

Ms. Naji stated that eligible applicants include non-governmental organizations involved in the acquisition and management of interests in land for historic purposes and state agencies. She further stated all project activities are limited to fee-simple acquisition or the acquisition of a permanent preservation easement. She added that qualified properties are historic battlefields within the State of Georgia as identified by the National Park Service.

Ms. Naji stated the Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund consists of annual appropriations by the General Assembly; public or private grants, gifts, donations, or contributions; or money from other sources, including local, state or federal program funds dedicated to the fund for battlefield preservation.

Ms. Naji stated the funding cycle will be open year-round and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. She further stated the grant limit would be up to fifty percent of the appraised value of the land or protective interest.

Ms. Naji explained the review and evaluation process for grant applications and the program requirements and oversight.

Commissioner Rabon requested favorable consideration.

Ms. Naji answered questions from the Board concerning grant administration and the percentage of privately owned battlefields in Georgia.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed Rule 391-5-13-.04, Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Program.

Commissioner Rabon stated the 2025 Leadership Academy recently concluded its final session at Unicoi State Park and Lodge, bringing together the participants from across the Department to celebrate their year-long development journey. He thanked Chairwoman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Denney, and Secretary Dellinger for joining the graduation ceremony.

Commissioner Rabon stated the 2026 Career Academy application period closed on November 17, 2025, with a total of 150 applications. He further stated the online interview process would begin over the next few weeks.

Commissioner Rabon requested the Board members attend Keeping Georgia Wild Day at the State Capitol on January 15, 2026. He stated that on the same day, the Parks and Historic Sites Division would host the 2nd Annual Art Contest, which showcases the talent and creativity of young artists from across the state.