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MINUTES OF THE  
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING  
HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART  
Huntsville, Alabama  
June 25, 2015

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Proceedings taken before Tracye  
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR  
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama  
at Large, at the Huntsville Museum of Art, 300  
Church Street, Huntsville, Alabama, on Thursday,  
June 25, 2015, commencing at approximately  
10:08 a.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

1 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- 2 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr. Commissioner
- 3 Dr. Gary Hepp
- 4 Dr. Patricia G. Sims
- 5 Dr. Warren Strickland
- 6 Mr. Leo Allen
- 7 Mr. Charles E. Ball
- 8 Mr. Russell A. Runyan
- 9 Mr. Horace H.Horn, Jr.
- 10 Dr. Michael Woods

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COMMISSIONER GUY: If I could have everyone's attention, I'd like to call our meeting of the Forever Wild Board for June 25, 2015, to order. Welcome, everybody, to the city of Huntsville. It's great to be here, and we look forward to a good meeting.

At this time it's necessary to call the roll of our board members to assure ourselves that we have a quorum. So if

1           you would answer when I call your name  
2           if you're present, I would appreciate  
3           it.

4                     Dr. Warren Strickland?

5       DR. STRICKLAND: Present.

6       COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Patricia Sims?

7       DR. SIMS: Present.

8       COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball?

9       MR. BALL: Present.

10      COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

11      DR. HEPP: Present.

12      COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

13      DR. WOODS: Present.

14      COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

15      MR. ALLEN: Here.

16      COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Runyan?

17      MR. RUNYON: Here.

18      COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Horn?

19      MR. HORN: Here.

20      COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ellis?

21                     (No response.)

22      COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Porter?

23                     (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Pate?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Including myself, we have  
10 nine members, so we do have enough for a  
11 quorum and we can proceed with business  
12 today. So thanks to everybody who is in  
13 attendance today. And I know that  
14 others who did not make it had told us  
15 that they were having some problems with  
16 schedules and that kind of thing, and we  
17 appreciate them letting us know.

18 All right. So at this time we'll  
19 proceed with a few items of business.

20 The first thing I would like to do  
21 is -- at the last meeting we introduced  
22 a couple of our new board members,  
23 Mr. Runyan on my left and Mr. Ball to my

1 right. And this is their second  
2 meeting. But we did not have the  
3 pleasure of having our other newest  
4 board member with us last time, but he  
5 is here today. And that is Mr. Horace  
6 Horn.

7 MR. HORN: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Horace, glad to have you  
9 with us. Glad to have you on the board.  
10 I know you'll be a valuable asset to us  
11 and appreciate you coming up here today.  
12 I know you had some scheduling  
13 conflicts, so we appreciate that very  
14 much.

15 MR. HORN: Thank you. Glad to be here.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: So with that, I would also  
17 like to recognize -- ask the board if  
18 they want to recognize any special  
19 guests or if they have any special  
20 messages they want to discuss at this  
21 time.

22 Dr. Strickland.

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, in behalf of

1           the Forever Wild Board of Directors, I  
2           would like to extend my sincere  
3           appreciation to Sarah Gessler and Lil  
4           Parton. They both are responsible for  
5           allowing us to enjoy this beautiful  
6           venue. The Huntsville Museum of Art is  
7           something we're very proud of, and, you  
8           know, it's a special place. And we  
9           certainly appreciate them giving us the  
10          opportunity to be here.

11        COMMISSIONER GUY: I'd like to give them a  
12          round of applause.

13                Any other messages or recognition of  
14          guests?

15                        (No response.)

16        COMMISSIONER GUY: I would also like to thank  
17          Dr. Strickland and Dr. Sims for actually  
18          putting this meeting together up here  
19          for us. I always enjoy -- we always  
20          enjoy an opportunity to come to  
21          Huntsville. And I really appreciate all  
22          the work y'all put into putting this  
23          together and being great hosts. So

1           thank you very much.

2           DR. STRICKLAND: It's our pleasure.

3           COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

4                   All right. With that, I would like  
5           to at this time ask -- as I call your  
6           name for those who wish to speak to the  
7           board, I will ask you to come up to the  
8           microphone, and we'll hear from the  
9           public. I'll do my best to get your  
10          names right. If I don't, I apologize in  
11          advance.

12                   And, secondly, I want to remind  
13          everybody, as I do, that we have a court  
14          reporter here. And her job is to take  
15          down what we say so we can post those  
16          minutes as required by law. Try to  
17          speak as slowly as you can so she can  
18          take that down. And we need to try not  
19          to talk over each other so that she can  
20          also get what we are saying.

21                   So the court reporter is right here.  
22          If she gives me one of those nasty  
23          looks, then I might stop you. So Tracye

1           and I have known each other for a long  
2           time, and I know what those looks are.  
3           So bear with me if I ask you to slow  
4           down or repeat what you said, just  
5           because she has done that to me.

6                     Okay. So with that, Shane Ellison.

7           MR. ELLISON: Good morning.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

9           MR. ELLISON: Good to see you all again. I'm  
10           bringing you this project for the second  
11           time, thankfully. This is a City of  
12           Gadsden project that's approximately 80  
13           acres on Hinds Road adjacent to the city  
14           park, Noccalula Falls Park, which is one  
15           of the state's top tourist attractions.  
16           I'm sure most of you have heard about it  
17           before.

18                     I'll point out again -- hopefully  
19           you can see from there. This is the two  
20           tracts, the two 40s here, which is  
21           virtually adjacent to the park. And  
22           the -- for lack of a better word, the  
23           squiggly lines you see are mountain-bike



1 trails, which are intentionally squiggly  
2 because that's the way that they're laid  
3 out.

4 But we have almost four miles of  
5 mountain-bike trails. We have two miles  
6 of ADA compliant handicap-accessible  
7 walking trails there at the park. And  
8 they actually connect with this property  
9 via a small two-lane road, especially a  
10 gravel road, that is in itself an  
11 attraction for walkers and for  
12 mountain-bikers. And so there is no  
13 problem with connecting the two  
14 properties. Actually, our goal is to  
15 acquire -- the city to acquire  
16 everything in between so that it could  
17 be basically one large parcel, one large  
18 tract.

19 And so there's a lot of -- a lot of  
20 things going on, a lot of synergy there  
21 at the park right now. We've even been  
22 able to take advantage of what was  
23 previously a landfill and have an event

1           that hosted about -- called the  
2           "Barbarian Challenge" that hosted about  
3           750 individuals this weekend on an old  
4           landfill. So we've been very successful  
5           in reusing nearby properties.

6           So my understanding is that the  
7           first appraisal has been completed.  
8           Maybe the process has gone further than  
9           that. But just to remind you the  
10          importance of this project to, I think,  
11          the city and the state and just ask you  
12          to continue to support this project. Of  
13          course, if you have any questions, I'd  
14          be glad to answer them.

15         COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for  
16           Mr. Ellison?

17           And I think we have another speaker,  
18           I believe, on this.

19         MR. ELLISON: Michelle Reynolds, I believe,  
20           will be speaking about the terrain and  
21           the wildlife or the plant center located  
22           on the property.

23         COMMISSIONER GUY: Why don't we just hear from

1 Ms. Reynolds, and then there may be  
2 questions for either one of you maybe.

3 MR. ELLISON: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

5 MS. REYNOLDS: Hi. First thing, I want to  
6 thank you for all that you do to protect  
7 Alabama's rich biodiversity and to  
8 provide -- procuring land to provide  
9 educational opportunities -- I mean,  
10 opportunities for all Alabamians to  
11 enjoy.

12 I hike and I kayak and ride my bike  
13 and botanize and bird-watch on a lot of  
14 the properties, so I thank you.  
15 And in my inspiration, I write stories  
16 and try to weave Alabama's ecology into  
17 my stories, and so I appreciate that.

18 I'm here on behalf of the Alabama  
19 Plant Conservation Alliance. It's an  
20 alliance of colleges and botanists and  
21 scientists and citizens -- concerned  
22 citizens and native plant enthusiasts  
23 like myself. And we help protect wild

1 native plant populations like the  
2 Boynton's Oak. And the Boynton's Oak is  
3 a population of oak trees, the rarest  
4 oak tree in Alabama. Out of 40 species  
5 of oaks in Alabama, the Boynton's Oak is  
6 the only species that grows only in  
7 Alabama. And there's a good population  
8 of the Boynton's Oak on the Hinds Road  
9 Rock Outcrop. The location was the type  
10 locality.

11 The first specimen was taken in 1901  
12 where the plant was described as an  
13 unusual oak plant. This tree is smaller  
14 than others, and it grows on the thin  
15 soils of the sandstone glades. And the  
16 glades where the bedrock is at or near  
17 the surface is a harsh environment, cold  
18 and wet in the winter, hot and dry in  
19 the summer.

20 And all along Lookout Mountain, from  
21 DeSoto State Park to Little River  
22 Canyon, all the way down to the  
23 Noccalula Falls Park and Hinds Road Rock

1           Outcrop, are open sunny patches and --  
2           open sunny patches in a sea of trees.  
3           And so in these glades are rare plant  
4           communities. There are succulents like  
5           elf-orphine and Fameflower and prickly  
6           pear that grows on the rock outcrops and  
7           orchids, like fringed orchids and  
8           ladies' tresses and bell bignonia and a  
9           lot of other rarities and oddities that  
10          grow on the rock outcrop. And there are  
11          a lot of people that go and seek out  
12          these plants.

13                 It would be super awesome if  
14          there -- if the City of Gadsden could  
15          connect their acreage of Noccalula Falls  
16          Park to the 80-acre tract of Hinds Road  
17          Rock Outcrop and keep on developing  
18          their trails through that connectivity  
19          up to the 80 acres and -- so people can  
20          walk and ride their bikes to go see  
21          these rare occurrences in beautiful  
22          Alabama. It's something to celebrate.

23                 And Gadsden already sees this great

1 impact. It enjoys the benefits of the  
2 economic impact that the natural  
3 surroundings -- with Lookout Mountain  
4 and Coosa River and Noccalula Falls. So  
5 I hope that you will support Alabama  
6 Plant Conservation Alliance and the  
7 Boynton's Oak committee of that  
8 alliance. And I ask for your support  
9 and further action to acquire this  
10 property. Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

12 Does anybody have any questions  
13 about that particular -- about anything  
14 Ms. Reynolds asked or from Mr. Ellison?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank y'all  
17 very much.

18 Brian Rushing. Brian.

19 MR. RUSHING: Thank you, Commissioner. Good  
20 morning. My name is Brian Rushing. I  
21 work with the University of Alabama  
22 Center for Economic Development. And we  
23 work in support of initiatives of the

1 Alabama Trails Commission among which is  
2 the Wiregrass Rail Trail, which is a  
3 corridor currently owned by CSX that  
4 would connect Andalusia to Geneva,  
5 43-and-a-half miles.

6 And I just wanted to give an update  
7 on this project. This is one project  
8 that has been on your short list for  
9 some time. But we are putting the  
10 pieces together really to be in a  
11 position to be able to ask you to move  
12 forward with appraisal on that corridor.

13 We're currently securing operations  
14 and management commitments from all of  
15 the counties and municipalities along  
16 the corridor, and we're almost done with  
17 that. And we're in the process of also  
18 answering a few questions regarding the  
19 railbanking process for State Lands  
20 staff. So we anticipate by the  
21 September meeting -- by your meeting in  
22 September we will have all of this  
23 squared away and will be able to come to

1           you for a respectful request to move  
2           forward with a first appraisal on the  
3           corridor.

4           This is really an exciting project  
5           to be involved with. We think it's  
6           going to be transformative for the  
7           Wiregrass region of Alabama. And so we  
8           thank you for your consideration of the  
9           project. And we will be back in  
10          September with probably a large  
11          contingent of supporters in south  
12          Alabama when you're down there, so ...

