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MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
RICHARD BEARD BUILDING
Montgomery, Alabama
February 7, 2019

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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 State of Alabama Agriculture and
Industries Auditorium, Richard Beard Building, 1445
Federal Drive, Montgomery, Alabama, on Thursday,
February 7, 2019, commencing at approximately
10:03 a.m.

* * * * *

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 2 Commissioner Christopher M. Blankenship, Chairman
- 3 Mr. Rick Oates
- 4 Mr. Horace H. Horn, Jr.
- 5 Dr. Michael Woods
- 6 Mr. David Wright
- 7 Mr. Raymond B. Jones, Jr.
- 8 Mr. William "Bill" Satterfield
- 9 Mr. Russ A. Runyan
- 10 Mr. Charles E. Ball
- 11 Dr. Patricia Sims
- 12 Dr. Lori Tolley-Jordan
- 13 Dr. Douglas Watson
- 14 Dr. Salem Saloom
- 15 Mr. John Hall

16 * * * * *

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Well, good morning,

18 everybody. Welcome to the February 7th

19 Forever Wild Board meeting, our first

20 one of this year. I'm going to call the

21 roll, and as I call the roll, please

22 acknowledge that you're present.

23 Chris Blankenship, here.

Charles Ball?

MR. BALL: Here.

CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: John Hall?

1 MR. HALL: Here.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Horace Horn?

3 MR. HORN: Here.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Raymond Jones?

5 MR. JONES: Here.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: William Satterfield?

7 MR. SATTERFIELD: Here.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims?

9 DR. SIMS: Here.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolly-Jordan?

11 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Here.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Watson?

13 DR. WATSON: Here.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Woods?

15 DR. WOODS: Here.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Rick Oates?

17 MR. OATES: Here.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Russ Runyan?

19 MR. RUNYAN: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom?

21 DR. SALOOM: Here.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: David Wright?

23 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And Dr. John Valentine?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine is not
4 present.

5 We have 14 members present. That
6 does give us a quorum. Thank y'all for
7 being here.

8 I would also like to welcome our two
9 newest members of the board. This is
10 their first meeting. Mr. John Hall.

11 MR. HALL: Down here.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: There he is, hiding
13 down there. Glad to see you here.

14 And then Dr. Saloom.

15 Thank you both for your service to
16 the Forever Wild Board. We look forward
17 to working with you gentlemen over the
18 next several years.

19 DR. SALOOM: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Appreciate the
21 Department of Ag and Industries allowing
22 us to use their facilities for this
23 meeting. The parking here is much

1 easier than trying to meet down at the
2 Capitol or somewhere else downtown. So
3 I do appreciate the new commissioner,
4 Rick Pate, and his staff allowing us to
5 use their auditorium.

6 There are a couple of elected
7 officials here or representatives of
8 elected officials. And so I just would
9 like to recognize them for a minute and
10 thank them for taking their time to
11 come.

12 We have Mr. Joey Peavy from the
13 Butler County Commission.

14 Mr. Peavy, thank you for being here.
15 Thank you for coming.

16 And then Mr. Al Stokes. I haven't
17 seen Mr. Stokes in a while. He's
18 working with Senator Doug Jones and a
19 representative here. And he was a
20 longtime staff member -- chief of staff
21 for the City of Mobile for the mayor's
22 office.

23 Good to see you again, Mr. Stokes.

1 Glad to have you here with us today.

2 Any other opening comments or
3 announcements before we start with the
4 public comment?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Seeing
7 none, we'll start with the public
8 comment. Just a reminder, we have three
9 minutes. After I call your name, just
10 come up to the microphone, please. For
11 the record state your name and then
12 whatever property that you would like to
13 speak on behalf of or concerning.

14 I'll also give the board -- I'll
15 tell you the tab number -- tab and page
16 number so that you can find that
17 particular parcel before the person
18 begins in case there's any questions
19 that you have and so you can make sure
20 you know what they're speaking on.

21 Our first speaker today is on the
22 Red Hills-Flat Creek Phase I. That's
23 Tab 3-B, page 12. Mr. Steve Northcutt.

1 Tab 3-B, page 12.

2 MR. NORTHCUTT: Good Morning. I'm Steve
3 Northcutt with The Nature Conservancy,
4 and I am here to talk about the Red
5 Hills-Flat Creek Phase I.

6 The Phase I is based on the fact
7 that the total parcel that's available
8 to the state through either Forever Wild
9 or other means is a large tract. And
10 it's going to be probably offered and
11 purchased in phases, if you so desire.

12 I will mention that a little less
13 than half of the property, which is a
14 disjunct tract to the south, right now
15 is being considered as a new state
16 forest with funding from the Forest
17 Legacy. So that would be a great
18 partnership to have maybe half of this
19 bought. Of course, the grant hasn't
20 been approved. But they've applied for
21 it, and we're real hopeful that maybe
22 we'll have a new partner to help buy the
23 property here.

1 If you notice on your map, the
2 red-outlined property of 1180 acres is
3 adjacent to now-owned Forever Wild
4 property. And the main point I want to
5 make today is there's a sense of
6 urgency, and the urgency is based on the
7 fact that there's a \$2 million grant
8 that's been provided by U.S. Fish and
9 Wildlife through what's called an HCP
10 Land Acquisition fund. HCP stands for
11 Habitat Conservation Plan. So the
12 people that own the property enrolled in
13 this HCP program with U.S. Fish and
14 Wildlife, and because of that
15 designation, you're eligible to acquire
16 property using those funds if they're
17 appropriated through U.S. Fish And
18 Wildlife.

19 And I'll just mention that the
20 \$2 million you got, Alabama is the only
21 state east of the Mississippi -- well,
22 east of the Colorado River. All the
23 money that was appropriated, about

1 \$27 million, went to California, Oregon,
2 and Washington. So the grant-writing
3 folks here in the Wildlife and
4 Freshwater Fisheries did a good job.
5 And so the \$2 million is critical to,
6 you know, reduce the cost of the
7 property for the board.

8 And the reason I say there's urgency
9 is because now is the time to apply for
10 additional funding through HCP. And if
11 you agree today to do a second appraisal
12 and close, then they can apply for
13 additional fundings and show that the
14 money is obligated. So in their grant
15 process they get more -- in other words,
16 if the federal government provides money
17 and you don't use it, they're not
18 interested in maybe funding another year
19 of appropriations. So the timing would
20 be critical, and hopefully you'll
21 consider doing a second appraisal and
22 close on this property with the
23 \$2 million that you have available.

1 Any questions I could answer?

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman?

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir,

4 Mr. Satterfield.

5 MR. SATTERFIELD: Could you clarify for us the
6 Forest proposal that you mentioned? How
7 does that -- where is that and how would
8 that work?

9 MR. NORTHCUTT: So the 12,000 acres -- and
10 it's not on this map. It's a large
11 piece owned by Conservation Forestry.
12 And there's a disjunct -- almost half of
13 the property, not quite -- I think it's
14 a little less than 6,000 acres that has
15 been written a Forest Legacy grant to
16 potentially buy that, and it would be a
17 standalone state forest. So it would be
18 complementary to protective lands that
19 Forever Wild now owns and these
20 additional properties. But that's
21 just -- you have another partner that
22 could be buying land there that would be
23 protected.

1 MR. SATTERFIELD: And would that land be south
2 of and/or in conjunction --

3 MR. NORTHCUTT: It is south of this property,
4 yes.

5 MR. SATTERFIELD: Is it in -- would it be
6 adjacent or in conjunction with this
7 property?

8 MR. NORTHCUTT: There's a narrow gap of
9 ownership between the two parcels. So
10 it makes a perfect property to acquire
11 as a standalone piece. But it's owned
12 by the same company, Conservation
13 Forestry.

14 MR. SATTERFIELD: And what's the timetable on
15 that proposal?

16 MR. NORTHCUTT: Rick, do you have any idea
17 when that --

18 MR. OATES: Bill, usually they make decisions
19 on them in the summer. So I would
20 expect, hopefully, this summer we'll
21 hear something about that.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. NORTHCUTT: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker will
2 be Mr. Al Stokes, also, on the Red
3 Hills-Flat Creek Phase I property.

4 MR. STOKES: Good morning. Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman and to the commission, for
6 the opportunity to speak to you. I
7 guess one of the things I'll say to you
8 is I've done a lot of other things other
9 than work for city government.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. I just know
11 you best from there.

12 MR. STOKES: My principal reason for coming is
13 that I grew up in the area that's the
14 target of this discussion. And my
15 primary reason for coming is because
16 that community really doesn't have a
17 whole lot going for it aside from this
18 particular value. One of the things
19 that this value brings to that
20 community, it brings attention.

21 I grew up there, as I said, you
22 know, and spent a lot of time running up
23 and down those hills and drinking from

1 those clear water springs. No one has
2 that direct privilege now. A lot of
3 people don't. And I would like to see
4 that this effort be made and your
5 support is there to continue to provide
6 that value and that resource available.

7 I remember vaguely -- I mean,
8 brilliantly the times that as a kid
9 where all of my cousins from all over
10 the country would come to Franklin for
11 one reason. Because we had just been
12 put out of our houses at home, if you
13 understand, and Mom and Dad is saying go
14 up to the country and stay with your
15 grandmother. Well, that was a pleasure
16 because what we did, we got to know each
17 other, but we also learned the value of
18 the wild and the value of being able to
19 hunt, to fish, to drink water out of
20 clean springs.

21 And one final thing. As I told some
22 gentlemen last night, there are some
23 fond memories, but there's one that

1 stings that stays with me. That's the
2 whipping I got one time for taking a
3 bath -- or swimming in my grandmother's
4 spring after she had spent all the time
5 getting it clean. But that was a place
6 that we would go and just chill out as
7 the kids would say. For us that was
8 special.

9 So I would encourage you to give
10 close attention to this request, strong
11 attention to this request, and honor it
12 to the extent that resources are
13 available to do it.

14 Finally, if there are any questions
15 you have of me, I would love to address
16 them. I've got about 55 seconds.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions for
18 Mr. Stokes?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. Thank
21 you for being here.

22 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker is

1 Randall Haddock, and it's on the Cahaba
2 River-Mohon Tract. That's Tab 3-B,
3 page 3. 3-B, page 3.

4 MR. HADDOCK: Trustees, I appreciate this
5 opportunity. I'm on the staff of the
6 Cahaba River Society. We're a
7 30-year-old organization. My role is
8 field director, and in that role I've
9 had an opportunity to float mostly the
10 whole length of the river. And there
11 are properties that are pretty along
12 that river, and there are properties
13 that are less attractive. And this
14 Mohon property is definitely among the
15 most beautiful of the lands that I've
16 seen. It's in a very crucial part of
17 the river in terms of the biodiversity
18 and, also, part of some lands you've
19 already acquired that will make a
20 wonderful corridor in the long run, we
21 hope.

22 We have initiated along with the
23 University of Alabama Economic

1 Development group, with the Freshwater
2 Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and
3 the Cahaba Riverkeeper an effort to
4 establish a blueway or access to the
5 river to allow people to paddle up and
6 down the river. And this property would
7 add wonderfully to that blueway trail
8 that we're trying to create.

