

**Minutes
Land Committee
Fort McAllister State Park
Group Shelter
3894 Fort McAllister Road
Richmond Hill, GA 31324**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Tim Lowe, Chair
William Bagwell, Vice Chair
Dwight Davis
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Dwight Evans
Rob Leebern
Billy New
Bodine Sinyard
Bill Jones, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Miki Thomaston

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Lt. Brian Adams
Brett Albanese
Jon Ambrose
Brad Ballard
Tim Barrett
Jason Carter
Ellen Graham
Major Bob Holley
Thom Litts
Londa Moates
Clint Peacock

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Karen Hays

The October 25, 2022 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Bill Jones, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Jones called on Mr. Tim Lowe, Chairman of the Land Committee. Mr. Lowe called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated the first item, Tab F, Item A, is requesting approval for conveyance of one property from the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), approximately 98+ acres in Murray County, for recreation and conservation purposes.

Mr. Friedman stated the project will secure this tract that DOT acquired as a mitigation property, which since DOT acquired it, the Department has managed as part of the Conasauga River WMA. He further stated the Prater Island North tract has high conservation values and will continue to provide public recreation opportunities. He added that the DOT will donate this tract to the Department; however, the DOT will retain all wetland and stream mitigation credits.

A motion was made by Mr. New, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for Conveyance (Donation) of one property from the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), approximately 98+ acres, in Murray County.

Mr. Friedman stated the second item, Tab F, Item B, is requesting approval for the purchase of 40.8± acres as an addition to Sheffield Forest WMA in Paulding County, as an addition to the Sheffield Forest WMA.

Mr. Friedman stated the Thompson Tract acquisition will add to the recreational values of the Sheffield Forest Wildlife Management Area (WMA). He further stated this purchase will clean up an edge-holding, protect the Raccoon Creek basin which has two federally listed fish in it, improve our ability to manage the WMA, and add more public recreation land. He added that this tract is important to the Department for conservation, recreation, and management purposes, particularly management with fire, which is a critical component to the montane longleaf pine ecosystem found on the WMA.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department will acquire the property with State and private funds. As a condition of receiving the acquisition funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the property 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 Wild Turkey Federation.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Acquisition (Purchase) of 40.8+ acres as an addition to Sheffield Forest WMA, Paulding County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.