13         COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions of  
14          Mr. Rushing?

15                                 (No response.)

16         COMMISSIONER GUY: Brian, I have a question.

17           I know that, you know, we've talked  
18           about this before, and I really  
19           appreciate you working with the Lands  
20           Division staff to help clarify some of  
21           the issues that we've had, you know,  
22           everything from legal issues to  
23           maintenance issues and things like that.



1           And so I very much appreciate that  
2           because we -- I think the better  
3           informed we can be, that certainly will  
4           help us in our decision-making.

5           And, you know, as just one board  
6           member, if there is a way that you could  
7           put together maybe a package on that at  
8           some point -- not to try to make it too  
9           much -- but it could -- it could be  
10          beneficial to the board members to  
11          understand what the whole -- you know,  
12          we hear pieces and parts, but we haven't  
13          really heard about the whole.

14          And, then, I also have a separate  
15          question that I would like for you to  
16          work with the staff on and, that is, I  
17          know there are some other trails of this  
18          kind, you know, in the state and how  
19          those have worked compared to this one  
20          so that we can compare apples to apples  
21          or apples to oranges and understand what  
22          we're doing there.

23          So, anyway, I know you've been

1           working with the staff, and I appreciate  
2           that very much. But I know that -- I  
3           think it would be -- I believe it would  
4           be beneficial to the board to maybe see  
5           something in writing or maybe just a  
6           paper on it of some kind.

7           MR. RUSHING: Sure. Sure.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't want to make you go  
9           to a lot of work, but -- at least I'm  
10          speaking -- you know, I know it would be  
11          helpful to me because there's some  
12          issues -- bridges out -- you know, are  
13          there any bridges or, you know, trestles  
14          that are not there anymore, how do we  
15          address those kind of things,  
16          maintenance issues and private-property  
17          issues. You know, I just don't know  
18          enough about what has happened in other  
19          places and how that's worked and how  
20          this might happen. I think it would  
21          be --

22          MR. RUSHING: And we will have that packet to  
23          you well in advance of the September

1 meeting.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, sir.

3 Does anybody else have any  
4 questions?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RUSHING: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Jerry Bynum.

8 MR. BYNUM: Good morning. I'm the president  
9 of the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail  
10 Association, CRATA. We're a 501(c)(3)  
11 in east-central Alabama, primarily Lake  
12 Martin.

13 Our board members are with us today.  
14 Outstanding individuals. Most are  
15 retired, all with the common denominator  
16 of the love of the outdoors, love of the  
17 land, outdoor recreation, outdoor  
18 education. We're primarily  
19 footpath-only hiking, but we also dabble  
20 in history and forestry and other  
21 subjects that all relate to the Forever  
22 Wild properties.

23 While we're on outstanding people,

1           we have really enjoyed Chris and Doug.  
2           They are not only thorough in what they  
3           do, but they're very professional in  
4           every aspect of what they do. We  
5           appreciate you guys. You do a great  
6           job.

7           COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

8           MR. BYNUM: We have had a relationship with  
9           Alabama Power. We have 17 miles of  
10          trail that we developed and currently  
11          maintain on Lake Martin. We also have  
12          10 acres of property that the power  
13          company donated to us. On top of that  
14          property is Smith Mountain Tower, a  
15          1940s fire tower that we completely  
16          rebuilt. We did a local fund-raiser,  
17          raised about \$80,000 and rebuilt that  
18          tower, and now it's a destination/point  
19          of interest for people. If you have not  
20          been there, would love for you to go and  
21          see it. We're really proud of it, and  
22          people around the lake and around the  
23          area come to see the views of Lake

1           Martin.

2                   We're excited about the possibility  
3                   of the Yates-North property. We've been  
4                   working with Doug and Chris. We've  
5                   walked all through the property. The  
6                   problem we experienced after looking at  
7                   it was the basically what we would  
8                   consider trailhead area and also a  
9                   connector to Lake Martin. The property  
10                  in question not only is on Lake Yates,  
11                  but it connects across to Martin to  
12                  natural, undeveloped property.

13                  You know, they just completed the  
14                  Martin relicensing, and when that goes  
15                  through, technically that connector will  
16                  put organizations like us -- give us an  
17                  opportunity to connect both of the  
18                  trails. And we're real excited about  
19                  that.

20                  Their properties there are regulated  
21                  by the Federal Energy Regulatory  
22                  Commission. So they're basically going  
23                  to be that way, technically, for 40

1           years through the relicensing. And it's  
2           not quite Forever Wild. We wish it were  
3           Forever Wild. We love Forever Wild.  
4           It's just a great thing.

5           The property, 370 or so acres, I'm  
6           not going to say has old-growth longleaf  
7           pine, but it has some very old longleaf  
8           pines just as Smith Mountain does. We  
9           cored those at 243 years. You know,  
10          it's a high hilly area. That's pretty  
11          much what this power company property  
12          is. It's been there. It also has a  
13          history that we enjoy. The two railroad  
14          tracks that came in to build Lake Martin  
15          go right through this property in  
16          question.

17          So what we would like to do is to  
18          turn an area -- that area is similar to  
19          Smith Mountain. At one point it was an  
20          access for people to get in onto the  
21          shoreline with vehicles, and basically  
22          shoreline management with the power  
23          company had a big problem with that.

1           They were tearing up shoreline, and  
2           then, also, it was a big dump area.

3           So when we came in, we kind of moved  
4           the bad folks out and hopefully  
5           encouraged the people who are hikers and  
6           outdoor enthusiasts to use the property.  
7           And that's exactly what's happened. And  
8           it has done -- it's been tremendous  
9           beyond our dreams with the number of  
10          people and the locations they come from  
11          to utilize that property.

12          Here it's the same thing. Right now  
13          if you drive down below Martin Dam, you  
14          drive down in that area, there's a lot  
15          of trash. It's right next to your  
16          property. What we would like to do is  
17          add this property, clean it up. We have  
18          support committed already from Lake  
19          Martin Resource Association, CRATA, from  
20          other entities in addition to us.

21          So we're excited about cleaning up  
22          and adding a new trailhead, adding some  
23          historical information for people to

1           enjoy, and basically create a win, win,  
2           win. So that's what we're here for.

3           And thank you for your consideration.

4           COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

5           MR. BYNUM: Richard Beyer is with me, county  
6           engineer for Elmore County.

7           COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. We'll get him up.

8                     Remind me. How many acres is this?

9           MR. BYNUM: I think it's 370, isn't it?

10          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Approximately 370.

11          COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you.

12                     Any other questions of Mr. Bynum?

13                     (No response.)

14          COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So if Mr. Beyer  
15          can -- Mr. Beyer.

16          MR. BEYER: Good morning.

17          COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

18          MR. BEYER: My name is Richie Beyer. I'm the  
19          county engineer for Elmore County and on  
20          behalf of the Elmore County Commission  
21          am here to speak in support of CRATA's  
22          request.

23                     We have been working with Chris as



1 well and Doug on some different issues  
2 with the remaining property that you  
3 have in addition to what is being asked  
4 to be added. But we're the ones who get  
5 to maintain the county road that bisects  
6 your 5,000-plus acres you already have  
7 in your inventory.

8 And as you heard Jerry saying, that  
9 the -- there's areas of that road that  
10 are very beautiful and there's areas  
11 that are abused with dumping. We have a  
12 stretch that runs mainly through your  
13 property that has had to be closed off  
14 because of four-wheel-drives and  
15 destruction. And we are trying to work  
16 a plan out with the Lands Division on a  
17 way to turn all that into something  
18 that's very positive.

19 And the county commission is very  
20 supportive of this. They're supportive  
21 of the additional lands and those  
22 opportunities for additional -- not only  
23 trailhead, but additional boat launch on

1 the Yates Lake. And I would just ask  
2 that y'all support that and know that  
3 the county commission is very supportive  
4 of working together with the Lands  
5 Division and CRATA to be able to make  
6 this a very positive thing for Elmore  
7 County.

8 We had a recreational plan that --  
9 study that was done and wrapped up  
10 about -- I guess it was about 12 months  
11 ago. And this was one of the two top  
12 areas of the county that were being  
13 looked at to facilitate additional  
14 recreational trails and recreational  
15 opportunities in our county. We're very  
16 fortunate. We've got the lakes and  
17 rivers and some very beautiful terrain  
18 in our county. And the commission is  
19 doing what they can to try to promote  
20 those areas as much as possible and this  
21 being one of the centerpieces in the  
22 county. So thank you for your time.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Beyer.

3 And I am told that Mr. Beyer was  
4 recognized as the 2014 National Rural  
5 County Engineer of the Year. So  
6 congratulations on that.

7 Charles Yeager. Charles.

8 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

10 MR. YEAGER: My name is Charles Yeager, and I  
11 have the honor of managing Forever  
12 Wild's Turkey Creek Nature Preserve in  
13 Pinson, Alabama. As the manager, I  
14 provide day-to-day maintenance,  
15 security, and direct the environmental  
16 educational programs for school groups  
17 and the public.

18 Since our last update to the board,  
19 our program has continued to improve the  
20 experience provided to our visitors by  
21 providing parking and changing stalls,  
22 handrails, as well as continued work on  
23 a 3.2-mile multiuse trail addition that

1 we expect -- or hope to begin  
2 construction on by the end of the year.

3 The impact of these efforts can be  
4 seen through the steady increase in  
5 visitor traffic each year. In the last  
6 12 months over 93,000 visitors have  
7 passed through our gates.

8 Our programming has also grown in  
9 popularity over the last year. In just  
10 the 2015 calendar year we have hosted 56  
11 school groups totaling almost 3,000  
12 student participants. Our public  
13 programs have reached over 5,000. And  
14 we have also hosted 262 participants in  
15 service projects to improve the preserve  
16 and decrease maintenance costs.

17 As we move forward with the second  
18 half of the calendar year, we have an  
19 exciting mix of new education and public  
20 programming. Coming up next month we  
21 will host our 6th annual summer festival  
22 called "Float your Boat" which annually  
23 draws over 1200 visitors. And later in

1 the year we have a free invasive species  
2 workshop planned as well as an  
3 orienteering workshop.

4 The success of the Turkey Creek  
5 Nature Preserve has been possible due to  
6 a string of amazing partners such as  
7 State Lands, the Freshwater Land Trust,  
8 the City of Pinson, and  
9 Birmingham-Southern College. This year  
10 we have been able to add a new partner  
11 to the list. The recently incorporated  
12 Friends of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve  
13 has taken on the challenge as a  
14 community-developed and led organization  
15 to provide volunteer and fund-raising  
16 support for our operation all in an  
17 effort to help develop a long-term  
18 mechanism for sustainable -- for a  
19 sustainable operation.

20 Thank you for giving me this time to  
21 provide this update. I hope that if you  
22 have not already visited the Turkey  
23 Creek Nature Preserve you will take the

1           time to stop by sometime soon. I would  
2           be honored to share its wonders with you  
3           and some of the potential it holds.

4           Thank you.

5           COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

6           (No response.)

7           COMMISSIONER GUY: Charles, I always want to  
8           thank you because you do such a good job  
9           of not only giving us updates on Turkey  
10          Creek, but, also, I know you put a lot  
11          of effort into it. So I commend you for  
12          that.

13          Did you say that 93,000 visitors  
14          have passed through your gates?

15          MR. YEAGER: Yes, sir.

16          COMMISSIONER GUY: Pretty impressive.

17          MR. YEAGER: Thank you, sir. Thank you very  
18          much.

19          COMMISSIONER GUY: Marie Bostick.

20          MS. BOSTICK: Good morning. I'm Marie  
21          Bostick. I'm the executive director of  
22          the Land Trust of North Alabama. And  
23          welcome to Huntsville. We're very, very

1           pleased to have you with us in this part  
2           of the state this month. Hopefully,  
3           despite the heat, you'll be able to get  
4           out and see some of our beautiful lands  
5           before you have to head back.