9 Beyond that, I don't know if you've
10 got any questions or if there are
11 questions.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And I apologize. It is
13 actually Tab 3-B, page 4. I wanted to
14 make sure that everybody knew exactly
15 which one Mr. Haddock was speaking on.

16 MR. HADDOCK: You're all probably familiar
17 with the Cahaba in terms of its pretty
18 amazing biodiversity, and this piece of
19 land is at the heart of it. It's right
20 in the middle of where things from the
21 upper part of the watershed -- they get
22 that far south and things from the
23 bottom part of the watershed get that

1 far north. And it's just an especially
2 rich place, an especially beautiful
3 place because of the shoals and the
4 lilies and all the mussels and snails
5 and maybe fishes and other things.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. HADDOCK: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker on
11 that same property is Mr. Brent Belcher.
12 Brent Belcher.

13 Still looking for Mr. Brent Belcher
14 on the Cahaba-Mohon Tract.

15 MR. BELCHER: Thank you for the opportunity to
16 come speak regarding, in particular, the
17 Cahaba River and the Bibb and Perry
18 County communities which are on the
19 Cahaba River and, likewise, this piece.

20 I was asked to go look at this piece
21 of property. And my background is the
22 forest products industry. I was born
23 into the forest products -- solid wood

1 forest products industry. My father had
2 a sawmill. And I have worked with the
3 Forestry Commission, Mr. Oates, and the
4 Forestry Association over the years and
5 met a lot of people that are here today
6 through getting our ideas together as
7 far as industry is concerned and private
8 property ownership is concerned to
9 protect the Cahaba River and to protect
10 the environment period. And I've been
11 very involved in that personally and
12 continue to be on my own property.

13 Over the years I have -- I've owned
14 over 10,000 acres and have bought at
15 least that many and sold quite a few
16 too. But I've had over 10 miles of
17 Cahaba River frontage over the years. I
18 still own about 5 in Perry County.

19 And this is a good opportunity for
20 something to happen that I believe in,
21 and that's private property rights.
22 This property, when it's bought, you
23 will own it. And that is what's going

1 to make this thing work with the Cahaba
2 River is to have some property where
3 people can have access to the river and
4 where they're not dependent on private
5 property owners to do that.

6 Private property owners obviously
7 have the right to allow people off and
8 on the river, and we do that. But as
9 far as just opening it up, it's very
10 hard to do nowadays. And y'all
11 understand that.

12 And I went and looked at this piece
13 of property, and I was just amazed that
14 this piece of property existed in the
15 coal mine country north of Centreville
16 and Brent where I live. But I've also
17 been on thousands of acres of property
18 up in north Bibb, cut timber up there,
19 had ownership up there.

20 And what I want to see is the Trust
21 consider this piece. I will tell you,
22 the value of how it's been maintained is
23 what's so impressive by Mr. Mohon. And

1 I just met him today. So, I mean, I
2 went out on the property with Beth
3 Finch.

4 But he has maintained that property
5 to make it so conducive to protecting
6 the Cahaba with this property because of
7 the timber that's on it. And when you
8 get an appraisal and you look at that
9 timber value, remember, that's the value
10 of that timber if you just severed every
11 piece and took it to pulp mills and
12 sawmills. But when it's there and it's
13 still growing and it's doing its job to
14 protect other property, then it's --
15 that timber is worth a lot more standing
16 than what it's going to be appraised for
17 by a forester.

18 You know, I always put 2- or \$300
19 additional per acre on a piece like this
20 based on its timber. The timber is
21 there, and the timber is growing. And
22 the timber is doing its job every day.
23 And that's one thing I'm a believer in

1 is that property can do that.

2 Mr. Oates knows that.

3 But I appreciate the opportunity to
4 come, and I hope you will consider this
5 tract.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you very much,
9 sir.

10 MR. BELCHER: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker is
12 Chandlar Graham on the Thigpen Hill
13 property. That's Tab 3-B, page 14.
14 3-B, page 14.

15 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning. Thank you for the
16 time. I'm here today just on behalf of
17 the owner of the Thigpen Hill property,
18 which is in Butler County. We're asking
19 that y'all would consider motioning for
20 a second appraisal and purchase of this
21 property.

22 I'm sure y'all are aware of where it
23 is. But the potential for this

1 property, given the adjacency to a
2 Robert Trent Jones course, a city park
3 owned by the City of Greenville -- you
4 know, it's five minutes from the
5 interstate, five minutes from
6 restaurants and hotels. So all that in
7 conjunction provides quite a bit of
8 potential to make a serious economic
9 impact on this area and allow a great
10 deal of public use being centrally
11 located in the state, easy to get to,
12 easy to visit due to the lodging.

13 I realize that, you know, this is a
14 large parcel. But what I want y'all to
15 understand is the owner has made it her
16 goal for, you know, the past ten years
17 for this property to be preserved in
18 some sort of public ownership feeling
19 that Forever Wild is the best vehicle to
20 do this. And she's more than willing to
21 work with y'all logistically to
22 eliminate any kind of concerns or, you
23 know, just to make it easier for the

1 transaction to happen.

2 So as you consider that -- and I
3 know there might be some roadblocks or
4 issues, but, you know, we're willing to
5 work with everyone to make this happen
6 for Forever Wild, the State of Alabama,
7 and for our owner's legacy.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

9 Any questions of Mr. Graham?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

12 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Our next speaker on the
14 same property is Mr. Andrew Boutwell.

15 MR. ANDREW BOUTWELL: Good morning. I'm
16 Andrew Boutwell. My family owns
17 property adjacent to the Thigpen Hill
18 property.

19 There are three questions I would
20 like us to consider today. First,
21 should the acquisition of lands for
22 public hunting be the driving purpose of
23 Forever Wild. For the Thigpen Hill

1 property, the DCNR has let us know that
2 their interest in the property is for
3 public hunting, specifically for another
4 Special Opportunity Area. This follows
5 the recent trend of large acquisitions.

6 Since 2015 the DCNR has acquired
7 24,000 acres to create four public
8 hunting properties within an hour's
9 drive of Montgomery, but most of this
10 land is not open to public access.
11 Access to the Special Opportunity Areas
12 is restricted to the few hunters who are
13 selected via lottery process. This is
14 not what most voters had in mind when
15 they approved Forever Wild, expecting
16 increased access to public lands.

17 My second question for consideration
18 is what type of property should Forever
19 Wild be buying. Alabama is blessed with
20 some of the highest biodiversity in the
21 nation, and there are many conservation
22 goals that are worthy causes. So how do
23 we decide which conservation goals

1 should be prioritized?

2 The DCNR has answered this question
3 in the comprehensive 2015 State Wildlife
4 Action Plan. That report identified 133
5 areas across the state that are
6 recommended as priority areas for
7 conservation. The Thigpen Hill property
8 does not fall within or near any of
9 those areas. For large acquisitions
10 that require a significant amount of
11 public funding, the priority
12 conservation areas should be the focus.

13 My final question is how can Forever
14 Wild be the best steward of public
15 funding. Over \$50 million in public
16 funding was used to acquire the four
17 public hunting properties near
18 Montgomery. With limited public access,
19 does the benefit justify that cost?

20 I urge this group to think more
21 creatively and to utilize public-private
22 partnerships and conservation easements
23 whenever possible. If the goal is more

1 public hunting, find a way to lease more
2 land from private landowners. This is a
3 more cost-effective way to accomplish
4 the conservation goals.

5 For the Thigpen Hill property,
6 consider targeting a smaller footprint.
7 There is 291 acres to the south of Cedar
8 Creek that includes the portion of the
9 property with the highest biodiversity.
10 It's adjacent to the golf course, to the
11 camping, to the hiking trails that
12 Chandlar mentioned, and it would be a
13 much smaller but better addition for
14 Forever Wild.

15 In conclusion, I do not think
16 Forever Wild should move forward with
17 buying the entire Thigpen Hill property.
18 As a good steward of public funding, I
19 think you should pass on the deal
20 entirely or target a smaller area for
21 acquisition.

22 Forever Wild has had many
23 conservation successes, but I think

1 these are important questions to
2 consider to ensure that this program is
3 successful moving forward.

4 Thank you for listening, and I
5 appreciate the opportunity to speak to
6 this group.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there any questions
8 for Mr. Boutwell?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker on the same
12 property is Mr. John Boutwell.

13 MR. JOHN BOUTWELL: Good morning. Thank you
14 for having me here. My name is John
15 Boutwell, and I'm an adjacent landowner
16 to the Thigpen Hill Tract that we're
17 talking about in Butler County.

18 I'm a commercial timber grower.
19 That means I grow and I sell timber for
20 a living. As a private landowner, I'm
21 committed to good stewardship on
22 forestland. This includes managing the
23 wildlife -- managing for wildlife and

1 protecting the streams, but just as
2 important for me, probably more
3 important, good stewardship includes
4 managing for timber production.

5 Our land on Cedar Creek has been in
6 the American Tree Farm program since
7 1961. We've received recognition for
8 our management of this land at both the
9 state and the national levels.

10 When I looked at your land
11 acquisitions for the last three years,
12 it really shocked me. During that time
13 period you acquired nearly 25,000 acres
14 of productive forestland in central
15 Alabama. You did this by direct
16 purchase and also by using your dollars
17 as matching funds for the Department of
18 Conservation and Natural Resources. All
19 of that land, that 25,000 acres, was
20 slated to become hunting property with
21 limited timber management simply to
22 improve habitat.

23 If this trend continues, I view it

1 as a threat to the forest industry in
2 our area. I'm not sure that y'all
3 recognize the importance of productive
4 timberland to Alabama.

5 Extension Service did a study in
6 2016. Forest product sales in Alabama
7 totaled \$18.2 billion. That was a third
8 of the ag sales in the state. They also
9 provided 65,000 jobs. Forestry plays an
10 even bigger relative role in Butler
11 County. Forestry in Alabama is bigger
12 than row crops. It's a bigger business
13 than row crops, yet row-crop land is off
14 limits and forestland is fair game. And
15 I don't think that's right.

16 Purchase of the Thigpen Hill Tract
17 would be a continuation of the
18 disturbing trend that I mentioned. I
19 urge you to decline this tract, and in
20 the future if you run across anything
21 similar to it, I would urge you to
22 decline it too. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

1 Any questions for Mr. Boutwell?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

4 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I do have a question just
5 about the tract itself.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

7 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Are the trees that are on
8 the property longleaf pine or are they
9 loblolly pine?

10 MR. JOHN BOUTWELL: It's predominantly
11 loblolly pine, some shortleaf. There's
12 also hardwoods. I don't know of any
13 longleaf there.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

15 The next speaker is Ray Herndon.
16 It's on the Blackwater South Tract --
17 Blackwater River South Tract, Tab 4-B,
18 page 3. 4-B, page 3.

19 MR. HERNDON: Good morning, Commissioner.

20 Good morning, board members. Thank you
21 for the opportunity.

22 I've got a map -- two additional
23 maps that I'm passing out just for a

1 reference here. My name is Ray Herndon.
2 I'm with The Conservation Fund, and I'm
3 here to talk to you about a project that
4 is titled the Blackwater River South
5 Tract.

