

**CHATHAM COUNTY RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMISSION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM
112 EAST STATE STREET**

September 3, 2009

1:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**David Anderson
Beth Blalock
Sonny Emmert
Louise Grotheer
Marianne Heimes
Jo Hickson
Dionne Hoskins
Felton Jenkins
Jeff Kirkland
Jim Kluttz
Frank McIntosh
Andy Rawlings
Dale Thorpe
David White
Paul Wolff**

MPC STAFF PRESENT:

**Joanna Bounds, Resource Protection Planner
Ellen Harris, Preservation Planner
Shanale Booker, Administrative Assistant**

I. Call to Order

Dr. Dionne Hoskins called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. Meeting Minutes

CCRPC TAC Action: Mr. Kirkland made a motion that the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee approve the minutes of April 16, 2009 with the correction that Ms. Thorpe was present at the April 16, 2009 meeting. Mr. Emmert seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

III. RPC-20090827-09-1 Top Ranked Sites

Ms. Bounds stated that the top five highest ranking sites had been determined. Each of these sites had been chosen during a preliminary analysis and had received a subsequent evaluation.

The top ranking site, located near Coffee Bluff, is 1225 acres. This includes 310 acres of maritime forest, located on a single marsh hammock, and 915 acres of pristine salt marsh. The maritime forest within the property is one of the largest intact tracts of maritime forest left in the

County. In addition, several depressional wetlands were found within the forest that provide important breeding habitat for amphibians. The site also contains intact civil war earthworks. A confederate battery was originally built on the property.

The second highest ranking site consists of two adjacent parcels along the Lower Ogeechee River, which together have over 2 miles of frontage along the river. Together, the parcels contain 330 acres of mature Bottomland Hardwood Forest that is capable of supporting a variety of rare species. The site also contains 130 acres of upland area composed of several small patches of sandhill habitat and 85 acres of freshwater ponds, which were originally dug as borrow pits.

The third highest ranking site is adjacent to the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Museum and Nature Center. The site is very easy to access and offers great views of the Ogeechee River. In total, the property contains approximately 18 acres of Bottomland Hardwood habitat. In addition, portions of a brick cellar and well exist on the property, which are believed to have been connected to the original lock tenders house that helped run this portion of the canal.

The fourth highest ranking site is composed of over 200 acres of intact Bottomland Hardwood Forest and 168 acres of Longleaf Pine habitat. Because of the size of these habitats, the property is capable of supporting a variety of rare and endangered species, including the gopher tortoise, green-fly orchid, red-cockaded woodpecker. The property also has almost half a mile of frontage along the Ogeechee, which helps to support the endangered shortnose sturgeon.

The fifth highest ranking site is also adjacent to the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Museum Property. This site contains 55 acres of Bottomland Hardwood Forest and an extension of the Ogeechee River. The site also has half a mile of frontage on the River and contains Bottomland Hardwood habitat.

CCRPC TAC Action: Mr. Kluttz made a motion that the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee recommend these top five sites, as presented in the order that they were presented, to the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission. Ms. Grotheer seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

IV. Update on TAC Subcommittees

Ms. Bounds stated that the Site Evaluation Subcommittee had evaluated 23 sites and that the group will continue to evaluate all of the identified sites. The Site Management Subcommittee developed a management plan template and visited the Demere Tract, a property currently owned by Chatham County. The group is currently working on developing a management plan for this property. The Education/Outreach Subcommittee is scheduled to meet next month.

V. Committee Member Items

Ms. Bounds stated that the next CCRPC TAC meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2009.

Dr. Hoskins requested that replacements be found for out-going members of the TAC. She then stated that Savannah State University needed a new representative as Larry Chisolm is no longer with Savannah State University.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Bounds
Resource Protection Planner

JHB/sb