6           The Land Trust does have a property  
7           that we would like for you to consider  
8           that we have nominated. It's my  
9           understanding it is on our agenda later  
10          on the short list for potential  
11          first-appraisal action, so we would  
12          appreciate your consideration of that.

13          To tell you just a little about the  
14          property, it is adjacent to Monte Sano  
15          State Park. It is actually in two  
16          tracts. The largest tract is 130 acres.  
17          It's located on the eastern side of the  
18          state park. The property is generally a  
19          sloping land. It has rocky slopes of  
20          limestone. It's very shallow soils,  
21          predominantly an upland hardwood forest  
22          and vegetative cover, mostly oaks and  
23          hickory, a little scattering of maple,

1           sassafras, persimmon, and our Eastern  
2           Red Cedar, so pretty typical forested  
3           land for Madison County.

4           It also has two named caves on the  
5           property, O'Shaughnessy Pit and Doug  
6           Hill Pit, and two very popular trails  
7           that go across the property. One of  
8           them is called Flat Rock Trail, which is  
9           a very popular mountain-biking trail,  
10          and the other one is Warpath Ridge Trail  
11          which originates in Monte Sano State  
12          Park that was originally built in 1960s  
13          by Boy Scouts. And so this trail is  
14          part of that same historic route that  
15          came out of the state park and went down  
16          across the property that we've  
17          nominated.

18          The other tract, as I mentioned, is  
19          about 4 acres. It's typically the same  
20          type of terrain as the previously  
21          described. It is on the western side of  
22          the state park, again, adjacent to the  
23          state park. So all of the property is



1 adjacent to the state park property.

2 The Land Trust has a great group of  
3 volunteers, and we also have staff that  
4 can help maintain and manage properties.  
5 We've had a great relationship with the  
6 state park over the years with trail  
7 connectivity and trail maintenance. We  
8 would hope to continue that and offer  
9 whatever assistance we could to the  
10 state park if this was included in the  
11 state park properties.

12 We have had over 1300 hours of  
13 volunteer hours just in trail  
14 maintenance and management last year in  
15 the Huntsville area. And I have lots of  
16 good folks here with me today, board  
17 members and volunteers, that have come  
18 to support -- if they could just raise  
19 their hands, that would be great. Lots  
20 of people coming out to help us with  
21 this project.

22 We also have a great relationship  
23 with State Lands. Through the Forever

1 Wild program, about a decade ago we were  
2 fortunate enough -- y'all acquired some  
3 property on the north end of Green  
4 Mountain known as the Certain Tract.  
5 And we manage that property going by the  
6 management plan established by the State  
7 Lands Division and have been really --  
8 they have been great to work with. And  
9 we hope that they feel the same way  
10 about us. But that's been a great  
11 relationship. So we certainly stand  
12 ready to support in any way we can any  
13 management or maintenance activities on  
14 any of those properties.

15 One other thing that I'd just like  
16 to mention that I understand is not  
17 being really considered in deliberation  
18 of this property. But just so you have  
19 kind of the big picture of what we're  
20 trying to do here in regards to the  
21 properties surrounding the state park,  
22 we would hope that this transaction  
23 could occur, and then we are in

1 negotiation with another landowner north  
2 of this property that also abuts the  
3 state park that has two trails that goes  
4 through the property that are, again,  
5 widely used by mountain-bikers and  
6 hikers, Flat Rock -- another portion of  
7 Flat Rock, and also the Keith Trail.  
8 And we're hoping that we'll be able to  
9 leverage funds from this transaction  
10 into the purchase of that property to  
11 create another -- well, another safety  
12 net, if you will, for trails that are  
13 currently being used by the public that  
14 are not really open to the public and,  
15 also, another buffer for the state park  
16 system.

17 So, again, we appreciate your  
18 consideration, and we'll be happy to  
19 answer any questions you might have.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for  
21 Ms. Bostick?

22 DR. STRICKLAND: Could I ask --

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland.

1 DR. STRICKLAND: And so there are two tracts.

2 There's a 130-acre tract --

3 MS. BOSTICK: Yes, sir.

4 DR. STRICKLAND: -- which is on the east side?

5 MS. BOSTICK: Yes, sir.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: And there's a 4-acre tract --

7 MS. BOSTICK: On the west --

8 DR. STRICKLAND: -- on the west side?

9 MS. BOSTICK: -- just below --

10 DR. STRICKLAND: And what's -- what is the

11 terrain of the 4-acre tract? Is it

12 forested as well?

13 MS. BOSTICK: It's forested as well, yes, sir.

14 Same typical species, mostly oaks and

15 hickory. It's a parcel that we

16 acquired. It is not adjacent to any

17 other Land Trust property. Since it is

18 adjacent to the state park, that's why

19 we nominated it.

20 DR. STRICKLAND: And you said there were two

21 caves. Is there any activity in the

22 caves? I mean, are they public-use

23 caves?

1 MS. BOSTICK: They are not open to the public.

2 They are known by the Speleological  
3 Society, and they monitor and maintain  
4 them. And they do go down on occasion  
5 on guided trips.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: And my next question, the  
7 swap, where is that property and how  
8 many acres?

9 MS. BOSTICK: The property is another 130  
10 acres. It is north -- I'm not sure of  
11 the name of the road it comes off of.  
12 It is at the northeast corner of the  
13 state park.

14 DR. STRICKLAND: So it joins the state park?

15 MS. BOSTICK: It does join the state park.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: And it's forested as well?

17 MS. BOSTICK: Yes, sir.

18 DR. STRICKLAND: Are there trails?

19 MS. BOSTICK: Yes, sir.

20 DR. STRICKLAND: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

22 DR. WOODS: What are the names of the  
23 properties, these two?

1 MS. BOSTICK: The property that's been  
2 nominated is the Monte Sano Mountain-Dug  
3 Hill West addition.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: And, Jo or Chris, so I was  
5 a little confused. So is all of that --  
6 are both of those, the 130 and the 4 --  
7 are they in that nomination, that short  
8 list? They're not separated out; right?

9 MR. SMITH: Considered one nomination.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's considered one  
11 nomination. Okay.

12 DR. STRICKLAND: I think it's 134; right?

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so how did they score?

14 MS. LEWIS: They're on the short list.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: They scored --

16 MS. LEWIS: They scored well in three  
17 categories of use.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All three categories --  
19 three of the four?

20 MS. LEWIS: Three of the four.

21 MS. POWELL: Nature preserve, recreation, and  
22 state parks. And it would be  
23 abbreviated MSP on the short list you

1           have in Tab 5a. It says MSP-Dug Hill  
2           addition.

3           COMMISSIONER GUY: But they're all in that one  
4           nomination. So if there were to be --  
5           there's no -- you don't have to separate  
6           that out if you were to consider it?

7           MS. POWELL: No.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

9                         Does anybody else have any more  
10           questions of Ms. Bostick?

11          DR. STRICKLAND: Marie, how long have you been  
12          with the Land Trust?

13          MS. BOSTICK: Just over a year now.

14          DR. STRICKLAND: Over a year. Okay.

15          MS. BOSTICK: Yes, sir.

16          DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

17          COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

18                         Andrew Schock.

19          MR. SCHOCK: Good morning. I'm Andrew Schock.

20                         I'm with The Conservation Fund. And I  
21                         want to speak to you this morning about  
22                         Terrapin Hill. It's a project that is  
23                         on your recreation category short list

1           because it supports the Pinhoti Trail.

2           The Pinhoti Trail is a long-distance  
3           foot trail in Alabama that covers 170  
4           miles to the Georgia border. From there  
5           it travels on to the southern terminus  
6           of the Appalachian Trail. So a person  
7           can start in Coosa County, Alabama, walk  
8           on the Pinhoti Trail, and after about  
9           six months end up at Mount Katahdin,  
10          Maine.

11          In the packet that I handed out, if  
12          you'll look at the second page, you'll  
13          see a couple of photographs. The  
14          photograph on your left was taken about  
15          a mile in from the terminus of the  
16          Pinhoti Trail, the terminus being in  
17          Coosa County near Weogufka.

18          If you look at -- this is Mike  
19          Leonard in the photograph. If you look  
20          to the right of Mike Leonard, you'll  
21          see -- or behind Mike Leonard, you'll  
22          see Weogufka Creek. He's about 200 feet  
23          above the creek on a bluff. To the



1 right of the creek is one of the  
2 properties The Conservation Fund has  
3 that we'd like to offer to Forever Wild.  
4 We call it the Kaul property, K-A-U-L.

5 And then if you look over to the  
6 left and up in the background, you'll  
7 see a slight rise there. That's the  
8 Stewart property. That's also owned by  
9 The Conservation Fund, and we would like  
10 to offer that to Forever Wild.

11 Both of those properties, if not  
12 protected, would destroy the view shed  
13 of -- or could -- the view shed could be  
14 destroyed of this longest trail that  
15 begins in Coosa County, Alabama. So  
16 they're critical to maintaining the  
17 Pinhoti Trail.

18 The Pinhoti Trail has been developed  
19 by volunteers in Alabama, primarily the  
20 Alabama Hiking Trail Society, but the  
21 southern terminus was developed by State  
22 Lands Division in partnership with The  
23 Conservation Fund from a grant that we

1 received from the Kaul Foundation.

2 The other photograph shows the  
3 shelter that State Lands built. It's  
4 approximately two miles in on the trail  
5 past where that bluff is. If you keep  
6 going about two miles, you'll find  
7 this -- this overnight shelter. It's  
8 far enough in that you don't get the --  
9 you know, what I call the six-pack  
10 hikers. But it's there, so it's  
11 accessible.

12 There's a nice picnic table in front  
13 of it now. You can carry a picnic in.  
14 It's also good when you start a  
15 long-distance hike to be able to stop  
16 not terribly far in and be able to kind  
17 or readjust things and maybe, you know,  
18 spend the night. Typically you don't  
19 get started, it seems, until sometime in  
20 the afternoon. So it's nice to have  
21 this spot where you can stop and  
22 reorganize and be able to spend the  
23 night.

1           On the third page, the crosshatched  
2           area on that map shows land that Forever  
3           Wild purchased in 2012 from The  
4           Conservation Fund to actually establish  
5           the southern terminus of the Pinhoti  
6           Trail. You all acquired that property  
7           at a 34-percent discount from its market  
8           value because we were able to bring some  
9           donated dollars to the table that we  
10          were able to, in essence, pass that  
11          value on to you all.

12          The red line shows the approximate  
13          trail location. And it's not accurate,  
14          but it shows generally that it winds its  
15          way through that crosshatched property  
16          on page 3. And there is a black arrow  
17          that points to the right, to the east.  
18          That's the direction of that photograph  
19          showing where the two tracts that The  
20          Conservation Fund owns are located, the  
21          Kaul tract and the Stewart tract. So  
22          you can see the proximity to the lands  
23          that are currently owned by the State of

1 Alabama as well as where the trail is.

2 And then the horseshoe -- blue-line  
3 horseshoe creek that runs through the  
4 middle that touches these tracts, that's  
5 Weogufka Creek. Weogufka Creek, while  
6 scenic, also is important in its own  
7 right because there are several  
8 important species, some shiners and  
9 things, that live in that creek. So it  
10 needs some -- to insure the watershed  
11 protection itself.