6 On the map that you are receiving,
7 the tract is named Perdido Bluff. So I
8 just wanted to make sure that everyone
9 understood that's the tract that we're
10 targeting. It's called the Perdido
11 Bluff Tract on the map. It's the same
12 as the Blackwater River South Tract in
13 your package.

14 You can see from the first map that
15 I handed out that this tract fits into a
16 conservation landscape that's pretty
17 extensive already with previous
18 investments by Forever Wild in this
19 geography, other federal and private
20 lands that have been eased as well
21 across the landscape of the Blackwater
22 River and the Perdido River.

23 So I'm here this morning to ask for

1 board action on this particular property
2 for the benefits within that
3 conservation landscape fitting into the
4 previously protective lands, the habitat
5 protection that will ensue, and for the
6 future opportunity for public access to
7 the Blackwater and the Perdido River and
8 the north end of the Perdido Bay. The
9 tract, as you see on the second map, is
10 over 50-percent wetlands, a variety of
11 wetlands from saline-influenced wetlands
12 to freshwater emergent to
13 bottomland-type wetlands.

14 Recently The Conservation Fund as
15 well as other folks attended a site
16 visit with the National Fish and
17 Wildlife Foundation. That was back in
18 September. The National Fish and
19 Wildlife Foundation has expressed strong
20 interest in this tract for maybe
21 delivering funds under the Gulf
22 Environmental Benefit Fund to
23 potentially match with Forever Wild

1 dollars. I've had some recent
2 conversations there, as I believe that
3 the Commissioner may have, as to its --
4 NFWF's commitment to this project, and I
5 think they're willing to -- they've
6 expressed some level of commitment
7 subject to board approval maybe in the
8 summertime or into the fall for funding
9 to be delivered here.

10 I just wanted to note that this
11 tract is under threat for development.
12 The current owner -- or the estate for
13 the current owner had this tract
14 permitted for 900 residential units
15 across this acreage that you see. And
16 this was intended to be a destination
17 development. So the threat is real and
18 it's imminent.

19 The first appraisal which The
20 Conservation Fund has provided to the
21 Department has been approved for your
22 use. And this morning I'm respectfully
23 requesting action in the form of a

1 motion to second appraisal and move to
2 acquire this tract.

3 I'll entertain any questions.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions from the
5 board?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Mr. Herndon.

8 MR. HERNDON: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I also have on the same
10 card Yael Girard. Would you like to
11 speak on this property as well?

12 Same piece of property.

13 MS. GIRARD: Good morning, board. Thank y'all
14 for having us. Again, I'm speaking on
15 the Blackwater River South Tract.

16 My name is Yael Girard. I'm the
17 executive director of the Weeks Bay
18 Foundation. We are a small land trust
19 in coastal Alabama. This property is
20 within the area that we try to protect.
21 It is also within the area of the
22 Coastal Land Trust.

23 Unfortunately, we are too small to

1 protect this on our own, but it has
2 significant conservation value. There
3 are longleaf pine on the tract, wild
4 turkeys, Bobwhites, white-tailed deer.
5 It is a habitat for migratory birds. As
6 mentioned, there are a lot of wetland
7 acres within the area and miles of river
8 frontage that are home to aquatic
9 species -- native aquatic species.

10 There are mixed hardwoods. There is
11 an 80-acre inlet called Reeder Lake as
12 well as an area called Alligator Bayou.
13 It is also within the range of several
14 species of concern. And so we see this
15 property should it be developed as a
16 tremendous loss for the area as far as
17 conservation and habitat. We hope that
18 the board will consider the long-term
19 value for public access and conservation
20 and move towards a second appraisal and
21 move to purchase. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, ma'am.

23 The next speaker will be Marie

1 Bostick. Marie Bostick. And that's on
2 Monte Sano State Park-McCombs Addition,
3 page 4-B -- Tab 4-B, page 17. 4-B,
4 page 17.

5 MS. BOSTICK: Good morning. I'm Marie
6 Bostick. I'm the director of the Land
7 Trust of North Alabama, and I appreciate
8 the opportunity to address the board
9 this morning.

10 We have nominated the Monte Sano
11 SP-McCombs Addition Tract. We currently
12 own this property. I understand it is
13 on your agenda today for possible
14 consideration, and so I wanted to tell
15 you just --

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I'm sorry. Can you
17 speak in the microphone?

18 MS. BOSTICK: Sure.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am. I just
20 want to make sure everybody gets to hear
21 you. Thank you.

22 MS. BOSTICK: Is that better?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. BOSTICK: I just wanted to tell you a
2 little bit about the property. It is
3 located on Monte Sano Mountain in
4 Madison County. It is above a road
5 called Dandy Circle, so it does have
6 frontage on that road. And it's on the
7 eastern side of Monte Sano. It abuts
8 Monte Sano State Park on two sides, on
9 both its western and northern sides of
10 the tract.

11 It's approximately 121 acres. It
12 does have a typical terrain for that
13 part of the county. It is rocky slopes
14 with shallow soils derived from the
15 limestone, and it has a typical upland
16 hardwood forest predominantly of
17 hickories and oaks. There are some
18 sassafras, persimmon, red maple, and red
19 cedar throughout the tract as well.

20 There is an interesting solution
21 feature at the base of the mountain.
22 It's a -- I don't think it would qualify
23 technically for a cave. But it has a

1 cave-like opening, and there are two
2 manmade pillars on either side of it.
3 And there's been a lot of speculation as
4 to what that might have been in the
5 past, but we don't have any concrete
6 evidence of what that could be. But it
7 is a very interesting feature.

8 There are also two trails on the
9 property that are very widely used by
10 the community. One is called Flat Rock
11 Trail, and the other is the Keith Trail.
12 And the Keith Trail actually starts in
13 the state park today and meanders onto
14 this property. So if this were acquired
15 and somehow incorporated into the park
16 system for management, that entire trail
17 would be within the state park boundary
18 or within the state property.

19 Like I said, it is fronted on Dandy
20 Circle. So it does have access and
21 would provide an access for the state
22 park on the eastern side of the
23 mountain, which they don't really have

1 very good access at this point from that
2 side.

3 Just a little bit about the Land
4 Trust. We have worked -- we've existed
5 for about 32 years. We've worked with
6 the state park on many occasions. We
7 have many common boundaries. We assist
8 them in management and maintenance where
9 appropriate and would certainly be
10 willing to continue to do that in any
11 way that they should desire as they
12 expand the park boundaries through our
13 volunteers and our staff.

14 Again, I would surely appreciate
15 your consideration of first appraisal
16 today when the time is appropriate on
17 your agenda. And thank you again for
18 your consideration.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones.

20 MR. JONES: Marie, this is actually owned by
21 the Land Trust currently?

22 MS. BOSTICK: It is, yes, sir. We purchased
23 it a couple of years ago in anticipation

1 of hopefully this occurring.

2 MR. JONES: Okay. On the -- I think this is
3 on the eastern property line according
4 to our maps. There's a long slender
5 piece. What is that?

6 MS. BOSTICK: That is the 50-foot access point
7 that is actually a part of the property.
8 We own that as well, and that's how you
9 access into it.

10 MR. JONES: Okay. So that's actually the --
11 is that an easement or --

12 MS. BOSTICK: No. We own that in fee.

13 MR. JONES: -- you own it in fee?

14 MS. BOSTICK: Yes.

15 MR. JONES: Okay. And that goes back to a
16 road?

17 MS. BOSTICK: Yes. Dandy Circle. It connects
18 with Dandy Circle, which is a public
19 county road.

20 MR. JONES: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. RUNYAN: I've got a question.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Go ahead, Mr. Runyan.

23 MR. RUNYAN: On a parcel like this that

1 adjoins the state -- current state park,
2 would the state park help manage this,
3 or how would something like that work?

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I was looking to see if
5 Greg is here. Go ahead, Patti.

6 MS. McCURDY: Yes. Normally the acreage
7 adjacent to a state park would be
8 actively managed by the state park. But
9 when you're talking tract specific, you
10 know -- can you see -- I haven't looked
11 around for anybody from State Parks
12 because I do want to be sure --

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I see Tasha.

14 MS. McCURDY: -- to be sure, you know, of
15 their -- that there's nothing tract
16 specific that would make a difference in
17 this scenario as to the ability, you
18 know, of the state park to manage the
19 acreage. So I would -- Tasha, do you
20 want to come up?

21 Come up to the microphone. It's
22 okay. They won't bite you, I promise.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And as familiar as you

1 are with the tract, feel free to answer,
2 but if you need to get -- to take a
3 chance to go look at it, we can do that
4 as well. Go ahead.

5 MS. SIMON: What specific question would you
6 like for me to answer?

7 The state park -- I've talked with
8 the state park manager up there, and
9 they're very -- they really would like
10 to have this area. And they are willing
11 to manage that area with their
12 personnel. It allows them access to the
13 two trails and for management for that
14 area.

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. I
16 don't understand. Can you explain again
17 who you are? Are you with DCNR, or are
18 you with --

19 MS. SIMON: My name is Tasha Simon, and I am
20 the natural resource planner for State
21 Parks.

22 MR. SATTERFIELD: For State Parks.

23 MS. McCURDY: Department of Conservation State

1 Parks Division.

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: Okay. Let me ask you a
3 question about this property.

4 It looks like from the topo map that
5 this is extremely steep terrain. It
6 looks like essentially almost
7 up-and-down cliffs without -- can you
8 describe this property for us a little
9 better to help us understand what this
10 is?

11 And you mentioned that there is --
12 some trails go across there, but where
13 are the trails now?

14 MS. BOSTICK: Yeah. So it is a steep parcel,
15 but you can almost see the benches if
16 you look at the map itself. There's a
17 bench about halfway through the tract
18 where the topography is not quite as
19 steep, and then there's also one at the
20 top of the tract. And the two trail
21 networks go through those two benches.
22 It's a natural, you know, level way that
23 they go through the property off of and

1 then back onto the state park property
2 which is shown in the hatched area.

3 MS. McCURDY: And it's my understanding that
4 the current visitors to the state park
5 have been able to utilize the trails,
6 but this would actually allow it to be
7 part of the state park, managed as such,
8 and with the deeded access that the park
9 would own to the paved road which also
10 helps with the backcountry trail.

11 MS. BOSTICK: That's correct.

12 MS. McCURDY: I get some of the names of the
13 trails confused, but I think that's also
14 an additional feature that is attractive
15 to state parks.

16 MR. SATTERFIELD: So the fact that this little
17 arm that sticks out there is deeded
18 land, that would provide -- that
19 presently provides access to that
20 property and would provide sort of a
21 back gate for the property for the state
22 park. Is that what you're saying?

23 MS. BOSTICK: It does currently provide access

1 to the property, and it would -- and
2 I've talked with the state park manager
3 as well of Monte Sano, and he said that
4 he would utilize that -- I wouldn't call
5 it a gate like a public gate, but he
6 would use it for maintenance access and
7 to be able to get to people should there
8 be a need on one of those trails.
9 Currently he has a very difficult time
10 getting to people that might be down
11 there.

