By failing to address the highly unpopular commercial and residential development of a segment of the golf course complex as a way to help finance the proposed golf course renovations, the MPU leaves the future of the golf courses unresolved. If golf course renovation is to take place, an option that should be considered by the MPU, and one that is far better than the currentlyproposed character-altering commercial and residential redevelopment within the golf complex, is for the state of Georgia to fund the estimated $18 million cost of golf course modernization, the reasons being:

* **Tradition:** The state has traditionally covered the cost of major capital improvement projects within Jekyll Island State Park, including the initial construction of Jekyll’s golf course complex as well as a new convention center, a rebuilt 4-H Center (“Camp Jekyll”) and restoration of the island’s rock revetment.
* **Precedent:** The previous major renovation of part of the golf course complex – the $3 million modernization of the Pine Lakes course in 2002 – was paid for by the state.
* **Opportunity:** The state currently has maxed out its reserve fund at $4.29 (the statutory cap is 15% of the previous year’s net revenue) and has an additional $2.18 billion in uncommitted federal funds. Just a fraction of 1 percent of these surplus funds would be more than enough to pay for the proposed modernization of the golf course complex.
* **Protection:** State funding of the proposed changes would allow the golf course complex to remain separate from Jekyll’s built environment, retaining the unique natural look and appeal of Jekyll’s renowned golf courses.