12 On page 4 there is another map.  
13 That map zooms a little bit from a  
14 higher altitude and shows you the third  
15 tract The Conservation Fund is bringing  
16 before you today, and that is the RMS  
17 property. Its design is primarily  
18 for -- the design of that -- the  
19 configuration of that, you see, is  
20 relatively long and skinny. It's  
21 primarily for getting the Pinhoti Trail  
22 off the highway so you're not walking  
23 along an automobile path. You're

1 walking in the woods. And that trail  
2 would -- it would remove about eight  
3 miles of trail off the road and put it  
4 in the woods, and this is -- as we are  
5 working to get this trail into the  
6 Talladega National Forest.

7 The trail exists on the ground.  
8 It's marked. You can walk the trail, as  
9 I said, from Coosa County, Alabama, to  
10 Mount Katahdin, Maine, but there are  
11 sections that are on the road. And we  
12 are endeavoring in this case to get it  
13 off the road into the woods where it  
14 should be. Certainly much better from a  
15 hiking standpoint. It's also much  
16 safer. So we will be coming back,  
17 frankly, with other tracts in the future  
18 that will help get it off the roads as  
19 it winds its way into the national  
20 forest at Rebecca Mountain near Hollins.

21 The last page in the packet shows a  
22 summary of what The Conservation Fund is  
23 able to offer to Forever Wild. All

1           these tracts are coming together in one  
2           package. It's three separate tracts,  
3           but it's all coming together in one  
4           package.

5           And, again, because of generosity of  
6           individual donors, in this case we're  
7           able to offer these lands to you at a  
8           54-percent discount over what The  
9           Conservation Fund has bought them for.  
10          So I'm hopeful that today you will  
11          consider a first appraisal, and then we  
12          can continue our discussions with the  
13          Lands Division. So I'm here to answer  
14          any questions.

15          COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

16                 Andrew, I have a couple while others  
17                 are looking, if you don't mind.

18          MR. SCHOCK: I don't.

19          COMMISSIONER GUY: Can you -- two things that  
20                 would be helpful to me just to -- I know  
21                 one of them may be very difficult to  
22                 answer.

23                 Unlike Charles who has maybe -- he's

1           done a really good job of trying to  
2           figure out the number of people that  
3           come through. Do you have -- does The  
4           Conservation Fund -- do we have any idea  
5           about the use of this -- of the trails,  
6           you know, like this?

7           MR. SCHOCK: I, unfortunately, don't have  
8           numbers of total users. But, one, we  
9           know that there are people who are  
10          through hiking it. They're starting in  
11          Alabama and going to Maine. And then  
12          the day after the dedication ceremony of  
13          the trail shelter, two gentlemen flew  
14          from Canada into Birmingham and then  
15          traveled down to Coosa County and spent  
16          the night in Coosa County so they could  
17          start hiking that trail to Maine.

18                 So we know when you build these  
19                 things, when you have a place that's a  
20                 starting point -- in this case now,  
21                 because of your efforts, there's a  
22                 shelter there and a parking lot --  
23                 there's a shelter right at the parking

1           lot and then the shelter I showed you a  
2           picture of. There's opportunities for  
3           people to come and really start their  
4           hike.

5           COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. That's fair. And I  
6           caught you off guard. So, you know,  
7           anything y'all could provide, I think,  
8           the board in these cases to just show  
9           the amount of people that use these  
10          trails and how they, of course, are  
11          going to impact the local communities  
12          and different things through either  
13          staying there, purchasing food, you  
14          know, recreating there, that kind of  
15          thing, you know, would be helpful to us.

16                 And then, lastly, to connect to  
17          that, have you had an opportunity to  
18          talk to the local governmental entities  
19          there and kind of get a feel for their,  
20          you know, position on this purchase?

21          MR. SCHOCK: We have not had a direct  
22          conversation. The Alabama Hiking  
23          Society has had some conversations with



1           them. I think, in fact, I shared with  
2           Patti and Chris there was a brief  
3           newspaper article that there is some  
4           concern from the county about land  
5           coming off the tax rolls.

6           But, you know, when you have a  
7           unique long-distance trail like this, as  
8           you said -- and I don't have the numbers  
9           with me -- the economic opportunities  
10          are tremendous. And if you don't pay  
11          attention to hiking trails, you don't  
12          understand how important and how unique  
13          it is to have a long-distance trail. So  
14          many trails -- and, I mean, I use  
15          them -- you know, are three miles or  
16          five miles, but this is -- in Alabama  
17          it's 170 miles. So it draws people from  
18          around the country.

19          COMMISSIONER GUY: I understand. So just work  
20          with them, if you would, and make sure.  
21          That's very helpful to us to make sure  
22          that there's buy-in from everybody  
23          involved, or at least we need to

1           understand what any problems might be  
2           before we act. That would be helpful.

3           MR. SCHOCK: And, then, I'll also get the  
4           economic -- or the use information.

5           COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. And I realize you  
6           can't do it that specific, but just  
7           generally, then, about the trail usage.  
8           I know you have some of that  
9           information. If you could get that to  
10          us.

11                        Next question.

12                        Yes, sir, Dr. Strickland.

13          DR. STRICKLAND: So we're talking about a  
14          total of 1600 acres and most of it's  
15          forested?

16          MR. SCHOCK: Yes.

17          DR. STRICKLAND: Okay. Has it been timbered  
18          or logged?

19          MR. SCHOCK: The piece that's the fairly long  
20          and skinny piece, the RMS property to  
21          the northeast, that has been timbered.

22          DR. STRICKLAND: How much? How many acres is  
23          that?

1 MR. SCHOCK: It's 700 -- I'm sorry. No. I've  
2 forgotten exactly. It's a little over  
3 700 acres there -- I'm sorry. 1300  
4 acres. I'm sorry.

5 The gray tract -- the gray tract on  
6 page 4 is about 1334 acres.

7 DR. STRICKLAND: So most of that has been  
8 logged?

9 MR. SCHOCK: That's been logged.

10 DR. STRICKLAND: How long ago?

11 MR. SCHOCK: Well, it's now -- I mean, it's  
12 been cut, but now these trees are  
13 growing back. I mean, it's been  
14 reforested and so they're mature trees.

15 DR. STRICKLAND: Okay.

16 MR. SCHOCK: So the other two tracts, the one  
17 that's shown in red and the other in  
18 burnt orange, have not been logged for  
19 at least a hundred years. They contain  
20 200-plus-year-old longleaf pine as well  
21 as -- it's a mixed longleaf  
22 pine/hardwood forest. So they really  
23 protect the integrity of the beginning

1 of the trail.

2 DR. STRICKLAND: And, again, the last -- you  
3 said they're mature trees, the logged --  
4 1300 acres that have been logged. Was  
5 that ten years, 15 years ago?

6 MR. SCHOCK: Well, they vary in age. Some are  
7 ten. Some are 20. So it was an  
8 industrial forest.

9 DR. STRICKLAND: Okay.

10 MR. SCHOCK: So it varies in age depending on  
11 the location.

12 DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

13 MR. SCHOCK: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Andrew.

17 MR. SCHOCK: Thank you very much.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Connie Graham.

19 MS. GRAHAM: Hi. And thank you for inviting  
20 me to speak today. I'm here to speak on  
21 behalf of the Land Trust in support of  
22 what they're requesting today. I am  
23 with the City of Huntsville Urban

1 Planning Staff. I'm also the city  
2 demographer. And one of the things that  
3 our staff has been asked to do by our  
4 mayor is a comprehensive plan for the  
5 City of Huntsville.

6 And if you have not had the  
7 opportunity to look at us on Websites or  
8 wherever, if you haven't heard of us on  
9 TV, it's called the "Big Picture." And  
10 one of the things that we have done  
11 during the "Big Picture" process is that  
12 we have held focus groups and citizens  
13 academy meetings. And one aspect that  
14 we looked at was community -- and it's  
15 because the community is craving this --  
16 is the importance of parks and open  
17 space.

18 Preserved land and parks are very  
19 important to the people of Huntsville,  
20 Madison County, and all areas, as you  
21 just heard, but especially in our  
22 urbanized areas. They act as a meeting  
23 place for our community. They foster

1 community involvement and corresponding  
2 pride in addition to providing an  
3 opportunity to interact with people of  
4 varying backgrounds and experiences.

5 They are accessible to all income  
6 groups, particularly those who cannot  
7 afford the cost of a getaway weekend.  
8 They offer activities such as walking  
9 and biking and unorganized activities,  
10 providing accessible recreation  
11 opportunities.

12 And one of the things that we looked  
13 at was -- you know, we were talking  
14 about -- somebody brought up, you know,  
15 how much better they feel when they just  
16 step out into a green space if  
17 they're -- you know, even if they're at  
18 work, and it doesn't matter how big that  
19 space is. But we said what do you think  
20 is happening in your brain when you  
21 spend time outdoors.

22 And I found this great graphic. I  
23 wish I had had the opportunity to bring

1           it today. It was a picture of a guy's  
2           brain and it's cut in half. And on one  
3           side the people are sitting in their  
4           cubicals working, and then on the other  
5           side people are outside laying on  
6           blankets and there's trees and  
7           everything.

8           But green space provides -- it  
9           lowers stress levels, heart rates, and  
10          blood pressures and improves metabolism,  
11          respiration, and cognitive functions.  
12          And it also provides longer attention  
13          spans. And according to the National  
14          Trails Training Partnership, most  
15          communities view environmental quality  
16          and fitness as the most important  
17          factors influencing their personal  
18          health.

19          Walking has consistently been the  
20          most popular physical activity for all  
21          ages over the past several years. Most  
22          people would like to walk more than they  
23          currently do, and open space and parks

1           can provide this opportunity. There is  
2           evidence that improved biking and  
3           walking facilities mean greater  
4           participation by citizens.

5           Physical inactivity is one of the  
6           four major risk factors of coronary  
7           heart disease. Physical inactivity is a  
8           contributing factor for Type 2 diabetes.

9           Huntsville has 65 city-run parks,  
10          and that's just a little over 3,000  
11          acres. You know, it's generally  
12          regarded that one-quarter of a mile from  
13          one's home is a comfortable walking  
14          distance for most people. Well, when we  
15          looked at the stats, only 75 percent of  
16          Huntsville's population -- or 75 percent  
17          of Huntsville's population did not live  
18          within a quarter of a mile from a  
19          designated open space.

20          So we need to get that percentage  
21          down. And, you know, I believe what  
22          Marie and the Land Trust has put on the  
23          table here today is very important to



1           the citizens of our community. And I  
2           thank you again.

3           COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

4                     Any questions for Ms. Graham?

5                     (No response.)

6           COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me just say thank you.

7                     You know, an outsider looking in, I  
8                     think the city of Huntsville is very,  
9                     very progressive, a very  
10                    forward-thinking city, and I thank you  
11                    for what you do for it.

12           MS. GRAHAM: Thank you very much. Like Marie,  
13                     I hope that you have an opportunity to  
14                     get out and visit some of our sites  
15                     while you're here. Thank you.

16           COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

17                     Janice Barrett. Is that right? Or  
18                     Janice Barrett. Is it Janice?

19                     Good morning.

20           MS. BARRETT: Good morning. My name is Janice  
21                     Barrett. Janice, yes. And I am  
22                     outreach coordinator for Wild South.  
23                     And on behalf of Wild South, I want to

1           thank the board for the great work you  
2           do and for all the -- just for the great  
3           program that Forever Wild is. And for  
4           all the lands that have been protected  
5           because of this program, we're very,  
6           very grateful.

7           Our organization, Wild South, is a  
8           nonprofit organization, and we work to  
9           protect forests and ecosystems  
10          throughout the Southeast. We work  
11          mainly on public lands, do a lot of work  
12          on national forests throughout the  
13          Southeast. Our main office is in  
14          Asheville, North Carolina, and our  
15          Alabama office is in Lawrence County  
16          close to Bankhead National Forest.

