

# Oconee River Greenway Authority

## MINUTES

30 January 2007

**Members Present:** Peter Boylan – Chairman  
Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Lee Moon, Marion Nelson, Guy Thompson

**Others Present:** Jan Nichols – ORGA Director  
Ed Moore – GMC  
Glynn Phillips - GMC  
Chris McKearney - BB  
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

**Not Present:** Dennis Holder, Greg Strenkowski, Bubba Williams

**Location:** Conference room in Cone-Sibley Library at GMC.

**I. Call to Order** – At approximately 1:45 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 30 January 2007 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order and welcomed all who were present.

**II. Approval of Minutes for 9 January 2007** – After adding Mr. Edwards' name to the list of members present, Mr. Bentley made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the 9 January 2007 ORGA Minutes. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.

**III. Treasurer's Report** – Director Nichols asked members to review the printed financial statement, ending 31 December 2006, which reflects a Checking Balance of \$57,802.17 and a Money Market Balance of \$420.98. Mr. Edwards made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Mr. Thompson and unanimously approved.

#### **IV. Old Business**

**A. Approval of Resolution to receive funds from ORGF** – Mr. Edwards made a motion to approve the following resolution:

*That the Oconee River Greenway Authority hereby approves forevermore the receipt of all funds from the Oconee River Greenway Foundation, Inc. to the Oconee River Greenway Authority, for purposes of design, planning, construction and/or general operations.*

The motion to approve was seconded by Mr. Bentley and unanimously approved.

#### **B. Georgia Power Company Update**

**1. Property Acquisition** - Chairman Boylan reported that the GP property is in the process of being conveyed to ORGA and will be completed once the Concept Report for Phase II is approved by GDOT. Chairman Boylan is scheduled to meet with George Brewer of the GDOT tomorrow (31 January 2007) to review and finalize the Concept Report.

**2. Phase I Electrical** – The city of Milledgeville will do the required trenching and laying of pipe for electrical wiring. GP will assume

responsibility for the wiring and ORGA will need to contribute \$22,900 for light poles to be installed by GP.

**C. Phase I Contract Update** – Chairman Boylan asked board members to review the contract with Southern Wilderness, Inc. at a cost of \$786,300 for Phase I of the Greenway. Mr. Bentley made a motion to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and unanimously approved.

**D. Phase II Concept Report Update - Phase II Breedlove Planners Update** – As noted above in Section IV.B.1., Chairman Boylan will meet with George Brewer of GDOT to review the Phase II Concept Report. He anticipates completing the Concept Report so that Breedlove Planners may proceed with the Phase II Design.

**E. Phase I & II Survey Request** – Director Nichols asked members to review Breedlove Planners’ request for a *Boundary and Ground Run Topographic Survey*. After reviewing the request, there was discussion regarding the necessity of a full-scale survey. Director Nichols noted that the existing full-scale survey is approximately ten years old. It was also noted that a more recent survey for the Battle property was completed by the Oconee River Land Trust; however, this survey is not as extensive as the one requested by Breedlove. No cost estimates for a survey have been solicited at this point. Ed Moore suggested that the scope of the survey be narrowed as there are existing aerial surveys. Mr. Moore volunteered to talk with Dan Hammock of Wilderness, Inc. and with representatives from Breedlove Planners to ascertain more specifics. He will coordinate with Director Nichols re: communication with Breedlove (Phase II) and with Mr. Hammock (Phase I). Director Nichols was asked to obtain a cost estimate for the requested survey.

**F. Power Point for Legislators** – Board members reviewed a draft Power Point presentation that Chairman Boylan anticipates using when meeting with Representative Bobby Parham and Senator Johnny Grant on Friday, February 2, 2007 at 4:00 PM (Chairman Boylan’s office). The Power Point presentation identifies ORGA’s mission and outlines a proposed project totaling \$85,000. The project includes: \$60,000 for 2 pedestrian bridges; \$6,000 for a fishing deck; \$2,500 for railings; \$3,750 learning/grading; \$4,000 for a soft surface trail; \$1000 for erosion control; and \$7,750, for construction documents.

The purpose of the meeting with the legislative members is to solicit support for state funding of the project described above. Mr. Parham has indicated that \$50,000 would most likely be the maximum amount of available funding, and he will bring the paperwork necessary for filing such a request to the meeting.

Chairman Boylan urged all board members to attend this meeting and he asked Director Nichols to contact William Thompson to request that members of the Foundation also attend. ORGA can contribute \$35,000 toward the project and with state funding of \$50,000 the project could be fully realized.

**G. Review FY08 Budget – Strategy for Operational Funding** – Director Nichols shared an FY08 Budget draft for the board to review. After reviewing the draft it was noted that a monthly fee (\$440+) for electricity, cost of inflation, and water fees were not included. Chairman Boylan asked Director Nichols to confer with Mr.

Strenkowski to include these costs before requesting final board approval for submission to the city/county.

**H. Approve Appraisal for Land Conservation Grant Requirements** – Director Nichols reported that the application deadline for a *Land Conservation Grant* to purchase a 60 acre tract from Murali Thirumal for approximately \$270,000 is March, 2007. The final requirement for this application is an appraisal of the land for which the grant application is being requested. The acquisition of this property would connect the 100 acre DNR tract with Central State Hospital property along the river. The grant application for \$225,000 requires matching funds which would come from SPLOST. Chairman Boylan cautioned the board that existing resources are limited, and stated that he is hesitant to commit funds for additional property acquisition at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of an appraisal, the need for a contract with property owner(s), a contract in which Mr. Thirumal not only agrees to sell the 60 acres for the Greenway, but also allows a conservation easement on additional river property that he does not plan to sell. Mr. Edwards volunteered to negotiate the cost of the property and the easement agreement with Mr. Thirumal. Those present approved Mr. Edwards' proposal to negotiate. Director Nichols was asked to obtain a cost estimate for an appraisal.

**I. Update Ground-breaking Ceremony** – Chairman Boylan announced that the tentative date for the Greenway Ground-Breaking Ceremony is April 11, 2007. He also reported that the Foundation (ORGF) has agreed to assist with this, and that he will schedule a committee meeting to include Foundation members.

**J. Oconee River Greenway Foundation Update** – No report.

**V. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Cone-Sibley Library at GMC.**

**VI. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Sherrill Jones, Recorder**