

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION THAT ALLOWS FOR RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE LYON FARM PROPERTY PHASE II

WHEREAS, DeKalb County, Department of Watershed Management is authorized by DeKalb County Code, Chapter 25 to provide water, sewers and sewage disposal within the County; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County, Department of Watershed Management purchased the Lyon Farm property in 2006 as buffer property for the Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Disposal Sprayfields; and

WHEREAS, the Lyon Farm property contains a historic farmhouse and smokehouse that are believed to comprise the oldest homestead in DeKalb County settled pursuant to a Revolutionary War land grant to the Lyon family; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Watershed Management verbally agreed to maintain the historic structures with the family to purchase the property and due to lack of maintenance the property was placed on the Georgia Trust's Places in Peril list; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Watershed Management does not have expertise in historic preservation and believes it to be in the best interest of the County to allow the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance to manage and coordinate restoration of the structural integrity of the property; and

WHEREAS, the attached documentation presents the condition of the structures and the work required to restore the structural integrity of the buildings and preserve them for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission District 5 has designated an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the District 5 Reserve General Fund Reserve for Appropriation for the restoration of the Lyon Farm Smokehouse and Department of Watershed Management has allocated \$160,000 from the Department's Operating Fund; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Department of Watershed Management will establish a project entitled, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Phase II, with a not to exceed budget of \$260,000 and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.

SUBJECT: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area & Recreational Tourism Development – Lyon Farm Restoration Phase II

PURPOSE:

To create a repair and maintenance project for the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Phase II Project not to exceed \$260,000 funded through Commission District 5 Reserve General Fund Reserve for Appropriation (POETA 105443-86101-521200-01.0-602321) and the Department of Watershed Management (DWM) Operating Fund (511-08032-522201) and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.

NEED/IMPACT:

The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area is a 2500+ acre preserve that includes Arabia Mountain, one of the oldest granite outcroppings in the State (older than Stone Mountain), wetlands, pine and oak forests, multiple streams, two lakes, bike paths, hiking/walking trails (paved and natural) and a nature center. The Lyon Farm Homestead is located within the National Heritage Area in southeast DeKalb County. This homestead, under consideration to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is considered the oldest homestead in DeKalb County and as such is a unique County asset of historical value that needs restoration and preservation. In 2006, DWM purchased the property as part of the Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. As part of the purchase, DWM agreed to maintain the structural integrity of the historic house and historic outbuildings. In 2017, due to the lack of maintenance, the buildings were placed on the Georgia Trust's Places in Peril List. DWM, working with the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, developed a plan to restore the structural integrity of the house and smokehouse to protect these cultural treasures for generations to come. In 2019, DWM completed the Phase I stabilization project consisted of repairing the original stone foundation replacing degraded framing, siding, porch flooring, roof, and chimneys as needed for the farmhouse to bring the building to a reusable, safe and structurally sound condition.

The proposed Phase II restoration consists of stabilizing the historic structures. At this time there is no intended use for the structures and therefore, the intent of the repairs is to fix the structural failures, but not bring the buildings up to current building code.

This action will allow the CEO or his designee to set-up the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Phase II Project of up to \$260,000. Funds for this project will come from the Commission District 5 Reserve General Fund Reserve for Appropriation (POETA 105443-86101-521200-01.0-602321) and DWM Operating Funds repair and maintenance account 511-08032-522201.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

To continue a repair and maintenance project of Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Phase II Project funded through Commission District 5 Reserve General Fund Reserve for Appropriation (POETA 105443-86101-521200-01.0-602321) and DWM Operating Fund (511-08032-522201) with a not to exceed budget of \$260,000 and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.