17          We are an advocacy and stewardship  
18          organization, so we do a lot of -- a lot  
19          of work to actually protect our  
20          wilderness areas, national forests, some  
21          of the most valuable ecosystems in the  
22          Southeast. And some of the ways that we  
23          do that is through our Volunteer

1 Wilderness Ranger Program. We have --  
2 since 2011 have trained volunteers to be  
3 Wilderness Rangers in both wilderness  
4 areas in Mississippi, Linville Gorge  
5 area in -- Linville Gorge Wilderness in  
6 North Carolina, and in Sipsey  
7 Wilderness, Cheaha Wilderness, and  
8 Dugger Mountain Wilderness in Alabama.

9 And, in addition, we just started a  
10 new Ranger program outside of wilderness  
11 areas beginning last March. So we now  
12 train volunteers to be Wilderness -- to  
13 be Rangers in the Turkey Creek Preserve  
14 and in Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve.

15 And we also have special agreements  
16 with the Forest Service to do trail  
17 maintenance. In the Sipsey Wilderness  
18 we maintain 15 miles of hiking trails.  
19 And outside of the wilderness areas we  
20 do other projects. We partner with the  
21 Forest Service in the Bankhead to do  
22 ecosystem restorations. We pick up a  
23 lot of trash and basically just do

1           whatever needs to be done to protect our  
2           public lands.

3           And this morning I would like to  
4           extend Wild South resources to Forever  
5           Wild so that we can open a conversation  
6           about stewardship on Forever Wild lands  
7           where they're needed. This is -- some  
8           of the Forever Wild lands are some of  
9           the most valuable special lands in  
10          Alabama, and they deserve special care.  
11          And we are just available to work with  
12          you on that however, providing  
13          volunteers and training. We would just  
14          like to open a discussion about that.

15          And we, on behalf of Wild South,  
16          also would like to support the  
17          nomination of the tracts that were  
18          mentioned by Marie Bostick and also for  
19          all the reasons that Connie Graham  
20          mentioned here in Huntsville.

21                 So are there any questions?

22                         (No response.)

23          COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Ms. Barrett.

1           Appreciate it very much.

2           MS. BARRETT: Thank you. And I would like to  
3           offer you my card.

4           COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you.

5                     All right. Mary Anne Swanstrom.

6           MS. SWANSTROM: Good morning.

7           COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

8           MS. SWANSTROM: I'd like to again welcome you  
9           to Huntsville and hope you do have an  
10          opportunity to go and enjoy our trails  
11          and see some of the lands.

12                    I'm president of our chapter of  
13          SORBA-Huntsville. We are a chapter of  
14          IMBA, the International Mountain Biking  
15          Association. And so we were actually  
16          the first in the state to become a part  
17          of this organization.

18                    I have a few notes. If you don't  
19          mind, I will refer to them.

20                    We were founded in -- no -- how  
21          about 2004 and -- with just a few  
22          members and now we are over 200. Our  
23          primary focus, our mission, is trails

1           advocacy and also the promotion of our  
2           sport. And I'm here in support of Marie  
3           Bostick, the Land Trust, and Monte Sano  
4           State Park.

5           Our chapter is -- we're stewards.  
6           We are caretakers of trails there. When  
7           there are trees down, when there are  
8           portions that are unsustainable and  
9           being eroded, our volunteers come in and  
10          they work very hard to restore these  
11          trails so that many users can enjoy  
12          them. We have thousands of hours over  
13          the last 11 years of work to improve our  
14          trails on Monte Sano. And so I wanted  
15          to make you aware of that, that there  
16          are volunteers that are committed to our  
17          trails and to our lands here.

18          Also, just so you're also aware, we  
19          have -- currently have a series going on  
20          that's a Time Trial Series. We bring  
21          hundreds of folks every week up to Monte  
22          Sano to enjoy the trails and have  
23          fellowship and also make them aware of

1           what we have to offer and also to get  
2           them involved as volunteers and as  
3           stewards as well.

4           Let's see if there was anything --  
5           oh, we committed about \$6,000 of our  
6           chapter's funds. And we don't raise a  
7           lot of money, so this is a really  
8           important investment for us. Last  
9           December we held a four-day intensive  
10          Trail Master certification course, and  
11          we certified nine of our own members.  
12          One of them is a structural engineer.  
13          We have various folks in various  
14          capacities of occupations that bring  
15          their talents. We had one of the Land  
16          Trust stewards, Brandon, who came and  
17          took the course with our members as well  
18          as three members of the local running  
19          club, Huntsville Track Club.

20          And so with 13 of these folks  
21          certified, they're able to go and  
22          further train other trail users and  
23          volunteers to help continue the work of

1           creating more sustainable trails, to  
2           reroute those that need attention, and  
3           to help continue the work that we do up  
4           here on Monte Sano as stewards and as  
5           caretakers of these trails.

6           So just to let you know, we're in  
7           support of Marie Bostick's proposal and  
8           hope that you will give it  
9           consideration. And we will be here.

10          Thank you.

11          COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

12                 Any questions for Ms. Swanstrom?

13                         (No response.)

14          COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am, very  
15          much.

16                 So that is all of the green slips I  
17                 had for those who wanted to speak unless  
18                 I missed somebody that had signed a  
19                 green slip.

20                 So I'm going to read this like I  
21                 usually do: By regulation, appraisal  
22                 values are confidential during periods  
23                 of negotiation. Accordingly, in order



1           to discuss tract appraisal values, the  
2           board will need to go into recess for an  
3           Executive Session.

4                     Is there a motion for the board now  
5           to recess to attend to an Executive  
6           Session?

7   MR. ALLEN:    So move.

8   DR. STRICKLAND:    So move.

9   COMMISSIONER GUY:   By Dr. Strickland.

10                    Is there a second?

11   MR. ALLEN:    Second.

12   MR. BALL:     Second.

13   COMMISSIONER GUY:   Leo, a second.  I'll give  
14                    Leo the second on that.

15                    So as I call your name, I need you  
16           to indicate your position on this motion  
17           to recess by indicating "aye" or oppose,  
18           "nay."

19                    Dr. Strickland?

20   DR. STRICKLAND:    Aye.

21   COMMISSIONER GUY:   Dr. Sims?

22   DR. SIMS:        Aye.

23   COMMISSIONER GUY:   Mr. Ball?

1 MR. BALL: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

3 DR. HEPP: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

5 DR. WOODS: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

7 MR. ALLEN: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Runyon?

9 MR. RUNYON: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Horn?

11 MR. HORN: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: And Guy, aye.

13 So at this time I'd like to notify  
14 those that are here that we will take  
15 approximately a 20-minute break, so  
16 almost about 11:30. We'll try to return  
17 at least by 11:30 from our Executive  
18 Session, and we'll resume the meeting at  
19 that time. Until we return we are in a  
20 recess.

21 **(Recess for Executive Session was**  
22 **taken at approximately 11:07 a.m.**  
23 **and the meeting was called back to**

1 **order at approximately 11:34 a.m.)**

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: At this time I would like  
3 to call our meeting back to order. And  
4 next on the agenda is some reports on  
5 the program. And we'll start with  
6 Mr. Chris Smith.

7 MR. SMITH: All right, Commissioner. Thank  
8 you.

9 The first bit of information I'm  
10 going to cover is located in Tab 2.  
11 That's our current financial  
12 information.

13 As of today, the current balance of  
14 the Forever Wild Land Trust program  
15 right now is 27.5 million roughly, a  
16 little bit more than that.

17 We currently have 11 nominations  
18 that are in closing within our legal  
19 department and going through the  
20 different processes of closing. And  
21 they include the Riverton Community  
22 Hunting Area-Hog Hollow nomination,  
23 which is 507 acres in Colbert County;

1 the Riverton Community Hunting Area-RMK  
2 nomination, which is 20 acres in Colbert  
3 County.

4 We have the Heron Bay nomination,  
5 which is 487 acres in Baldwin County.  
6 We are continuing with the Forever Wild  
7 Land Trust swap with the Natural  
8 Resources Group up in Colbert County.

9 The Pritchett tract, which is 400  
10 acres in Covington County. The DeSoto  
11 State Park-Steward Gap nomination, 253  
12 acres in Dekalb County. Guntersville  
13 State Park-Stubblefield Mountain  
14 nomination, 636 acres in Marshall  
15 County. The Lillian Swamp nomination,  
16 689 acres in Baldwin County. Weeks Bay  
17 Reserve-Swift Number 2 Meyer addition,  
18 29 acres in Baldwin County. The Walls  
19 of Jericho-Estillfork addition, 72 acres  
20 in Jackson County. And, finally, last,  
21 the Yates Lake-Guy addition, 123 acres  
22 in Elmore County.

23 Again, those are all nominations

1           that the board has motioned to purchase  
2           and the second appraisals have come in  
3           and they've moved on to closing within  
4           our legal department -- legal section  
5           within our department.

6           We have three nominations that are  
7           continuing in the negotiation phase.  
8           These are nominations the board has  
9           motioned to purchase -- get a second  
10          appraisal and purchase, and they're  
11          still being -- there are still  
12          negotiations going on with the  
13          landowner. And they include the Big  
14          Canoe Creek Preserve nomination, which  
15          is 381 acres in St. Clair County; Turkey  
16          Creek Nature Preserve-Shepherd addition,  
17          which is 242 acres in Jefferson County;  
18          and the Skyline WMA-Little Coon Creek  
19          addition, which is 1,143 acres in  
20          Jackson County.

21          Considering the adjustments  
22          associated with those actions, there is  
23          an unencumbered balance of \$19,372,000.

1           And the current capital spending  
2           authority that remains in FY15 that  
3           would end September 30th is 16.4  
4           million. So you have roughly 16.4  
5           million that could be used toward  
6           purchase or capital spending of  
7           acquiring land.

8           On the next page we'll see a list of  
9           the different nominations that closed in  
10          the previous fiscal year and the current  
11          fiscal year. During our current fiscal  
12          year, which is FY15, there's been three  
13          nominations that have made it through  
14          the closing process and have become  
15          Forever Wild Land Trust holdings, and  
16          they include -- they are the Sipsey  
17          River Swamp-Pruett tract, 274 acres in  
18          Tuscaloosa County; Perdido River  
19          WMA-Barnhill tract, 191 acres in Baldwin  
20          County; and the Grand Bay Savanna-Drake  
21          addition, which is 120 acres in Mobile  
22          County.

23          Okay. If you'll turn to the next

1 page, you'll see a report on the  
2 stewardship fund expenditures. We have  
3 a budget authorization of \$1 million for  
4 FY15. Currently there's been roughly  
5 \$313,000 that has been spent toward  
6 maintenance and habitat management and  
7 reforestation projects. And there  
8 remains roughly \$686,000 left to be  
9 spent or that we could spend in the  
10 remaining portion of our fiscal year.

11 And just to mention, you know, this  
12 is the time of year when a lot of the  
13 expenditures happen after hunting season  
14 is over and wildlife management areas  
15 and different recreation tracts have  
16 maintenance done and different things  
17 happening. So a lot of money in  
18 reforestation projects are ramping up  
19 with site prep and burning coming up  
20 this fall. So there will be a lot of  
21 that spent over the next few months  
22 between now and the next meeting and  
23 then into the fall.

1           Okay. In Tab 3 I'll go over the  
2           different appraised -- appraisals that  
3           have been done on nominations that the  
4           board had motioned to get the first  
5           appraisal. I'm just going to list  
6           those.

7           They include the Autauga WMA-Oak  
8           Grove addition, which was -- which is  
9           1,339 acres in Autauga County; the  
10          Autauga County -- or Autauga WMA-Old  
11          Kingston addition, 1,412 acres, also in  
12          Autauga County; and the Autauga  
13          WMA-Poseys Crossroad addition, 1,537  
14          acres in Autauga County.

