman stated DNR had purchased the Phase I portion (5,102± acres) in December 2012. He further stated the Department had since received the federal grant to purchase the remaining area (Phase II). He added this purchase was important to National Security, as the tract buffers the Townsend Bombing Range.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (purchase) 1, 175± acres of real property, Altamaha River-Penholoway Swamp, Boyles Island Tract Phase II via The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wayne County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated the final item for consideration was the granting of approval of a Revocable License by the State Properties Commission to Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (SWGRC) over parts of Land Lots 110 and Lots 91 in Elmodel Wildlife Management Area in Baker County.

Mr. Friedman stated SWGRC has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) to develop an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) demonstration on Elmodel Wildlife Management Area. He further stated this project would involve constructing test wells to test the viability of groundwater recharge and flow augmentation in the lower Flint River basin.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

Chairman Bagwell called on Jud Turner, Director of EPD, who gave background information on the technology and science of ASR.

Director Turner called on Matt Harper, GEFA Sr. Water Supply Manager, to give information on the Governor's Water Supply Project.

Mr. Harper stated in Governor Deal's 2011 Executive Order, he created the Water Supply Task Force and committed \$300 million over four years to Water Supply Funding. He further stated the application process of applying for this funding lasted until April 30, 2012 and the applications were scored by the GWSP Advisory Team and GWSP Scoring Team. He added the loans awarded in 2012 totaled \$98,939,466 and \$9,560,000 was awarded as state direct investment, which included \$5,100,000 to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

Mr. Harper stated reasons why ASR should be studied and tested, and the scope of the work developed by GEFA and EPD.

Discussion ensued on the topic of the purpose of ASR technology and the proposed location of this project.

Chairman Bagwell called on Nap Caldwell, EPD Water Resources, who gave information on the basic technology of ASR and the different aquifers.

Discussion ensued on the ASR project which included discussion among the different aquifers, the project's timeline and funding, and questions concerning who would be implementing the study.

Chairman Bagwell called on Gary Kelly, a landowner on the Flint River in Baker County, who stated his concern of preserving the quality of water in southwest Georgia.

Chairman Bagwell called on Gordon Rogers, representing the Flint Riverkeeper and the Georgia Water Coalition, who asked the Board to table the item.

Chairman Bagwell called on Lauren George, representing Southern Environmental Law Center, who urged the Board to look closely at the license grant.

Chairman Bagwell called on Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel, to speak on the current statute concerning Heritage Preserve Conservation use.

Mr. Pearson stated that according to the current language, after the three year study, the aquifers must be used as a wildlife management tool at the property. He further stated that if the aquifers were not being used as a wildlife management tool, then the use must be approved by the DNR Board and General Assembly.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant a Revocable License by the State Properties Commission to Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (SWGRC) over parts of Land Lots 110 and Lots 91 in Elmodel Wildlife Management Area, Baker County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.