



MINUTES

GEORGIA LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM Strategic Planning Session July 30, 2007

Present at the meeting were:

Council Members: Gena Abraham, Chairperson; John Bembry, Brent Dykes, Robert Farris, Noel Holcomb, and Stacy Patton

Staff: Chris Clark, GEFA, Rod Bowlden, SPC; Steve Friedman, DNR; Buford Sanders, Georgia Forestry Commission; Jennifer Spivey, GEFA; Kristina Sorensen, DNR; and Kim Yawn, GEFA.

GLCP Target Area, Priority Areas and Areas of Opportunity

Steve Friedman discussed projects that could be funded with GLCP funds that would be of statewide significance.

Status of New and Anticipated Applications

Kristina Sorensen and Jennifer Spivey discussed status of new and anticipated applications.

Applications received to date in 2007: 1 loan request approved for \$240,000 at the June Council meeting; and 4 grant request totaling \$3,020,000 to be presented at the September Council meeting.

Anticipated new applications: 1 loan request for \$3,400,000 and 7 grant request totaling \$19,700,000.

Applications still active that were received in 2006: 4 grant requests totaling \$4,079,531.

Status of Potential Conservation Easement Donations

Buford Sanders discussed potential conservation easement projects from private land owners. Buford stated that the Council needs to discuss enforcement and monitoring of conservation easements. Chris Clark stated that GEFA is looking into the possibility of being able to accept donations (501C)

2008 Legislative Session and FY 2009 Budget

Chris Clark stated GEFA will also request the \$5 million continuation budget.

Legislative Issues: Opening the Act to allow NGO's and Georgia Forestry Commission, Tax Assessment Issue, Tax Credit, House Bill 354 - Local government; homeowner tax relief grant

notification; provisions. Chris Clark asked Council members to email any changes to legislation that they have.

GLCP Article

Gena Abraham mentioned the ACCG article that discusses the Land Conservation Program.

Emerging Issues

Gena Abraham stated that there was going to be the second Land Summit meeting held in September hosted by ACCG. A meeting to review marketing firms is scheduled for August 9, 2007. Chris stated that GEFA has just hired a communications/marketing director that will be able to assist with marketing the Land Conservation program as well.

Upcoming Meeting

Gena Abraham stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled for September 11th in Atlanta.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Robert Farris to adjourn the meeting seconded by Stacy Patton. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Kim Yawn, Executive Assistant

Chris Clark, Executive Director