15          There's the Byrnes Lake nomination,  
16          which is 2,952 acres in Baldwin County;  
17          the Coosa WMA-Hancock Phase III  
18          nomination, which is 877 acres in Coosa  
19          County; the Hinds Road Outcrop  
20          nomination, 80 acres in Etowah County;  
21          Indian Mountain-Simmons addition, 520  
22          acres in Cherokee County; the Natural  
23          Bridge tract, which is 1200 acres in



1 Covington County; the Old Cahawba  
2 Prairie addition, 1,505 acres in Dallas  
3 County; Pintlala Creek nomination, 601  
4 acres in Lowndes County; Post Oak  
5 Flat-Shiflett addition, 290 acres in  
6 Jackson County; and the Splinter Hill  
7 Bog-North addition, 511 acres in Baldwin  
8 County.

9 Again, those are the nominations  
10 that the board had motioned to get a  
11 first appraisal on.

12 So if there's not any questions,  
13 then I'll move into the grant --

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions on financial  
15 data or overview of appraised  
16 nominations?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Chris.  
19 Go ahead to grants.

20 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. I would like to mention  
21 to the new board members and then for  
22 the benefit of those attending the  
23 meeting today that the Department of

1 Conservation and Natural Resources  
2 staff, both the State Lands Division and  
3 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries  
4 Division, routinely try to find  
5 federal-aid/grant programs, Land  
6 Acquisition programs in which some of  
7 these nominations that we receive would  
8 fit to help further that Forever Wild  
9 dollar. And so at each meeting we give  
10 a report just to update the board  
11 members and the public about different  
12 stages of some of these grant programs.

13 Currently we have two nominations  
14 that were awarded federal support  
15 through the National Coastal Wetlands  
16 Grant program. And those are  
17 nominations that made it through the  
18 process. The board has initiated  
19 purchase, and they're in the closing  
20 phase -- two of them are in the closing  
21 phase, and one of the tracts associated  
22 with -- there's two tracts associated  
23 with one proposal and one tract with

1 another one. Closing has already  
2 occurred on one of those properties and  
3 the other two are in the final stages of  
4 closing.

5 So there's no action that the board  
6 needs to take, but this is just to  
7 update the board that we have those.  
8 And they're associated with the Heron  
9 Bay Wetlands -- or Heron Bay nomination,  
10 487 acres in Mobile County that I  
11 mentioned earlier that is in the closing  
12 process, and the Lillian Swamp  
13 nomination, which is 689 acres in  
14 Baldwin County, again, that I mentioned  
15 earlier was in the closing process.

16 So once those close, we will  
17 finalize the paperwork associated with  
18 reimbursement. Both of those grant  
19 programs have around a 75/25  
20 federal-to-state match. So once those  
21 close and we finalize the paperwork,  
22 we'll be getting 75 -- roughly 75  
23 percent of the value of those properties

1           that will come back into the Forever  
2           Wild Land Trust program.

3           And another thing I'd like to  
4           mention is we routinely look at  
5           nominations as they come in to see if  
6           they fit these different programs. And  
7           I think that we've discussed with the  
8           Wildlife section, in particular the  
9           nongame unit, about maybe moving forward  
10          on one of the nominations that's on your  
11          short list for a fall submission within  
12          the Habitat Conservation Planning Grant  
13          program, which is an Endangered  
14          Species/Section 6 program, and that is  
15          for the Red Hills-Parris tract. So  
16          hopefully this September I'll be  
17          updating that we have moved forward with  
18          that and submitted a proposal in support  
19          of that nomination.

20          And that's all I have. I think  
21          Chuck was going to come up and update  
22          the board on the Wildlife Sport Fish --  
23          Wildlife Sport Restoration grant

1           program.

2           COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Chris.

3                     Mr. Sykes.

4           MR. SYKES: Thank you, Commissioner.

5                     As one of the previous speakers  
6           said, Chris is very thorough, so he has  
7           covered most of everything that I needed  
8           to talk about.

9                     But in the theme of grants, I just  
10          wanted to -- especially for the new  
11          board members that may not be familiar  
12          with it, my staff has been working with  
13          State Lands and also with U.S. Fish and  
14          Wildlife Service for the past year and a  
15          half to try to be able to utilize  
16          Forever Wild money to match with our  
17          Pittman-Robertson Sport Fish -- Wildlife  
18          and Sport Fish Restoration dollars with  
19          a three-to-one match. So basically if  
20          Forever Wild puts up \$1, we can match it  
21          with \$3 of the money that the sportsmen  
22          in Alabama have put into that fund for  
23          us to use for wildlife management and

1           habitat acquisition.

2           In February I presented the board  
3           with our plan of our immediate need. We  
4           were -- we were wanting to put together  
5           the old Autauga WMA that had been broken  
6           apart over the past 15 or 20 years. The  
7           three nominations that were made, the  
8           first appraisals are already in. So I  
9           thank the board for asking for first  
10          appraisals at the February board  
11          meeting.

12          Our staffs have been working  
13          together with that split. Once the  
14          appraisals are in, those figures are  
15          together and good, and we're in the  
16          process now of finalizing with U.S. Fish  
17          and Wildlife out of Atlanta to make sure  
18          during the audit process everything is  
19          done correctly. So we are -- we are  
20          ready to move forward with that as far  
21          as Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries  
22          with our PR dollars.

23          And since the last meeting, we have

1           for our 2016 grants -- there's a  
2           short-list nomination in your packet  
3           that will further add to that Autauga  
4           WMA that we're trying to put back  
5           together, the Joffre tract.

6                     That's sort of it in a nutshell, and  
7           I'll be happy to answer any questions.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: This is which tract?

9           MR. SYKES: The Joffre. Thank y'all.

10          MS. POWELL: It's on the short list, Tab 5a.

11          COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry.

12                     Okay. Any questions for Mr. Sykes  
13           about the funds from the U.S. Fish and  
14           Wildlife -- Pittman-Robertson is what I  
15           call it -- funds in this particular  
16           case?

17                     (No response.)

18          COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you,  
19           Chuck.

20                     Next on my list is Ms. Lewis for  
21           nomination short-list update. Jo.

22          MS. LEWIS: Good morning. For the sake of the  
23           audience, I'm Jo Lewis. I work with the

1 State Lands Division. I'm going to  
2 present to the board our tract  
3 evaluation this morning.

4 We have provided to the board, each  
5 board member in their packet of  
6 information, information about all 87  
7 active Forever Wild nominations. That  
8 is in a list report in Tab 5c. I'd like  
9 to go through the Tab 5 portion of the  
10 packet, which will include -- the same  
11 information that's in your packet is in  
12 the PowerPoint.

13 Tab 5a contains what we call the  
14 short list, which is the top-three  
15 current highest-scoring nominations in  
16 each category of use in each district.  
17 Therefore, the maximum number of  
18 short-listed nominations would be 36.  
19 Normally nominations that score well in  
20 one category often score well in the  
21 other categories of use, and therefore  
22 it will reduce the overall numbers.

23 Today we have 25 tracts on the short



1 list. They vary in size from 3 acres to  
2 over 2,000 acres, and they're scattered  
3 throughout the state from Baldwin County  
4 to Jackson County. 16 different  
5 counties are represented on the list,  
6 and the nominations are arranged  
7 alphabetically by their full nomination  
8 name, which can be somewhat confusing  
9 when we use abbreviations. That list is  
10 provided, as I say, in Tab 5a.

11 Behind Tab 5a is a more table-like  
12 version of it so that one can see which  
13 were the top-nine nature preserves,  
14 recreation areas, state parks, and  
15 wildlife management areas and how they  
16 are for each district. It's the same  
17 information, but the alphabetical list  
18 is condensed.

19 Then we also provide a packet of  
20 information with a narrative and map of  
21 each of the 25 nominations that are on  
22 the short list.

23 And then Tab 5c is the final list of

1           all nominations that have willing  
2           sellers. So I'm going to run through  
3           the list.

4                    We have the Autauga WMA-Joffre  
5           addition, which is showing on the  
6           screen. That's 1,285 acres in Autauga  
7           County.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I stop you there?

9           MS. LEWIS: Yes.

10          COMMISSIONER GUY: I meant to ask Chuck.

11                    You can answer from there, if you  
12          would, so that Tracye can hear you. But  
13          that matches up with those other three  
14          parcels is what you're saying there?

15          MR. SYKES: It does.

16          COMMISSIONER GUY: And it's on the short list,  
17          so it has been nominated.

18          MR. SYKES: That's correct.

19          COMMISSIONER GUY: But it fits into the  
20          plan --

21          MR. SYKES: Yes, it's in that overall plan.

22                    Some of these landowners had  
23          stipulations that they could only sell

1 up to 1500 acres a year. So in the  
2 overall plan we had to break down some  
3 of those larger landowners. And we've  
4 got 1500 acres in the 2015 acquisition  
5 process, and then this would fall into  
6 the 2016.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. But this encompasses  
8 division of the -- of the Wildlife and  
9 Freshwater Fisheries' division as it  
10 relates to putting back this old WMA?

11 MR. SYKES: The old WMA, yes, sir, that's  
12 correct.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you.  
14 Sorry, Jo.

15 MS. LEWIS: No problem. By chance, that also  
16 scored well in the nature preserve  
17 category and the recreation category.  
18 So this nomination short-listed in three  
19 categories.

20 The next alphabetical one is the Big  
21 Canoe Creek-Bettis addition, which is  
22 197 acres in St. Clair County. Coon  
23 Gulf-Heard addition, which is a 40-acre

1 tract in Jackson County. Deer Head  
2 Cove-Low Gap, which is 280 acres in  
3 Dekalb County. DeSoto State Park-French  
4 addition, which is about 3 acres in  
5 Dekalb County.

6 DeSoto State Park-Jones addition,  
7 which is about 10 acres in Dekalb  
8 County, which is in multiple parcels,  
9 but they're all adjacent to that portion  
10 of the state park.

11 Emauhee Creek Lake in Talladega  
12 County, which is 915 acres. We have the  
13 Hope Hull tract, which is 472 acres in  
14 Montgomery County. Laguna Cove, which  
15 is 53 acres in Baldwin County. Lurleen  
16 State Park-Roebuck addition, which is  
17 70 acres in Tuscaloosa County. Locust  
18 Fork-Palmer tract, which is 2,000 acres  
19 in Blount and Jefferson Counties.

20 This is Monte Sano State Park-Dug  
21 Hill West addition, which is 134 acres  
22 in Madison County, which is two separate  
23 parcels but, again, both adjacent to the

1 state park.

2 MTD, which is Mobile-Tensaw Delta,  
3 Pine Log Creek addition, which is 4,300  
4 acres in Baldwin County. Mobile-Tensaw  
5 Delta-Simmons addition, which is 300  
6 acres in Baldwin County. Perdido  
7 Wildlife Management Area-Freise  
8 addition, 47 acres in Baldwin County.

9 The Red Hills-Parris Trust addition  
10 tract, which is 305 acres in Monroe  
11 County. Shell Banks Bayou, which is 25  
12 acres in Baldwin County. Skyline  
13 Wildlife Management Area-Pole Branch  
14 addition, 111 acres in Jackson County.  
15 Skyline Wildlife Management Area-Threwer  
16 Point addition, 40 acres in Jackson  
17 County.

18 Tannehill-Ayers addition, which is  
19 328 acres in Jefferson County which is  
20 adjacent to the Forever Wild holding.  
21 Terrapin Hill, which is 1,533 acres in  
22 Coosa County. Weeks Bay Reserve-Sunset  
23 Shores addition, which is about 3 acres

1 in Baldwin County. White Oak  
2 Plantation, 1,011 acres in Macon County.  
3 Wiregrass Rail Trail, which is 521 acres  
4 in Coffee, Covington, and Geneva  
5 Counties.

6 The Yates Lake-North addition, which  
7 is 372 acres, which is in Elmore County.  
8 And this one has the unique honor of  
9 having short-listed in all four  
10 categories of use.

