

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

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
112 EAST STATE STREET**

**ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM**

**December 17, 2009**

**2:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**CCRPC Members Present:**

**Dr. Dionne Hoskins, Chair  
Elizabeth “Chica” Arndt  
Mark Bouy  
Felton Jenkins  
Paul Wolff**

**TAC Members Present:**

**Patton Dugas  
Chris Emmer  
Sonny Emmert  
Jo Hickson  
Diane Houston  
Jefferson Kirkland  
Joseph P. Maggioni  
Nathan Mai-Lombardo  
Bob Marshall  
Sue Moore  
Maria Procopio  
Tricia Reynolds  
Dale Thorpe  
David White**

**CCRPC Members Absent:**

**Larry Miles  
Meddy Settles  
Dane Spencer  
Kristina Williams**

**MPC Staff Present:**

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

## I. Call to Order

Dr. Hoskins called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

## II. Meeting Minutes

**CCRPC TAC Action: Mr. Dugas made a motion that the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee approve the September 3, 2009 minutes as submitted. Mr. Emmert seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.**

## III. RPC-20091215-30-1 Savannah River Island Recommendation

Ms. Bounds stated that in December, while staff pursued the protection of the top five sites, the owners of an island located within the Savannah River contacted County staff with an offer to sell their property, at a fair price, to Chatham County for conservation. As part of the deal, the owners wished to sell the property by the end of 2009. This particular property had not been evaluated prior to the creation of the top five sites list because of the difficulty in accessing the site: the island can only be reached by boat. In addition, during the summer of 2009, the Resource Protection Professional had learned that two of the property's three owners were not interested in selling the island.

However, due to the recent increase in interest surrounding the Savannah River Island, the Resource Protection Professional and members of the Technical Advisory Committee were able to procure transport to the property and, on December 16, completed an evaluation of the site's ecological and historic value. The site evaluation team gave the site a total of 33 points, which placed the Savannah River Island as the fifth highest ranking site. Due to the site's ecological and historic value, and the owners' willingness to sell, staff finds the property to be worthy of purchase.

Staff recommends that the Technical Advisory Committee and the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission recommend the protection of the Savannah River Island property to the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County.

**CCRPC TAC Action: Mr. Mai-Lombardo made a motion that the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee recommend the protection of the Savannah River Island to the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission. Ms. Thorpe seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.**

**CCRPC Action: Mr. Wolff made a motion that the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission recommend the protection of the Savannah River Island to the Chatham County Commission. Mr. Bouy seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.**

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission the CCRPC was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

#### **IV. RPC-20091203-29-1 Demere Tract Management Plan**

**Ms. Bounds** stated that the Demere Tract Management Plan provides a description of the site, legal terms of the property, and management objectives. For the Demere Tract, the primary objectives are to keep the property in its natural state, create passive recreational opportunities for the public, and to preserve the functions of the wetlands located within the site. The management plan also describes the uses to be allowed on the site and enhancement opportunities for the property. The uses allowed on the Demere Tract are passive recreational (hiking, jogging, non-motorized biking, etc.) and educational, such as environmental field trips. In addition, several areas of the Demere Tract will be strictly preserved, so as to prohibit any human activities. These areas include the 13 acres of Brackish Tidal Marsh and Forested Depressional Wetlands found within the property.

Members of the TAC then discussed the details of the Demere Tract Management Plan. In particular, they recommended making several additions to the plan, including the allowance of motorized wheelchairs within the site. TAC members also suggested adding that primitive camping is only to be allowed by organized groups with permits and that educational groups must register with MPC staff before using the Demere Tract.

**Mr. Dugas made a motion that the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee approve the Demere Tract Management Plan, with the recommended additions, to the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission. Mr. White seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.**

#### **V. Update on Technical Subcommittees**

**Ms. Bounds** stated that the Site Evaluation Subcommittee had evaluated one site since the last CCRPC TAC meeting: the Savannah River Island. The Site Management Subcommittee had completed a full draft of the Demere Tract Management Plan and will begin work on the Blue Sky Management Plan. The Chatham County Commission has just approved the creation of a conservation easement on the Blue Sky property. In addition, the Education and Outreach Subcommittee had met recently and discussed ideas for the CCRPC website.

#### **VI. Committee Member Items**

**Ms. Reynolds** stated that she will be stepping down from the TAC and that Chris Emmer, an Environmental Planner with the Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia, will be taking her place on the TAC.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Bounds  
Resource Protection Planner

JHB/sb