



## MINUTES

### GEORGIA LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM Called Council Meeting April 30, 2007 - 2:00 PM

#### **Call To Order**

After establishing the existence of a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Abraham on Monday, April 30, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in the Georgia State Financing and Investment Bid Conference Room in Atlanta, Georgia. A speakerphone was available for the general public and the business of the meeting was conducted over the speakerphone.

Present at the meeting were:

Council Members: Gena Abraham, Chairperson,

Staff: Curt Soper, GEFA; Greg Mason, GEFA; Beverly McElroy, GEFA; Jennifer Spivey, GEFA; and Kim Yawn, GEFA.

Present by speakerphone were:

Council Members: Noel Holcomb, Stacy Patton, Chuck Leavell, Mike Beatty, Wade Shealy and Brent Dykes.

Staff: Rick Hatton, GA Forestry

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Chairperson Abraham presented minutes from the March 19, 2007 GLCP meeting for approval. Stacy Patton made a motion seconded by Noel Holcomb to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **GLCP Loan Application**

Curt Soper presented a loan request from Rockdale County for \$240,000. The Rockdale County South River Greenway Land Conservation project is in the southwest portion of the county, near Highway 138 where it crosses the South River. The 10.03-acre tract currently contains a single family home in one corner of the property. Prior to construction of the home in 1976, the site was undeveloped. This property is adjacent to a previous project approved by the GLCP to serve as a trailhead for the 13-mile South River Trail, which will connect to Panola Mountain State Park as part of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area. The county is in active negotiations with the landowner and a price has been agreed upon based on an appraisal. Stacy Patton made a motion seconded by Wade Shealy to approve the Rockdale County loan for \$240,000 at 3% interest for ten years. The motion passed unanimously.

**Update on Land Conservation Program**

Chairperson Abraham stated that the legislative session ended with the Land Conservation program receiving \$47.3 million which includes the \$5 million that is part of the base budget for grants. The proposed tax credit legislation did not pass this year.

Chairperson Abraham stated that Mike Beatty has agreed to provide some seed money for marketing the program. A program DVD being completed by the GTA on a pro bono basis should be completed over the next couple of months. Noel Holcomb has offered to allow the Council an opportunity to participate in the Georgia Outdoor television show in conjunction with DNR. Staff has also been working with the Office of Planning and Budget for \$150,000 to be used for these and other marketing products out of the first \$5 million budget received.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Chuck Leavell to adjourn the meeting seconded by Stacy Patton. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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Kim Yawn, Executive Assistant

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Chris Clark, Executive Director