11 And that's the list. I'd be happy  
12 to answer any questions.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for  
14 Ms. Lewis?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Guess not. Jo, you did a  
17 good job.

18 All right. So at this time on the  
19 agenda the board will notice that we  
20 have a place for just general discussion  
21 or sometimes -- whether it's about  
22 nominations or just questions of staff  
23 or any other matters that you want to

1 bring up at this time. So I'm going  
2 to -- I'm going to open it up for any  
3 board discussion.

4 Anybody have any motions or other  
5 discussions?

6 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner?

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. Dr. Strickland.

8 DR. STRICKLAND: I would like to make a motion  
9 for first appraisal of the Dug Hill West  
10 addition, 134 acres that consists of two  
11 parcels, one of 130 acres on the west  
12 side of Monte Sano State Park and the  
13 4 acres, the second parcel, on the west  
14 side. It's east and west side.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I have a motion  
16 for first appraisal on the MSP-Dug Hill  
17 West addition. Do I have a second?

18 DR. WOODS: Second.

19 DR. SIMS: Second.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Got a second from Dr. Sims.

21 Any discussion on the motion?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion

1 say "aye".

2 (All board members present respond  
3 "aye.")

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries for first  
7 appraisal.

8 DR. WOODS: I would like to make a motion for  
9 first appraisal on Terrapin Hill in  
10 Coosa County.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I have a  
12 motion for -- by Dr. Woods for Terrapin  
13 Hill.

14 Dr. Woods, is that what it was?

15 DR. WOODS: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: In Coosa County?

17 DR. WOODS: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Do I have a  
19 second?

20 DR. HEPP: I second it.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp, second.

22 Any discussion on the motion?

23 (No response.)



1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
2 say "aye."

3 (All board members present respond  
4 "aye.")

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

8 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman?

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

10 MR. BALL: I would like to make a motion for  
11 the Locust Fork-Palmer tract in Blount  
12 and Jefferson Counties.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: By Mr. Ball. Which one  
14 again, Mr. Ball?

15 MR. BALL: The Locust Fork-Palmer tract.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Locust Fork-Palmer tract in  
17 Blount and Jefferson County, 2,000  
18 acres. I have a motion for first  
19 appraisal. Is there a second?

20 DR. WOODS: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second from Dr. Woods.

22 Any discussion on the motion?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
2 say "aye."

3 (All board members present respond  
4 "aye.")

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries for first  
8 appraisal.

9 DR. WOODS: I'd like to make a motion on the  
10 first appraisal for the Yates Lake-North  
11 addition in Elmore County.

12 MR. BALL: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Got a motion and a second  
14 on the Yates Lake-North addition in  
15 Elmore County.

16 Any discussion on the motion?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
19 say "aye."

20 (All board members present respond  
21 "aye.")

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

2 DR. SIMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make  
3 a nomination for a second appraisal and  
4 purchase the Post Oak Flat-Shiflett  
5 addition, 290 acres in Jackson County.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion by Dr. Sims for the  
7 Post Oak Flat-Shiflett addition in  
8 Jackson County. Do I have a second?

9 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: And a second by  
11 Dr. Strickland.

12 Any discussion on the motion?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
15 say "aye."

16 (All board members present respond  
17 "aye.")

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

21 DR. HEPP: I'd like to move for a second  
22 appraisal for the Autauga Wildlife  
23 Management Area-Oak Grove addition.

1           COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. A motion for a  
2           second appraisal on the Autauga WMA-Oak  
3           Grove addition by Dr. Hepp. Is there a  
4           second?

5           DR. SIMS: Second.

6           MS. POWELL: Second appraisal and proceed with  
7           purchase on that.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. We go through this  
9           every time. So is it --

10          MS. POWELL: I think if you just -- I'm sorry.  
11          A motion to proceed with purchase really  
12          infers a second appraisal, so I think  
13          you could say both. But please do  
14          include to proceed with purchase in the  
15          motion to clarify that we're not just  
16          getting a second appraisal. We actually  
17          have authority to close it.

18          COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Okay. So I'll  
19          take the blame. We do this, it seems  
20          like, every time. I never -- I'm sorry.

21                 So let's go back, then, to Post Oak  
22          Flat. I would like to make sure it's  
23          clear on the record since we did not say

1 motion for a second appraisal and  
2 purchase, which I assume that's what you  
3 wanted done, Dr. Sims?

4 DR. SIMS: Absolutely, yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: So, if we could, let's just  
6 start back and open that up. And,  
7 Dr. Sims, would you go ahead and restate  
8 your motion for the Post Oak  
9 Flat-Shiflett addition. A motion for  
10 second appraisal and purchase?

11 MS. POWELL: And to proceed with purchase.

12 DR. STRICKLAND: So move.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: And a second by  
14 Dr. Strickland on the second one.

15 All right. Let's do that again. So  
16 all in favor of that motion for a second  
17 appraisal and to proceed with purchase  
18 say "aye".

19 (All board members present respond  
20 "aye.")

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Motion carries.

1 DR. SIMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move  
2 for a second appraisal to purchase the  
3 Hinds Road Outcrop-Miles, 80 acres.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: And let me stop you before  
5 you -- would you hold that because I  
6 want to go back to the one by Dr. Hepp  
7 on the Autauga WMA-Oak Grove addition  
8 first.

9 So with that motion --

10 DR. HEPP: I would move for a second appraisal  
11 and proceed to purchase the Autauga  
12 WMA-Oak Grove addition.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I have a  
14 motion for a second appraisal and to  
15 proceed with purchase. Do I have a  
16 second?

17 DR. WOODS: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. -- is that  
19 Dr. Woods?

20 DR. WOODS: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Have a second on the  
22 motion.

23 Any discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
3 please say "aye."

4 (All board members present respond  
5 "aye.")

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

9 All right, Dr. Sims.

10 DR. SIMS: I move for a second appraisal to  
11 purchase Hinds Road Outcrop-Miles, 80  
12 acres.

13 MR. BALL: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: And proceed with purchase?

15 DR. SIMS: Proceed with purchase.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

17 MR. BALL: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: And a second by Mr. Ball.

19 Any discussion on the motion?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
22 say "aye."

23 (All board members present respond

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"aye.")

COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

DR. HEPP: I would like to move for a second appraisal and proceed to purchase on the Autauga WMA-Old Kingston addition.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Have a motion. Is there a second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Strickland.

Any discussion on the motion?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion say "aye."

(All board members present respond "aye.")

COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

DR. HEPP: I'd also like to make a second appraisal and proceed to purchase the Autauga WMA-Poseys Crossroads addition.



1 COMMISSIONER GUY: There's a motion and is  
2 there a second?

3 DR. WOODS: Second.

4 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: A second by Dr. Strickland.

6 All in -- any discussion on the  
7 motion? Excuse me.

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
10 say "aye."

11 (All board members present respond  
12 "aye.")

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

16 Any other discussion or motions?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Chuck, can I ask just -- on  
19 that other Autauga County, do you need  
20 this motion if somebody was  
21 interested -- because I don't know -- in  
22 order to get it closed within the next  
23 year now?

1 MR. SYKES: The Joffre tract will be in our  
2 2016 that we can start working on as  
3 soon as the appraisals come back on  
4 this. I guess if somebody wanted to  
5 make that motion, it's appropriate.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: So I'll make a motion, yes.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

8 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, I would like to  
9 make a motion for first appraisal for  
10 Autauga WMA-Joffre addition, which is  
11 1285 acres.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's correct. In Autauga  
13 County; is that right?

14 DR. STRICKLAND: Autauga County.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. There's a  
16 motion. Is there a second?

17 DR. WOODS: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Second.

19 Any discussion on the motion?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Just so -- I'm -- on my  
22 discussion, so that would, then, join in  
23 with this other and you would shoot for

1 next year for that to then get the  
2 Pittman-Robertson monies?

3 MR. SYKES: That's correct.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Very good.

5 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, this is a first  
6 appraisal.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's right. First  
8 appraisal. Just for first appraisal.

9 DR. STRICKLAND: Just wanted to clarify.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we have a motion and a  
11 second. All in favor of the motion say  
12 "aye."

13 (All board members present respond  
14 "aye.")

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

18 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman, I have a request for  
19 another first appraisal.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball.

21 MR. BALL: I don't think we've done this one  
22 yet. Big Canoe Creek-Bettis, 197 acres,  
23 St. Clair County.

1           COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So a motion for a  
2                   first appraisal on Big Canoe  
3                   Creek-Bettis in St. Clair County; right?

4           MR. BALL: Yes, sir.

5           COMMISSIONER GUY: It's on the short list.

6                   Is there a second?

7           DR. SIMS: Second.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Sims.

9                   Any discussion on the motion?

10                   (No response.)

11           COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
12                   say "aye."

13                   (All board members present respond  
14                   "aye.")

15           COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

16                   (No response.)

17           COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

18           DR. SIMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move  
19                   for a first appraisal on Skyline-Pole  
20                   Branch addition in Jackson County.

21           COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. By Dr. Sims, a  
22                   motion for a first appraisal on Skyline  
23                   WMA-Pole Branch addition. Is there a

1 second?

2 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland.

4 Any discussion on the motion?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor say "aye."

7 (All board members present respond  
8 "aye.")

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

12 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. I have  
13 one more.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Mr. Ball.

15 MR. BALL: I'd like to propose a first  
16 appraisal on Lake Lurleen State  
17 Park-Roebuck addition, 70 acres in  
18 Tuscaloosa County.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I have a motion  
20 for a first appraisal on Lake Lurleen  
21 State Park-Roebuck addition. Is there a  
22 second?

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Strickland.

2 Any discussion on the motion?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Greg?

5 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry. Could you  
7 remind me about that one, Lurleen State  
8 Park-Roebuck addition, 70 acres?

9 MR. LEIN: This nomination has been before the  
10 board for several years. I believe it's  
11 located in the southeastern quadrant of  
12 the park close to the entrance. It  
13 would be an addition to the park. And  
14 it's short-listed for quite a while.  
15 The score is a moderate score in the big  
16 scheme of things for the nominations  
17 that apply to the state-park category.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is it timber or is it open  
19 land? Do you remember?

20 MR. LEIN: I believe -- it is timbered. Most  
21 of the land around the park is timbered.  
22 Some of it's been recently cut.

23 In the criteria in which we score

1           these nominations, this one is not one  
2           where it would secure like new access to  
3           the park. This is a park with a large  
4           lake, and one of our challenges there is  
5           vehicular access to the other side of  
6           the lake which we don't have right now.  
7           That's something that other staff have  
8           been working on is developing some  
9           nominations that would improve access to  
10          that part of the park.

11           But, you know, there just aren't --  
12          there are not often circumstances where  
13          we have nominations of property against  
14          our parks. And this is one of those  
15          that's been there for a while, but it's  
16          never been a big priority.

17          COMMISSIONER GUY: So just remind me. And I  
18          apologize. I just wanted to remember  
19          what the vision was for this 70 acres.  
20          I see it's 2011, so I was trying to  
21          remember.

22          MR. LEIN: Yes, sir.

23          COMMISSIONER GUY: Because that was right when

1 I got on this board and I just don't  
2 remember it at all.

3 MR. LEIN: The biggest benefit of this is that  
4 it would just add space to the park  
5 where the trails could be expanded.  
6 There has been a significant increase in  
7 mountain-biking-trail development at  
8 this park and financial benefits to the  
9 park through that kind of recreational  
10 traffic. So it's not a bad nomination,  
11 and obviously it made it on the short  
12 list.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

14 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: And, Dr. Ball, it's a first  
16 appraisal only, so --

17 MR. BALL: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: I just couldn't remember  
19 what it was for. So I appreciate you  
20 allowing me to ask about that because I  
21 couldn't -- I just couldn't remember  
22 what -- 70 acres is relatively small,  
23 but I didn't remember what the vision



1           was.