12 MS. McCURDY: And I believe the access -- that
13 is to a paved road too.

14 MS. BOSTICK: It is, yes.

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: Is this area of the state
16 park sort of like more akin to a
17 wilderness area? What would you
18 classify it as? As recreational?
19 Wilderness?

20 MS. BOSTICK: I would classify it as
21 recreational. I think all of Monte Sano
22 would probably be classified as
23 recreational. Although, you know,

1 they've got several -- a couple -- it's
2 3,000 acres there almost now, but
3 it's -- I wouldn't consider it
4 backcountry wilderness. If you went
5 down in that area and you weren't
6 accustomed to hiking, you would feel
7 like you were in the wilderness , but
8 most people would just consider that
9 recreation ...

10 MR. SATTERFIELD: And then can we clarify,
11 Mr. Chairman -- do we allow hunting on
12 state parks?

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: There is some limited
14 hunting in -- like at Oak Mountain where
15 we're trying to control the population
16 of certain species, but generally the
17 answer to that is no. But there is some
18 small-scale hunting in certain parks for
19 wildlife management.

20 MR. SATTERFIELD: So in this particular park
21 there is no hunting?

22 MS. BOSTICK: Not currently, no, sir.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: Just one last question.

1 This dotted line across the eastern side
2 of the property, is that a major power
3 line?

4 MS. BOSTICK: Yeah. There is a
5 transmission -- TVA transmission line
6 just off of the property that crosses
7 the 50-foot access property.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: If so, is there -- this
9 property, is it encumbered -- that
10 little arm that goes up there, is it
11 encumbered, then, by an easement --
12 power line easement?

13 MS. BOSTICK: Yes. The power line easement
14 does cross that 50-foot -- but there's
15 no power transmission tower there, so it
16 doesn't -- it doesn't in any way impact
17 the ability to use it for an access.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. Tasha, I
19 apologize for not better introducing
20 you, and I apologize to the board for
21 assuming that you-all know everybody I
22 know. But Tasha is our natural resource
23 planner for the State Parks Division. I

1 appreciate you being here today.

2 The next speaker is Ben Whitaker on
3 the Sipse River Swamp, Mill Creek
4 Addition, Tab 4-B, page 29. 4-B,
5 page 29.

6 Mr. Whitaker, if you would give
7 everybody just a second to find that.

8 All right, sir.

9 MR. WHITAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and
10 board members. Thank you for having me.

11 My name is Ben Whitaker, and I am
12 here to discuss the Mill Creek Addition
13 to the Sipse River Swamp. I'm here to
14 request that the board would move to
15 order a first appraisal on this
16 property.

17 Just a little bit about this
18 property. There's a map that I provided
19 you. The property that I am talking
20 about, the Mill Creek Addition, is
21 outlined in red and crosshatched red.
22 The current Sipse River Complex is in
23 yellow.

1 As you are all very aware, this
2 property is about 15 miles west of the
3 University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa
4 County. It adjoins current Forever Wild
5 holdings located on the Sipsey River.
6 This addition would increase Sipsey
7 River frontage by approximately 1 mile
8 and make it contiguous in this area. It
9 would provide excellent recreation
10 activities including, but not limited
11 to, canoeing, camping, hiking
12 birdwatching. It's excellent waterfowl
13 habitat. It would be a good hunting
14 addition to the Sipsey River hunting
15 rights.

16 And I'm here to just make the board
17 aware that we would like to move to the
18 next phase and have this property
19 appraised.

20 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Can I ask one more
21 question?

22 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, ma'am.

23 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: So it's adjacent, then,

1 and then Sipse River would add frontage
2 directly to the river. Is that correct?

3 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, ma'am.

4 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Okay. That's it.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir,
6 Mr. Satterfield.

7 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman, what is the
8 status of the railroad that appears to
9 run through this property? Is there a
10 railroad easement for that line?

11 MR. WHITAKER: It's an old abandoned railroad,
12 and I believe that according to the deed
13 there's still a railroad right of way
14 through there.

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: So, Patti, can you help me
16 with how we would deal with that if
17 there's an existing right of way that's
18 still used by -- that's still in favor
19 of the railroad? Would that have to be
20 extinguished? How would that be taken
21 care of in this --

22 MS. McCURDY: The board would -- you could
23 have a couple of different options. The

1 first would be an analysis of whether,
2 as we normally do, there is impact to
3 the usage, to our access, and any
4 concerns there that would need to be
5 addressed or resolved. Whether you
6 allow -- a couple of options depending
7 on the -- let me look back at this
8 one -- depending on the nature and
9 location. You can't always extinguish
10 them. You know, railroads are not
11 always -- or get them released. They're
12 not always really willing to do that.

13 So, you know, I'm not as familiar
14 with this tract as to whether -- you
15 know, you could either talk about it
16 with the owner about excluding that
17 acreage; if we did, if there would be
18 impact to access. The road runs -- help
19 me with this map for a minute. It's
20 not -- we put our lines over lines, so
21 sometimes it's hard to see.

22 MR. WHITAKER: Access is prescriptive off of
23 this road.

1 MS. McCURDY: So I don't think in this
2 scenario it really would change the
3 potential access. But it would be the
4 board's option of how to do it.
5 Obviously, if it would affect appraisal
6 value, obviously it would be reflected
7 there. The board's desire of whether to
8 acquire property with that encumbrance
9 upon it or not, we would manage it
10 according to the board's desire to take
11 the parcel.

12 MR. RUNYAN: You mentioned access. Where is
13 the access?

14 MR. WHITAKER: Access is prescriptive off of
15 Shelly Hughes Road, which is to the east
16 of the tract.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Horn.

18 MR. HORN: Is this an abandoned railroad?
19 Have the rails been taken up?

20 MR. WHITAKER: It's an abandoned railroad.

21 MR. HORN: Yeah. So it's just a bed?

22 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, that's correct.

23 MR. HORN: Who does that belong to?

1 MR. WHITAKER: Who does the railroad belong to
2 or the tract?

3 MR. HORN: Well, the right of way. Who owns
4 that now?

5 MR. WHITAKER: Well, you know, we own -- the
6 foundation owns it right now. I'm not
7 sure -- I'm not sure if the railroad
8 company still -- I don't quite
9 understand your question. I'm sorry.

10 MR. HORN: Okay. Whose right of way is that?
11 What railroad?

12 Okay. Okay. I see it on here.

13 MR. WRIGHT: So was this railroad utilized for
14 logging purposes in the day?

15 MR. WHITAKER: I think so, a long time ago,
16 yes, sir.

17 I have a copy of the deed right here
18 if you'd give me one minute.

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: What is the possibility you
20 could talk with the railroad to see if
21 they're willing to relinquish their
22 easement on the property so that we
23 wouldn't have to deal with that for

1 Forever Wild? Have you approached them
2 in that regard?

3 MR. WHITAKER: No, sir, I have not.

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: Is that something that you
5 would be interested in doing?

6 MR. WHITAKER: I would be -- I will definitely
7 look into that for you, yes, sir.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: That would be very helpful,
9 I think, for us.

10 MR. WHITAKER: Okay.

11 MR. SATTERFIELD: And another quick question.
12 It looks like from what's being proposed
13 here, in the area of the map that's
14 labeled a duck pond, if Forever Wild
15 should go forward eventually with this
16 purchase, that appears to be an
17 inholding. Do you know who owns that
18 property?

19 MR. WHITAKER: I don't currently, but I could
20 look that up for you. I don't know the
21 ownership of that out piece. It's not
22 us.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: Thank you.

1 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, sir.

2 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, there's actually two
3 inholdings right there near each other.

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any other questions?

6 MS. McCURDY: And I will clarify that, again,
7 sometimes the lines on our map
8 delineating the parcels make it
9 difficult. But at the very bottom of
10 the currently owned tract, the green,
11 yellow, and then green -- Highway 82 --
12 Highway 82 runs along there. So there
13 is access to the adjacent acreage that
14 could potentially help access to the
15 west of this parcel. But I just wanted
16 to clarify there is a road. Thanks.

17 MR. WHITAKER: And could I clarify one more
18 thing on the railroad? I was having a
19 little trouble earlier.

20 In section 24 the deed states that
21 portion of the southwest quarter of the
22 southwest quarter lying west of the
23 M & G RR. That's how it reads. I can

1 do a little research for you.

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: That would be great.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

4 MR. WHITAKER: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Our last speaker that I
6 have a green slip of paper for is
7 Mr. Will Roberts. He's not going to
8 talk about a nominated tract. He wanted
9 to talk about the Old Cahawba Prairie
10 Tract. I think that's a current
11 property that we have.

12 Before you begin, is there anybody
13 else that wanted to speak that didn't
14 get a chance to speak?

15 If somebody will get him a green
16 slip, and then we'll ...

17 All right, Mr. Roberts. Go ahead.

18 MR. ROBERTS: Hey, I'm Will Roberts. I'm a
19 landowner and homeowner next to the Old
20 Cahawba Prairie Tract.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Can you speak up just a
22 little bit into the mic? I apologize.
23 I'm about hard of hearing.

1 MR. ROBERTS: All right. I'm Will Roberts.

2 I'm a landowner and homeowner next to
3 the Old Cahawba Prairie Tract, and I'm
4 here this morning because of some safety
5 concerns that I have that we ran into
6 over the past five years or so that
7 Forever Wild has had the land.

8 I'm continually catching people on
9 our property, having them come up and
10 shoot at deer and game across the line
11 on my property. They use my property to
12 access your property.

13 I've had about nine incidents where
14 I've been face to face, them with a gun,
15 me with a gun. I won't bore you with
16 all of them, but two of the most recent
17 ones that really stand out is -- one was
18 my wife was at home by herself and was
19 hearing all the shooting from a man
20 drive. And she goes over to our road
21 that runs the property and confronts
22 five men walking on our property. They
23 see her and take off running. We call

1 the game warden. They bring all the
2 guys out. It's 37 people having a man
3 drive. They put her in front of 37 men
4 and tell her to identify who it was.
5 They had toboggans on with big coats.
6 She couldn't identify them. They
7 laughed at her and went on hunting, and
8 there was -- nothing was done or could
9 be done according to the enforcement
10 officer.

11 This past December my daughter,
12 12 years old, my niece, 11 years old, on
13 two different four-wheelers had two
14 friends with them riding the property
15 line at about eleven o'clock in the day
16 on a Saturday. We started hearing
17 shooting, and we went over there and got
18 the girls away. And they were having a
19 man drive. A man had put out several
20 kids, walked down our property line.
21 And the daddy was driving the deer
22 toward our property line, and they were
23 shooting down the road that the kids

1 were riding four-wheelers up and down.
2 One of the kids made their way to our
3 house, was lost, with a gun, couldn't
4 find his daddy.

