

Staff Report

Subject: Ratification of Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) Grant Application for the Treutlen Regional Trail Project

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Department: Procurement / Engineering

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

Item Description: Consideration to ratify the submission of a Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) grant application and supporting resolutions for the Treutlen Regional Trail Project.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board ratify the submission of the GOSP grant application, the accompanying maintenance plan, and the County's funding match commitment for the Treutlen Regional Trail Project.

Executive Summary/Background:

Effingham County submitted a pre-application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for \$3,000,000 in GOSP grant funding to support the development of the Treutlen Regional Trail—a 10.8-mile expansion of the Georgia Hi-Lo Trail network, featuring three trailheads, including Atlas Park.

To meet the pre-application deadline, County staff submitted the following with Board leadership authorization:

- GOSP grant application for \$3,000,000
- Letter of support signed by the Chairman
- Resolution of support for the project and grant submission
- Resolution adopting a long-term Maintenance, Management, and Safety Plan

The County also committed to a 50% match using \$1,600,000 in TSPLOST funds, bringing the total proposed project budget to \$4,600,000.

Ratifying this action formalizes the County's support for the GOSP application and confirms its commitment to future maintenance and financial participation if the grant is awarded.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Ratify the GOSP grant application submission and supporting resolutions.
2. Do not ratify and withdraw the County's application.
3. Provide staff with further direction.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2, 3

Department Review: Procurement and Engineering

Funding Source: N/A

Attachments: GOSP Grant Documents