2                   So were there any other questions  
3           about that besides me? I apologize.

4                   (No response.)

5       COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So we have a  
6           motion, and I think we have a second,  
7           don't we?

8       DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, I seconded it.

9       COMMISSIONER GUY: A second.

10                   Any other discussion on the motion?

11                   (No response.)

12       COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
13           say "aye."

14                   (All board members present respond  
15                   "aye.")

16       COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

17                   (No response.)

18       COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

19                   Okay. Hearing no other discussion  
20           by any board members, we'll move out of  
21           that category, absent an objection, and  
22           move into some miscellaneous reports at  
23           which time -- are we good with all the

1           nominations in y'all's mind, Mr. Lawyer,  
2           Mr. Attorney for the board?

3           MR. LOCKLIER: I'm sorry?

4           COMMISSIONER GUY: You're good with all the  
5           nominations? I didn't have any other --  
6           any problems?

7           MR. LOCKLIER: Good.

8           COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I'll move to  
9           draft five-year plan update from -- it  
10          looks like Ms. Powell even though it  
11          says Chris Smith here, so we will  
12          substitute Ms. Powell.

13          MS. POWELL: I couldn't miss an opportunity to  
14          come to the microphone, so I jumped in  
15          front of Chris.

16                 No. I just wanted to -- we wanted  
17          to give a brief update. At the last  
18          meeting we talked about trying to get  
19          back with all the members and be sure we  
20          had all the board member either comments  
21          or suggested revisions for sort of the  
22          staff starting point of the draft  
23          five-year plan. We did -- just about a

1 week ago got in the last board member  
2 comment.

3 I want to thank you for all those  
4 who gave comments. They were very  
5 substantive and very helpful to us.

6 And so we are just about finished  
7 incorporating the last set of comments  
8 we received. So what we're going to do  
9 after that is, now that we have all the  
10 comments back, do one final circulation  
11 through various divisions, mine, State  
12 Parks, Wildlife and Freshwater  
13 Fisheries, Marine Resources, just to see  
14 if we see anything additional that we  
15 think the new comments spark.

16 Then the next step would be to get  
17 back to you. We hope we'll be close to  
18 a draft that would then go out for  
19 public comment. But we, of course,  
20 would want to bring that draft back to  
21 you one more time so that you could see  
22 all the other comments from your fellow  
23 board members that have been

1 incorporated, make any final tweaks to  
2 that, and then, you know, I'm excited to  
3 say we'll be ready to take that out for  
4 public comment.

5 And we can discuss more of that at  
6 the next meeting exactly what steps, if  
7 we're going to do public meetings again.  
8 But at a minimum, of course, we would  
9 have it on our Website and have some of  
10 our other groups that have offered to  
11 post it on their Website gather public  
12 comment.

13 So -- but, anyway, the next step  
14 would be, I'm excited to say, to finally  
15 get a final draft back for your  
16 consideration for approval to move to  
17 public comment.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for  
19 Ms. Powell?

20 MS. POWELL: Any questions on that?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. POWELL: Great. Thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank y'all for working on

1           that, I know, between a lot of other  
2           things, so I appreciate it very much.

3                     And thanks to the board for their  
4           comments. They're very valuable to us.

5                     Next, Chris, management plan for  
6           board approval.

7           MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. We have five recently  
8           purchased tracts that need the formal  
9           management plan approval. Four of these  
10          properties are located adjacent to  
11          already existing Forever Wild Land Trust  
12          holdings. And we have reviewed these  
13          properties and their management  
14          objectives, and they're complementary to  
15          the already board-approved management  
16          plans.

17                    So our recommendation would be that  
18          the board adopt these management -- the  
19          management of these properties to fall  
20          under the previously approved management  
21          plan. And I will list those tracts and  
22          the management plans I'm speaking of.

23                    One of the recently purchased

1 properties is the Sipsey-Pruett tract.  
2 This is located in Tuscaloosa County and  
3 is complementary and would fall into the  
4 management plan of the Sipsey River  
5 Swamp Forever Wild Land Trust complex.

6 A second property is the Walls of  
7 Jericho-Hurricane Creek addition. This  
8 is located in Jackson County, and it's  
9 adjacent and complementary to the  
10 management plan approved for the Walls  
11 of Jericho tract. And so our  
12 recommendation would be to just add that  
13 property to the Walls of Jericho  
14 management plan.

15 A third property is the Perdido  
16 River WMA-Barnhill addition. This is a  
17 property -- an inholding located within  
18 the Perdido Wildlife Management Area.  
19 And our recommendation would be to just  
20 add the management plan for management  
21 of this property to the already-approved  
22 Perdido WMA management plan.

23 And the final one of these

1 properties that are adjacent to the  
2 existing is the Grand Bay Savanna-Drake  
3 addition. This is an inholding within  
4 the Grand Bay Savanna Community Hunting  
5 Area located in Mobile County. Our  
6 recommendation would be to just add the  
7 management of this property or fold it  
8 under the already-approved management  
9 plan of the Grand Bay Savanna Forever  
10 Wild property.

11 And then we have the Cahaba -- or  
12 the Shelby County-Cahaba Park addition,  
13 which is -- it is adjacent to other  
14 Forever Wild properties, the Cahaba WMA,  
15 which is part of the lease -- the  
16 long-term lease for recreation rights.  
17 But, you know, this property was  
18 purchased with the intent to be managed  
19 alongside and adjacent to Shelby County  
20 Park.

21 We have been working with Shelby  
22 County and discussing with them  
23 partnering together in different

1 management. And so we developed a  
2 separate management plan and submitted  
3 that to you in your packet of  
4 information for your consideration. And  
5 we would need a motion from the board to  
6 adopt this management plan associated  
7 with the Shelby County Park addition as  
8 well as folding these other tracts into  
9 these existing management plans.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Do you want me to  
11 try to state that motion?

12 So the way I see it is, I guess the  
13 first motion is -- and I will state  
14 it -- is a motion to include recently  
15 acquired Forever Wild tracts within  
16 existing management plans, and those are  
17 the Sipsey-Pruett tract to be added to  
18 the Sipsey River Swamp management plan,  
19 the Walls of Jericho-Hurricane Creek  
20 addition to be added to the Walls of  
21 Jericho tract management plan, the  
22 Perdido River WMA-Barnhill to be added  
23 to the Perdido River-Longleaf Hills



1           tract management plan, and the GBS-Drake  
2           addition to be added to the Grand Bay  
3           Savanna tract management plan.

4           MR. SMITH: You got it.

5           COMMISSIONER GUY: Is that --

6           DR. STRICKLAND: So move.

7           COMMISSIONER GUY: Is there a second?

8           DR. SIMS: Second.

9           MR. BALL: Second.

10          COMMISSIONER GUY: Any discussion?

11                           (No response.)

12          COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
13                           say "aye."

14                           (All board members present respond  
15                           "aye.")

16          COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

17                           (No response.)

18          COMMISSIONER GUY: The second motion is to add  
19                           the newly acquired Cahaba River-Shelby  
20                           County Park addition -- excuse me -- to  
21                           adopt a management -- a formal  
22                           management plan for the newly acquired  
23                           Cahaba River-Shelby County Park

1           addition. Is that an appropriate  
2           motion?

3       MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

4       DR. STRICKLAND: So move.

5       COMMISSIONER GUY: Is there a second?

6       DR. SIMS: Second.

7       DR. WOODS: Second.

8       COMMISSIONER GUY: Is there any discussion?

9                   (No response.)

10       COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion  
11           say "aye."

12                   (All board members present respond  
13                   "aye.")

14       COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

15                   (No response.)

16       COMMISSIONER GUY: Awesome. Anything else?

17       MR. SMITH: That's it, Commissioner. That  
18           completes our reports of the  
19           miscellaneous as well as the other  
20           financial report.

21       COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

22                   Ms. Powell or other staff members,  
23           are there any other reports --

1           miscellaneous reports or other business  
2           that needs to come before the board that  
3           I've missed?

4           MS. POWELL: No, sir.

5           COMMISSIONER GUY: So there is a list of  
6           tentative meeting dates for the board's  
7           consideration on Tab 6, I believe it is.  
8           So our next meeting date, Ms. Powell,  
9           will be September 17th?

10          MS. POWELL: That's correct.

11          COMMISSIONER GUY: Approximately September --  
12          it would be September 17th barring any  
13          problems?

14          MS. POWELL: Yes. Unless there's a need to  
15          change that or if there's a different  
16          motion by the board.

17          COMMISSIONER GUY: And I will make the  
18          suggestion to everyone that we are  
19          considering probably returning to the  
20          Dothan area. They have asked us a  
21          number of times to come back. Certainly  
22          we're open to other suggestions of the  
23          board members. But we indicated to them

1           when we went the last time for the first  
2           time that we would come back, and I  
3           think we've tentatively been trying to  
4           get back there. So we thought that  
5           might be a good opportunity in September  
6           to go there.

7                     But if there are any other  
8           suggestions about that meeting or about  
9           the December meeting, if you would,  
10          please contact Ms. Powell, Ms. Lewis,  
11          Mr. Smith, or anybody else about your  
12          suggestions there. Is that okay?

13                    Are there any questions about the  
14          meeting dates?

15                    You might put those on your  
16          calendar.

17          DR. STRICKLAND: That was September ...

18          MS. POWELL: 17th.

19          COMMISSIONER GUY: 17th is the next one. And  
20          then the last one of this calendar year  
21          is December 10th.

22                    And then February 4th is always the  
23          one that we have in Montgomery and then

1           June 23rd. That's as far as we have  
2           gone.

3                     And then, lastly, I need approval of  
4           the minutes of December 18, 2014. Is  
5           there any -- is there a motion -- well,  
6           first of all, are there any editions or  
7           corrections to the minutes of  
8           December 18, 2014?

9           MS. POWELL: Commissioner, I'm sorry.

10          COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, I'm sorry.

11          MS. POWELL: After all the praise we've  
12                     received, we, of course, have a typo.  
13           That's not the right date. So give me a  
14           minute.

15          COMMISSIONER GUY: No problem. No problem.

16          MS. POWELL: It would be February 5th. And  
17                     that's what was circulated in your  
18           packets. So I'm sorry. We just didn't  
19           correct the date.

20          COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. I was just  
21                     reading it. I'm sorry.

22          MS. POWELL: No. It was on us. That's on us.

23          COMMISSIONER GUY: No problem.

1                   Are there any editions or  
2                   corrections to the minutes of  
3                   February 5, 2015, that's in your  
4                   package?

5                   (No response.)

6                   DR. STRICKLAND: Motion for approval.

7                   COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I hear --

8                   I've got a motion for approval of those  
9                   minutes. Do I have a second?

10                  MR. BALL: Second.

11                  DR. SIMS: Second.

12                                 (Brief interruption by court  
13                                 reporter.)

14                  COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland, a motion  
15                                 for approval. Second I'll just call on  
16                                 Dr. Sims.

17                                 And all in favor of the motion say  
18                                 "aye."

19                                 (All board members present respond  
20                                 "aye.")

21                  COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

22                                 (No response.)

23                  COMMISSIONER GUY: Unless there's more --

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other business that I'm unaware of, we stand adjourned. Thank y'all very much.

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:22 p.m.)

\* \* \* \* \*

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

\* \* \* \* \*

STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board Meeting on June 25, 2015.

The foregoing 118 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.

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This 13th day of August 2015.

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Tracye Sadler Blackwell  
ACCR No. 294  
Expiration date: 9-30-2011  
Certified Court Reporter  
and Commissioner for the State  
of Alabama at Large