5 It just seems to be a problem that
6 keeps happening. I guess it's kind of
7 the worst-case scenario for the way the
8 land lays. The Forever Wild property is
9 very thick, short pines. My road is
10 wide open. My woods are wide open
11 because it's horse pasture and farmland.
12 And they drive the deer out of Forever
13 Wild and they stand on your land and
14 they shoot at the deer when they come
15 out in the opening on my land. This has
16 happened on several occasions with --
17 not only with the man drives but with
18 people sitting -- they'll sit on the
19 tree with the yellow paint and say that
20 they're over there and there's nothing I
21 can do, but their gun is pointed out
22 into my pasture. We can see them
23 sitting there from our house.

1 There are six houses along this
2 property line. That's a very short
3 property line, just over a quarter of a
4 mile. I'm here representing four
5 families that have a concern. One lady
6 that lives out at the front of the
7 property, they park in the edge of her
8 yard before daylight and walk through
9 her yard with flashlights and shotguns
10 to access your property because it's
11 easier than walking in from your land.

12 What I am proposing is some type of
13 safety zone along this property line of
14 maybe like 300 yards. Because I'm
15 having to use my land as a buffer,
16 keeping my kids away from the line and
17 keeping them in the house on some
18 Saturdays, especially during the end of
19 December and January when there are so
20 many people hunting.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. You
22 have spoken with Ms. McCurdy and her
23 staff recently from what I understand to

1 try and -- for our State Lands Division
2 to see what things can be done to
3 mitigate these instances. And
4 I think -- I spoke with Ms. McCurdy
5 about that this morning, and I think
6 that they are actively looking to see if
7 they can address these concerns.

8 Any other questions from the board
9 or comments?

10 Yes, sir.

11 MR. WRIGHT: Will, I'm from Dallas County.

12 Could we meet after the meeting, please?

13 MR. ROBERTS: Just as quick as you want to.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

15 Thank you, sir. Sorry for the problems
16 that you're having there. We'll see if
17 we can work to address that and be good
18 neighbors.

19 MR. ROBERTS: And I'm not against hunting at
20 all, you know. It's just -- thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

22 Commissioner Peavy would like to
23 speak on the Thigpen Hill Tract.

1 Yes, sir. Sorry that we skipped
2 over you earlier.

3 MR. PEAVY: No. I apologize for that. I
4 probably was supposed to have already
5 filled that card out.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: It's okay. I thought
7 you wanted to speak. That's why I asked
8 if there was anybody who didn't fill out
9 a card because I felt like you --

10 MR. PEAVY: My wife often tells me I don't pay
11 attention to details.

12 But, anyway, Chairman, thank you for
13 having me. Board members, thank you for
14 allowing me to speak for a minute. I am
15 Joey Peavy from Butler County, a very
16 rural county just south of Montgomery.

17 Our industry down in Butler County
18 is primarily timber. It's always been
19 that way. The heartbeat of our county
20 is the timber industry. I have many
21 friends and family that's been in the
22 timber industry their entire life. And
23 it's very important to harvest timber,

1 but it's important to take care of our
2 timber and our natural resources.

3 And I just feel like that this -- if
4 we take this property out of the
5 county's private citizenship and give it
6 to the state, you have -- whether or not
7 the timber will be regulated on it or
8 not through the state, it still takes it
9 out of private individuals' hands that
10 will see that it's done correctly. I
11 think our government owns enough
12 property, actually, to be blunt with
13 you.

14 Another thing is the ad valorem tax.
15 Our county just went through a very
16 divided election over our ad valorem
17 tax. Some was in favor. Many were not
18 in favor of ad valorem taxes. This tax
19 would come directly -- this would be a
20 good section of property taken out of
21 our ad valorem tax that funds our public
22 schools. And we have been in a very
23 heated battle down there for the last

1 year, and it's just one more thing that
2 will take away from that. I ask you to
3 consider it.

4 I am only speaking for me, not the
5 entire body of the Butler County
6 Commission. I'm only speaking for me.

7 But the timber industry is in the
8 middle of District 1. Coastal Plywood
9 is in the middle of my district. And
10 many timber -- for each person that
11 works at Coastal Plywood -- for each
12 person that works in that mill there's
13 four outside jobs. And I just don't
14 want to see anything happen to our
15 private timber industry that takes away
16 from the average timber contractor being
17 able to buy timber and harvest it and to
18 be able to go to the mills that we want
19 it to go to and that sort of stuff.

20 Anyway, I would ask you to consider
21 that in your decision. And, again, I
22 love America, but America needs to be
23 owned by private individuals, not the

1 government. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

3 That's the conclusion of all of the
4 public comment. Appreciate all the
5 speakers we had today. This is the time
6 of the meeting where we recess for
7 executive session to discuss tract
8 appraisal values.

9 By regulation, appraisal values are
10 confidential during periods of
11 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
12 discuss tract appraisal values, the
13 board will need to go into recess for an
14 executive session.

15 Is there a motion for the board to
16 now recess into an executive session?

17 MR. JONES: So move.

18 MR. HORN: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Moved by Mr. Jones and
20 seconded by Mr. Horn.

21 I will now call the roll, and if you
22 are in favor of adjourning to executive
23 session, please say "aye." If you're

1 not, please say "no."

2 Chris Blankenship, yes.

3 Charles Ball?

4 MR. BALL: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: John Hall?

6 MR. HALL: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Horace Horn?

8 MR. HORN: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Raymond Jones?

10 MR. JONES: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: William Satterfield?

12 MR. SATTERFIELD: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims?

14 DR. SIMS: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

16 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Watson?

18 DR. WATSON: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Woods?

20 DR. WOODS: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Rick Oates?

22 MR. OATES: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Russ Runyan?

1 MR. RUNYAN: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom?

3 DR. SALOOM: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: David Wright?

5 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All present are in
7 favor of adjourning to executive
8 session. It is eleven o'clock straight
9 up. We'll try and return by 11:25. We
10 are now in recess, and we'll return as
11 close to 11:25 or 11:30 as we can.
12 Thank you.

13 **(Recess for executive session was**
14 **taken at approximately 11:00 a.m.**
15 **and the meeting was called back to**
16 **order at approximately 11:44 a.m.)**

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We are returning from
18 our executive session. It is 11:44. We
19 are reconvening.

20 At this time I would like to
21 recognize Mr. Patrick Moody, a former
22 employee of the Department of
23 Conservation and Natural Resources. I

1 think he would like to say a few words
2 on behalf of Commissioner Pate with the
3 Department of Agriculture.

4 Mr. Moody.

5 MR. MOODY: Thank you, sir. It's good to see
6 some of y'all again in my new role here
7 at the Department. Commissioner Pate
8 just wanted to welcome y'all here.
9 Thank y'all for the work you're doing
10 for the state with the board, and thank
11 y'all for being interested. Any way the
12 Department of Agriculture can help any
13 of y'all's businesses or associations,
14 any things like that, please don't
15 hesitate to contact us.

16 Again, I know you've got a lot of
17 work to do and ground to cover. I just
18 wanted to welcome y'all here on behalf
19 of the Commissioner. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Please relay to
21 Commissioner Pate that we appreciate him
22 letting us use his facility.

23 MR. MOODY: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

2 All right. Program status report,
3 Number 5 on the agenda.

4 Ms. McCurdy.

5 MS. McCURDY: Okay. For the board and the
6 benefit of the public, this is the time
7 each meeting where we run through
8 various updates as to such things as
9 financial information, grant
10 opportunities, our short-list additions.

11 I'm going to start with running
12 through the current financial
13 information related to the amount of
14 money you have available to use to
15 acquire property. So if you'll look at
16 2-A and look at your green folder
17 because we did have some end-month
18 additions to the totals.

19 What we do with this information is
20 I track for you, as I always say, just
21 like your checking account. You have
22 certain checks you have written because
23 you want to buy something, but they

1 And Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows Phase III
2 Additions.

3 When you subtract both the purchase
4 amount as well as the 15 percent of
5 appraised value that we must transfer to
6 the stewardship account even on donated
7 acreage, that reduces your available
8 balance -- unencumbered balance to about
9 \$12.9 million. However, this is one of
10 those meetings where I have to talk to
11 you about the joy of government and
12 what's called spending authority --
13 budgetary spending authority.

14 You only have approximately
15 \$9.7 million available in capital
16 spending authority for the remainder of
17 this fiscal year which doesn't end till
18 September 30th. So for purposes of
19 evaluating acquisition opportunities,
20 you need to keep that \$9.7 million in
21 mind and remember that that will -- any
22 purchase has to -- or donation has to
23 include the 15-percent transfer to the

1 stewardship account.

2 Any questions as to the available
3 spending authority or anything else?

4 (No response.)

5 MS. McCURDY: I will note for this fiscal
6 year -- as you will see on page 2 of
7 Tab A, we keep track of whether the
8 offers for purchase were accepted or
9 declined. For this fiscal year, which
10 began October 1st of last calendar year,
11 we have had the following results:

12 The Barbour WMA-Leak Creek Addition
13 closed. Caldwell Swamp was declined.
14 Coldwater Mountain-Rice Addition closed.
15 The Slaughter Swap transaction closed.
16 And the Tannehill-Ayers Addition closed.

17 So that's an update on the closings
18 for this fiscal year. I'm going to move
19 into the stewardship fund if there's no
20 questions on that information.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. McCURDY: Okay. Tab 2-B, again, in your
23 green folder, the yellow sheet. We had

1 included in that million-and-a-half of
2 estimated interest earnings of about
3 \$400,000. So we only had to commit
4 \$1.1 million out of the corpus for that
5 one-and-a-half million in the last
6 fiscal year.

7 First of all, do you know what that
8 actually came in at in terms of the
9 earnings in the past fiscal year,
10 whether it met the \$400,000 or not? And
11 if you don't know, that's okay. But,
12 also, are you including any estimated
13 earnings projected in this
14 one-and-a-half million for the new
15 fiscal year of FY19?

16 MS. McCURDY: I'm going to for your first
17 question go to Commissioner. For the
18 second -- well, the total authority --
19 Commissioner, go ahead. It may make
20 more sense after you --

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. To answer --
22 just as a reminder, that we, working
23 with State Treasurer Young Boozer,

1 changed some of our investment
2 strategies in the stewardship fund to
3 where it's not so much where it produces
4 income as it is to grow the portfolio
5 over time. And so it's not in the same
6 -- it's not comparing apples to apples
7 to where we used to have almost
8 everything fixed where it provided a low
9 amount of interest where now we're
10 trying to get a greater return on that.

11 So we're not able to show it the way
12 we showed it before. It's more of a
13 market value as opposed to income --
14 does that make sense -- in the way that
15 it's invested now or how we receive the
16 information.

17 MR. SATTERFIELD: Well, I know at this time
18 last year at this meeting Treasurer
19 Boozer came and gave us a report on
20 those earnings. And, of course, we
21 didn't have a similar report today, and
22 I was wondering what was going on with
23 that.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. You mean like
2 how --

3 MR. SATTERFIELD: He gave us a report on our
4 earnings last year that -- how we had
5 done with the Forever Wild investments
6 and --

7 MS. McCURDY: Well, his report was Alabama
8 Trust Fund.

9 MR. SATTERFIELD: And then I assume you use
10 that to include projected earnings into
11 this stewardship spending account.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Well, what I recall
13 from when he came, he actually gave a
14 report on the portfolio balance of the
15 Alabama Trust Fund and not necessarily
16 just the stewardship fund.

17 MS. McCURDY: The Alabama Trust Fund for some
18 members who may not be familiar.

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: Right.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So I think we can -- we
21 now have a new state treasurer. And
22 I'll talk with Commissioner -- or
23 Treasurer McMillan and -- he's had so

1 many titles in his distinguished state
2 career -- and talk with him and his
3 staff about how we can show -- how we
4 can provide something to the board to
5 show --

6 MR. SATTERFIELD: Okay. And I realize I
7 caught you off guard with that question,
8 but I was thinking --

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: You don't -- I'm just
10 trying to --

11 MR. SATTERFIELD: -- that maybe we could
12 address that for the next meeting and
13 we'll have a better idea of how we're
14 doing on our investments and, also, how
15 much we're actually having to commit to
16 this budget out of the corpus for
17 stewardship funding.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: Thanks.

20 MS. McCURDY: So that would be the information
21 related to the stewardship fund. If
22 there are no questions, we'll move to
23 Tab 3-A in relation to the appraisals

1 that you have currently available for
2 some form of action.

3 I'm going to run through the -- just
4 run through the tracts that we currently
5 have appraisals on. These are just the
6 ones we have received appraisals on.
7 There may have been motions you made
8 that we have not received appraisals
9 back yet on.

10 But the ones that are in hand
11 include Cahaba River-Mohon Tract, Bibb
12 County. Coldwater Mountain-Martin
13 Addition, Calhoun. D'Olive Bay,
14 Baldwin. Freedom Hills WMA-Buzzard
15 Roost Creek Addition, Colbert. Freedom
16 Hills WMA-Robbins Addition, Colbert.
17 Guntersville State Park-Smith Cemetery
18 Addition, Marshall. Red Hills-Brown
19 Schutt Trust Additions, Monroe. Red
20 Hills-Flat Creek Phase I, Monroe. Red
21 Hills-Section 2, Monroe. And Thigpen
22 Hill in Butler County.

23 We also have in hand one appraisal

1 that was provided at no cost to us on
2 the Blackwater River South Tract that
3 staff did complete its regular review --
4 appraisal review on.

5 All of those rounded off, taken
6 together, you're exceeding -- or getting
7 around about \$25 million, I guess. So
8 obviously, as usual, you like more than
9 you have money to spend right now, which
10 is okay. But that's where you are.

11 Any questions on any of the
12 financial information?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No questions. Okay.

15 MS. McCURDY: Then I'm going to refer you to
16 your packet, Tab 5-A. If you would flip
17 to 5-A.

18 And this is the time each meeting
19 that we run through, if we have them,
20 information on certain grant
21 opportunities. Over the years the board
22 has encouraged staff wherever possible
23 to identify and pursue potential grant

1 opportunities regarding nominated
2 tracts. It doesn't mean the board has
3 to follow through with that. It simply
4 means it's an example of how we might be
5 able to leverage funds for this program.

6 So I've detailed in a memo the
7 status. I'm not going to read through
8 each one. I'm just going to hit the
9 highlights.

10 We have Recover Land Acquisition, or
11 RLA, and Habitat Conservation Plan,
12 often referred to as HCP, grant
13 awards -- these are awards actually in
14 hand -- for the Red Hills-Flat Creek
15 Phase I. That would allow \$2 million to
16 be applied towards purchase. The
17 acreage purchased with the \$2 million
18 will be deeded to Wildlife and
19 Freshwater Fisheries, and the
20 matching-funds portion will be deeded to
21 Forever Wild.

22 Those programs -- similarly, the Red
23 Hills-Flat Creek Phase II, there would

1 be \$300,000 applied to that purchase.
2 And the acreage purchased with the
3 \$300,000 would also be deeded to
4 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
5 Division.

6 The Red Hills-Section 2 tract also
7 has a funding opportunity available for
8 \$250,000 to be applied toward that
9 purchase. All of that acreage would be
10 titled -- or deeded to the Forever Wild
11 Trust program.

12 All of those opportunities related
13 to those programs in the Red Hills would
14 require us finalizing closing prior to
15 the end of 2021 to be able to take
16 advantage of those before those grants
17 expire.

18 We also have -- in relation to the
19 D'Olive Bay Tract, we have applied for
20 National Coastal Wetland Conservation
21 grant funds. We had expected to hear
22 about these awards actually last month,
23 in January. The government shutdown

1 sort of intervened. And so we hope
2 we'll hear soon, but right now I really
3 don't have a specific date to tell you.
4 But as you note in your packet, once we
5 have received word on that and have been
6 able to apply those, that would result
7 in almost -- basically a no-cost
8 acquisition to the D'Olive Bay Tract.

9 And then, finally, we do still have
10 some NOAA grant funds available in
11 relation to the Meadows Phase III Tract.
12 That is the tract described in the memo
13 in Tab 5-B. There's no need to go there
14 now. We'll cover it in the
15 miscellaneous reports section. Those
16 funds are still available, but we have
17 not closed on that due to another
18 reduction in acreage that we'll talk
19 about in miscellaneous reports section.

20 So that's -- I think that's what we
21 have available in grants. Unless there
22 are any questions with that, I will turn
23 it over to Jo to run through the tracts

1 that currently made our short-list
2 nominations. So I'll turn it over to
3 her if there are no questions.

4 (No response.)

5 MS. McCURDY: All right. Thanks.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So for the new board
7 members, Jo will go pretty quickly.
8 We'll be in Tab 4-B.

9 MS. LEWIS: We'll be in Tab 4 generally. I'm
10 going to run down the list on Tab A.
11 The maps are in Tab B. And the final
12 tab in Tab 4 is 4-C, which is a list of
13 the active -- currently active
14 nominations. They may or may not be on
15 the short list.

16 As usual, we're going to run a
17 PowerPoint of these maps that should
18 appear behind the Commissioner up there.
19 These are the same maps in the same
20 sequence as you have in 4-B.

21 All right. Tab 4-A is two pages.
22 Let's flip to the second page. This is
23 a table of the short list. The short

1 list is comprised of the top-scoring
2 three nominations in each category of
3 use in each of the three geographic
4 regions of the state. Hypothetically,
5 there can be 36 nominations on the short
6 list. Generally some categories of use
7 don't have any nominations that score
8 well enough to be purchased. They zero
9 out. Also, nominations often short-list
10 in more than one category of use. So
11 this table helps you see which category
12 of use has nominations in it and which
13 region of the state has nominations.

14 Flipping back to the very first tab,
15 4-A, this is the condensed version. It
16 is presented alphabetically and not
17 prioritized. And I'm going to run
18 through it and just read them into the
19 record basically.

20 We have Blackwater River South
21 Tract, 2300 acres in Baldwin County.
22 Coldwater Mountain-Oxanna Addition,
23 which is 62 acres in Calhoun County.

1 Coldwater Mountain-Young Addition,
2 49 acres in Calhoun County. GBS, or
3 Grand Bay Savanna, Richard Addition, 80
4 acres in Mobile County. Hollins WMA
5 Addition, 1,161 acres in Clay County.
6 Lowndes WMA-Johnson Hill Addition,
7 783 acres in Lowndes County. Magnolia
8 South Tract, 11,434 acres in Baldwin
9 County. Monte Sano State Park-McCombs
10 Addition, 121 acres in Madison County.
11 Old Cahawba Prairie-S&P Addition in
12 Dallas County. Prairie Grove Glades
13 Tract is 216 acres in Lawrence County.
14 Red Hills-Flat Creek Phase II, 183 in
15 Monroe County. Saginaw Swamp, 160 acres
16 in Shelby County. Shelby Crossroads,
17 884 acres in Shelby County. Sipse
18 River Swamp-Mill Creek Addition, 274
19 acres in Tuscaloosa County. Skyline
20 WMA-Bishop's Cove, 391 acres in Jackson
21 County. And Tannehill-South Addition,
22 422 acres in Bibb and Shelby County.
23 These comprise 13 different

1 I will open it up to the board for any
2 general discussion.

3 Yes, sir, Mr. Wright.

4 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
5 nominate the Freedom Hills WMA-Robbins
6 Addition, 154 acres in Colbert County.
7 We really need that piece of property
8 because of the road access. It is
9 bordered already on three sides by
10 Forever Wild property. I think it would
11 be an asset to Forever Wild.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So
13 Mr. Wright is making a motion for a
14 second appraisal and proceed to purchase
15 for the Freedom Hills WMA-Robbins
16 Addition.

17 Is there a second?

18 DR. WOODS: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. Woods.

20 Any discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
23 "aye."

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

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
6 carries.

7 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to do
8 one more.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

10 MR. WRIGHT: Guntersville State Park-Smith
11 Cemetery Addition, 46 acres in Marshall
12 County. I would like to nominate this
13 for a second appraisal and a motion to
14 proceed with purchase. And same reason,
15 its access to the state park that's
16 there. There's already access there.
17 If it sells to someone else, they may
18 cut off the access route through that
19 part of the park.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So the motion is made.
21 Is there a second?

22 DR. WATSON: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. Watson.

1 Any discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No discussion. All
4 those in favor say "aye."

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

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
10 carries.

11 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Mr. Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

13 Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

14 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I'd like to just speak
15 about the Cahaba River-Mohon Tract.

16 It's the tract that I have a really high
17 interest in given my background with the
18 Cahaba River and working on it. And so
19 I just had a question for staff in that
20 I don't really have a motion yet because
21 there's additional work to be done. So
22 I wanted to ask staff if they need a
23 motion to continue efforts to better

1 understand any existing restrictions or
2 how it should be resolved and confirm
3 acreage amount.

4 MS. McCURDY: We really -- that doesn't
5 require a motion. As an appraised
6 nomination, it would continue to be
7 worked. We would be engaged in order to
8 better understand the use restrictions
9 or location, the nature of them, in part
10 to understand what impacts there may be
11 to the appraisal, if it needs to be
12 updated, also, are there impacts to
13 access. There's maybe a 10-acre or so
14 exact -- question on exact acreage
15 figures which we would work out toward
16 closing anyway, but this would also be a
17 time to go back to the appraiser and
18 figure that out.

19 But you don't need a motion for
20 that. We would continue to work on
21 that. And if that's the direction, we
22 will certainly work immediately on that.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So if we could do that,

1 that would be great, try and tie up some
2 of those questions and have some
3 information for the board for the next
4 meeting.

5 MS. McCURDY: Well, we'll get with the
6 landowner. Some of that -- you know,
7 we'll help them with some of the
8 questions we have so that he can pursue
9 potential options related to those
10 agreements or negotiations and changes
11 to those agreements. Thanks.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

13 Any other discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I'd like to make a
16 motion that we move for a first
17 appraisal on the Red Hills-Phase II
18 Addition. That's on the short list.
19 That was one of the properties, I think,
20 that we had grant funding available for,
21 and I notice there had not been -- not
22 had a first appraisal thus far. So I
23 make a motion that we move for a first

1 appraisal.

2 DR. WOODS: Second.

3 MR. OATES: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Oates.

5 MR. RUNYAN: Which one is this?

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: This is the -- Tab 4-A,

7 the Red Hills-Flat Creek Phase II.

8 Tab 4-A.

9 So Blankenship made the motion,
10 seconded by Mr. Oates.

11 Any discussion?

12 MR. SATTERFIELD: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

13 You said we had federal funds available.

14 Not according to my notes.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: In the report that
16 Ms. McCurdy gave on the grant-funding
17 availability, there is \$300,000, I
18 think, in Fish and Wildlife Service
19 funds that's available for that
20 property.

21 MR. SATTERFIELD: On the Red Hills-Flat Creek
22 Phase II?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

1 MS. McCURDY: Tab 5-A. And then Red
2 Hills-Flat Creek Phase II short-list
3 nomination, 4-B, page 23, \$300,000.

4 Commissioner, is that the one?

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: That's right.

6 MR. SATTERFIELD: Okay. Thanks for clearing
7 that up. But in my review of the
8 transcript from the previous meeting,
9 the DCNR folks said that they didn't
10 really have any money to manage that
11 property, that acquisition. So has that
12 position changed?

13 I didn't understand -- quite
14 frankly, I didn't understand it then
15 because it's just an addition to the
16 southern end of other properties that
17 are already being acquired, but I did
18 note that that was in the transcript.

19 MS. McCURDY: I think that it was -- it would
20 not be managed -- Chris Smith, is that
21 the one that would not be managed for
22 hunting?

23 I'm going to get Chris to come help

1 me for a second to be sure I'm ...

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: Philosophically I'm not
3 opposed to the acquisition. I'm just
4 seeking clarification on the confusion.

5 MS. McCURDY: And I'm sorry. With all the Red
6 Hills names and Section 2 and Phase II
7 and various -- it could have been a
8 misstatement with the wrong -- I won't
9 rule out a statement with the Red Hills
10 name. But Chris Smith who is here
11 today -- Chuck Sykes could not join us.
12 Chris is with Wildlife and Freshwater
13 Fisheries Division. So I'm going to let
14 Chris clear up any questions on that
15 one.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And just introduce
17 yourself, Chris, just in case some of
18 the new board members don't know who you
19 are. Tell them what you do for the
20 Department.

21 MR. SMITH: My name is Chris Smith. I work in
22 the Wildlife section in Montgomery. I'm
23 one of the assistant chiefs and kind of

1 handle the WMA and the Special
2 Opportunity Area projects and some other
3 things as well.

4 But the Wildlife section is the
5 entity that is administering those
6 grants supporting the Red Hills
7 purchase. Drew Nix, who is also with
8 our section, is actually the person that
9 is coordinating those. He's here. He
10 just told me that, yes, there is that
11 \$300,000 available for that. There
12 might have been a misstatement, as Patti
13 said, last meeting.

14 But there is \$300,000 of that RLA
15 grant money available to support that
16 183-acre Red Hills nomination, and we
17 would manage it. That area -- as that
18 complex grows -- currently it's not a,
19 quote/unquote, wildlife management area,
20 but as that complex grows and they
21 become larger acreages, like 10,000 or
22 more, they will be folded into our
23 wildlife management area system and the

1 Wildlife section will take the lead in
2 the management of the hunting and access
3 and roads and those kind of things. And
4 the State Lands Division still partners
5 with the management of the other
6 recreational things and biological
7 inventory and those kind of things.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: And it might have been
9 confusion on my part which tract we're
10 talking about, also, but I just asked
11 the question because I remembered that
12 statement in the transcript.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Dr. Watson.

14 DR. WATSON: Tab 4, page 23, it says something
15 similar --

16 MS. McCURDY: And that's what I was going
17 to --

18 (Brief interruption by the court
19 reporter.)

20 DR. WATSON: Tab 4, page 23, it also says we
21 do not have funding to dedicate staff or
22 other financial resources to management
23 of the property for public hunting.

1 MS. McCURDY: And that's what I was just
2 pulling up and asking Chris about. That
3 is -- again, I'm --

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: I believe what this --

5 MS. McCURDY: -- concerned that between
6 speaking on Red Hills tracts that that
7 may have gotten -- that paragraph may
8 have -- but, Chris, it's y'all's land.
9 Speak up.

10 MR. SMITH: I believe the reference on Tab 4,
11 page 23, what is being mentioned
12 there -- and, obviously, it could be
13 clarified better in the future -- is
14 speaking specific to the
15 Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration
16 funds that the Wildlife section manages.
17 I don't think it's indicating these
18 Habitat Conservation Plan and RLA grant
19 funds.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any other discussion?

21 And, again, the motion, just as a
22 reminder, is just for a first appraisal
23 to see if we could take advantage of

1 those grant funds to see what the --

2 MS. McCURDY: We'll do a recap -- a memo
3 addressing just Red Hills in one
4 discussion, the various nomination
5 tracts, and try to clear -- be sure we
6 have this straight all in one
7 discussion.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Okay. All those in
9 favor say "aye."

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

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
15 carries.

16 Any other?

17 Dr. Watson.

18 DR. WATSON: I move for a second appraisal --
19 and I'm not sure of the verbiage here --
20 and move to purchase Freedom Hills
21 Wildlife Management Area-Buzzard Roost
22 Creek Addition.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So

1 Dr. Watson has made a motion to move for
2 a second appraisal --

3 MR. BALL: I second that.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- and proceed to
5 purchase the Freedom Hills WMA-Buzzard
6 Roost Creek Addition. It was seconded
7 by Mr. Ball.

8 Any discussion?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
11 "aye."

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

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
17 carries.

18 I do want to address one thing on
19 the Blackwater -- or two things, I
20 guess, on the Blackwater River South
21 Tract. I have been in discussion with
22 the National Fish and Wildlife
23 Foundation. Through their funding

1 through the Gulf Environmental Benefit
2 Fund, they have interest in partnering
3 with Forever Wild on this property. The
4 way their funding cycle works, their
5 money would be available to the board in
6 November. Their board does not meet
7 again until November to consider
8 projects. They are -- I feel confident
9 that this is one of the projects that
10 the state will put forward in March as a
11 potential NFWF project for this year.

12 And so I'm just trying to catch you
13 up on where we are with that. NFWF, I
14 think their contribution would be for
15 more than half of the acreage in this
16 tract. So I know that it seems that
17 there was a lot of continued -- a lot of
18 interest, and Mr. Herndon was here and
19 speaking on behalf of the property as
20 well as Ms. Girard. But that's just the
21 timing on that particular tract that the
22 additional funding to partner with us
23 would be available.

1 I hope that we'll continue to
2 provide you some more information at the
3 next meeting, but I feel -- just from
4 the discussion we've had around the
5 table, there just seems to be a lot of
6 interest in that property from the
7 board.

8 One thing that I do want to clear
9 up, I think that -- I thought that we
10 had that cleared up at the last meeting,
11 but just to make sure that there's no
12 miscommunication, The Conservation Fund
13 has provided us an appraisal on that
14 property. I feel like that we adopted
15 that as a first appraisal. Our staff
16 has reviewed that appraisal. It was
17 done by one of the appraisers that we
18 would normally use, and the staff has
19 reviewed it and said that the appraisal
20 is sufficient to meet our standards.

21 So I would just like to make a
22 motion that -- to make it clear that we
23 will adopt that first appraisal that we

1 received from The Conservation Fund and
2 be able to use that like we would any
3 other first appraisal.

4 Do I have a second?

5 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
7 Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

8 Any other discussion on that?

9 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

11 MR. SATTERFIELD: To be clear, if we adopt
12 this and it becomes an official Forever
13 Wild appraisal, are we encumbering any
14 of those \$9 million funds that we have
15 until the end of the fiscal year if we
16 do that today --

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No, sir.

18 MR. SATTERFIELD: -- rather than waiting until
19 we hear whether or not those funds might
20 become available in the next fiscal
21 year?

22 MS. McCURDY: We don't move anything as an
23 encumbrance until a motion is made that

1 in some form contemplates purchase.
2 Even a purchase with a contingency
3 contemplates purchase and we would.

4 I think, Commissioner, if I
5 understand you, you're simply
6 referencing a procedural point of the
7 appraisal that was provided to us being
8 able to exist as a first appraisal,
9 meaning it would be on the appraised
10 nominations list, 3-A, not encumbering
11 funds and move to 2-A. I didn't hear
12 you say anything about purchase.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: That's correct.

14 MS. McCURDY: Okay. That's correct. No, it
15 would not.

16 For example, the motions we receive
17 today for a second appraisal and to
18 proceed to purchase, staff considers
19 that a commitment and encumbrance.
20 We're trying to pay for something. It
21 would move to 2-A. You will see those
22 on 2-A the next meeting.

23 Anything that's on 3-A as an

1 appraised nomination that you haven't
2 made a motion contemplating purchase on
3 just sits, for lack of a better word, on
4 3-A. So Blackwater would just sit on
5 3-A because the motion didn't
6 contemplate purchase. So you're good.

7 MR. SATTERFIELD: Okay. Thank you for
8 clarifying that --

9 MS. McCURDY: Sure.

10 MR. SATTERFIELD: -- because I was confused
11 about how that works between those two
12 classes of purchases, and I thought it
13 was important to get that on the record.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I just want to make
15 sure we adopt that. It saves us money
16 from having to do another appraisal.
17 You know, if it meets our standards, I
18 think it saves the board substantial
19 money and treats this as we would other
20 appraisals for first appraisals.

21 Any other discussion?

22 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes.

1 MR. BALL: I don't think we talked about this
2 particular tract at all. It's the --

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Well, I need to finish
4 this motion just so we can adopt this
5 appraisal.

6 MR. BALL: Oh, I'm sorry.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there any other
8 discussion on that?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
11 "aye."

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

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
17 carries. Thank you.

18 Sorry. Mr. Ball.

19 MR. BALL: Yes, sir. I wanted to talk a
20 little bit about the Magnolia South
21 Tract Forever Wild nomination. This is
22 11,434 acres. It's on Tab 4, page 16.
23 It looks like it's about 10-percent

1 larger than Oak Mountain State Park.
2 And I know we would not have the
3 resources to purchase it this year even
4 in the event everything -- appraisals
5 went extremely fast. But I would like
6 to offer a motion to at least do the
7 first appraisal to see what it would
8 take to get that purchased.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So Mr. Ball has made a
10 motion for first appraisal. Is there a
11 second?

12 DR. WATSON: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: It's been seconded. A
14 motion by Mr. Ball and seconded by
15 Dr. Watson.

16 As far as discussion goes, I don't
17 want to discourage us from doing an
18 appraisal on the property. However, I
19 feel like that there might be another
20 opportunity for us to be able to do that
21 with some other funds.

22 MR. BALL: Okay. Well, I withdraw.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And then I'll know for

1 sure before our May meeting.

2 MR. BALL: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: If that suits you, sir,
4 as the maker of the motion, I think I
5 can save the Forever Wild Board some
6 money if we can have that appraised with
7 some of the Deepwater Horizon --

8 MR. BALL: I withdraw my motion, then.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And I can let you know
10 that for sure by the May meeting.

11 MR. BALL: Okay. Fair enough. I withdraw my
12 motion.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

14 Motion withdrawn. I think that
15 would be -- think that's going to be an
16 expensive appraisal.

17 All right. Anything else? Any
18 other discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you very much.

21 Now for miscellaneous reports,
22 Tab 5. We've already done 5-A and 5-B.
23 Mr. Deaton. Doug Deaton.

1 MR. DEATON: If everyone will turn to Tab 5-B.

2 Tab 5-B relates to a process adopted by
3 the board for staff to automatically
4 remove stale nominations found either on
5 the short list or appraised nominations
6 list. And by stale, I mean any
7 short-list nomination or appraised
8 nomination that has not received board
9 action as defined by the process set by
10 the board. As noted in the memo, there
11 are no tracts set to be removed at this
12 meeting.

13 Are there any questions about that?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seeing no questions on
16 it, then management plan approvals.

17 MR. DEATON: The next item is Tab 5-C. In
18 Tab 5-C you'll find a memo outlining the
19 tracts that we are seeking management
20 plan approval today. As required by
21 Amendment 543, management plans must be
22 developed within one year after the
23 acquisition of any tract. Some tracts

1 require new management plans whereas
2 those acquisitions adjacent or nearby
3 existing properties can be included into
4 existing management plans.

5 Today we are requesting approval to
6 add the McQuinn Land Swap tract to the
7 existing Walls of Jericho Complex
8 Management Plan.

9 We're also seeking approval of two
10 new management plans, the Lake Lurleen
11 State Park Addition Management Plan
12 which includes the Roebuck Addition and
13 also the Portland Landing Special
14 Opportunity Area Management Plan which
15 includes the Pine Barren Creek Tract and
16 the Rum Creek Tract.

17 Each management plan was provided in
18 your packet. And we would need a motion
19 by the board to accept that, and we have
20 provided the language for your
21 consideration.

22 MR. JONES: So move.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So for the record, a
2 motion has been made that the board
3 approves the State Lands Division
4 proceeding with the inclusion of the
5 tracts into existing management plans
6 and the adoption of new tract management
7 plans as set forth in the memorandum
8 dated February 7th, 2019. And the plans
9 are attached to this memorandum.

10 The motion was made by
11 Mr. Satterfield -- or by Mr. Jones. My
12 memory is just that short. Seconded by
13 Mr. Satterfield.

14 All right. Any discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seeing no discussion,
17 all those in favor say "aye."

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

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
23 carries.

1 MR. DEATON: The next item is Tab 5-D. At the
2 November meeting staff presented a
3 request from the Historic Blakeley State
4 Park asking the board to consider a land
5 swap. The requested land swap would
6 help them resolve a current encroachment
7 issue with the park, allow expansion of
8 the park's master plan to include cabins
9 and horse stables and provide increased
10 revenue for the park.

11 Since our last meeting, staff had
12 confirmed the area of the swap request
13 is consistent with the map that we
14 provided at the November meeting. The
15 area hatched in red to be released to
16 Forever Wild would have no negative
17 impact on access to the remaining
18 Forever Wild acreage and would provide
19 an opportunity for Blakeley to expand
20 their camping area within an area that
21 is confined by a hard-surface road, so
22 there wouldn't be any issues or
23 confusion to boundary lines.

1 Each tract would require a survey to
2 determine the legal description and an
3 appraisal to determine the exchange
4 values. Considering the similarity in
5 size and the terrain and habitat, we
6 anticipate the swap being a
7 value-for-value swap. So there would be
8 no exchange of funds.

9 Blakeley has agreed to compensate
10 the board for the cost of the required
11 appraisal work and survey work. The
12 next step would be to perform this work
13 and bring the results back to the board
14 for their consideration at a later time.
15 But at this time if the board desires to
16 move forward with further evaluation of
17 this request, we would need a motion
18 from the board that would allow us to
19 obtain the required survey and appraisal
20 work, and we've provided some language
21 in your packet for consideration.

22 Are there any questions?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Woods.

1 DR. WOODS: I make the motion that the board
2 approve staff to proceed with the
3 appraisals to determine potential swap
4 property values as outlined in the memo
5 dated February 7th, 2019, pursuant to
6 the condition that the Historic Blakeley
7 State Park agrees to both reimburse the
8 cost of the appraisals for both tracts
9 and pay for necessary survey work.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: A motion has been made
11 by Dr. Woods. Is there a second?

12 DR. SIMS: Second.

13 MR. HORN: Second.

14 MR. WRIGHT: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Wright
16 because he's closest to me and I heard
17 him first.

18 Any other discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
21 "aye."

22 (All board members present respond
23 "aye.")

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
4 carries.

5 MS. McCURDY: I knew y'all missed me, so I
6 thought I would come back up. Just a
7 couple of more items, still in Tab 5.

8 If you look at Tab 5-E, we discussed
9 at the last meeting that there had been
10 an additional change to the Weeks Bay
11 Reserve-Phase III Addition's acreage due
12 to a landowner withdrawing their acreage
13 from consideration of that nomination.

14 As noted on the map, you will see
15 what's in red is the acreage that is
16 still currently available pursuant to
17 the nomination, and that acreage is also
18 still eligible for 50-percent
19 reimbursement under one of the federal
20 NOAA grants.

21 We discussed this at the last
22 meeting. The board took no motion. You
23 similarly do not have to take a motion

1 today. But after that meeting we had --
2 in discussions with the landowner that
3 I've marked just as "A" on your map,
4 they indicated that they would -- if
5 action was not taken at this meeting
6 that they would likely be putting their
7 acreage on the market, which is okay.
8 It doesn't change that it's a
9 nomination. But they had been holding
10 it for the program and the potential
11 match of the grant funds.

12 In the Weeks Bay area, you know,
13 acreage near the reserve does help with
14 conservation efforts in the estuarine
15 environment there. So the scoring of
16 the nomination, even with these
17 reductions, did not knock it out of
18 appropriate short-list position.

19 The board does not have to take any
20 action today. If you want to take any
21 action, there is a motion. But I did
22 want to bring it back forward due to
23 communications with the landowner. And

1 we have a little bit more time on the
2 grant. So that doesn't have to happen
3 at this meeting. But I bring it back up
4 based on conversations with the
5 landowners. And if anyone makes a
6 motion, fine. If not, we'll move to the
7 next item.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I want to make sure I
9 understand this and make sure the board
10 understands.

11 So on the map, the areas outlined in
12 blue, all three of them, that adds up to
13 the 29 acres?

14 MS. McCURDY: The blue was the nomination.

15 The red is what remains available
16 after -- I wanted to represent what the
17 nomination was that the board originally
18 motioned for us to proceed to purchase
19 on.

20 What is in red is, due to the most
21 recent reduction, what remains available
22 for purchase and application of grant
23 funds. But with this type of a change

1 in acreage, even though you motioned for
2 us to proceed to purchase, I would come
3 back to this board before continuing
4 with closing due to that change and the
5 nature of the nomination.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And the landowner has
7 indicated that if we don't move forward
8 at this meeting, then the area with the
9 "A" would be removed from the nomination
10 and placed on the market?

11 MS. McCURDY: That's correct. And it's
12 similar to other information you may
13 have heard today of owners being
14 concerned about keeping their property
15 off the market. It was nothing more
16 specific than that, but I did want to
17 communicate that.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I just wanted to make
19 sure everybody understood --

20 MS. McCURDY: You've got it.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- including me.

22 MS. McCURDY: You've got it.

23 MR. HORN: I'm not sure I understand yet.

1 fine. It did not -- it doesn't take it
2 out of a short-list position due to the
3 area in which it is. And the grant
4 funds are still available at 50 percent.

5 So all I need is -- the motion would
6 simply be to tell us that you are okay
7 with us proceeding to close -- which you
8 previously told us to close -- but
9 without the acreage that we lost.

10 MR. HORN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we
11 continue to work with the program and
12 move toward closing.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: On the 29 acres?

14 MR. HORN: On the 29 acres. Two parcels
15 consisting of 29 acres.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So Mr. Horn has made a
17 motion that the staff continue towards
18 closing on the Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows
19 Phase III -- on the 29 acres that are
20 still available.

21 Is there a second?

22 MR. JONES: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Jones.

1 Any discussion?

2 MR. RUNYAN: Yeah. The 29 acres on our map,
3 which parcels --

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. It is the two
5 areas in red -- that are highlighted in
6 red on 5-E.

7 MR. RUNYAN: All right. So the blue
8 nomination has been removed?

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The one that is just
10 the blue outline?

11 MR. RUNYAN: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. That was the
13 acreage that was removed.

14 MS. McCURDY: The nomination was one of the
15 ones we have sometimes that is not all
16 contiguous acreage. So they were
17 different parcels.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And the appraised value
19 for that is on Tab 2-A.

20 All right. Any other discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
23 "aye."

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

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
6 carries.

7 MS. McCURDY: And I just wanted to draw the
8 board's attention to -- I don't have to
9 go through everything in Tab 5 today.
10 Some of that is updated information just
11 for the board.

12 But I did want to point out that you
13 have as Tab I a copy of the annual
14 report that pursuant to Amendment 543
15 that established this program that the
16 program each year presents to the
17 governor, the lieutenant governor, and
18 the speaker of the house. It is a
19 fairly brief recap of the program's
20 activities the prior year. I'm not
21 going to take time to go through it.
22 You've got it before you. But we're
23 required by law to deliver it prior

1 to -- or at least by February the 1st,
2 and we did. It's very similar to the
3 report last year with just some
4 additional information and, obviously,
5 updates on activities.

6 And if anyone has any questions, I'd
7 be happy to answer them. It's posted on
8 our website, also, so that the public
9 will have access to it.

10 And I think with that, if y'all will
11 give me a second, I might be done.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Do you need anything on
13 5-J?

14 MS. McCURDY: No. I will be happy to discuss
15 where we are on that.

16 We have another -- 5-J represents
17 another potential donation of acreage in
18 the Grand Bay area. We are calling that
19 Grand Bay Savanna-Richard Addition.
20 Again, you will see that in the green
21 folder, Tab 5-J. That would be a
22 similar donation, 100 percent, the
23 expense to the board being the

1 15-percent stewardship transfer.

2 We are excited about that tract and
3 believe that we will bring it -- hope to
4 bring it in. But we are currently a
5 little on hold due to some -- the NFWF
6 program has had some recent changes --
7 potential changes that they're
8 considering to some of their deed
9 restriction language. It's not really
10 solidified what that language is going
11 to be yet. And so I'm a little hesitant
12 to move forward on that one because I'm
13 not sure what the deed restrictions
14 would entail.

15 I talked with Steve Northcutt.
16 We've been very much in touch with NFWF.
17 We're trying to talk this next week.
18 This was kind of news that came about
19 right as we were leading up to this
20 meeting. And hopefully we'll -- I think
21 we'll have it all worked out, but I
22 can't represent today that we do.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

1 So the next item on the agenda is
2 approval of the November 8th, 2018,
3 meeting minutes. Is there a motion to
4 approve those minutes?

5 DR. SIMS: So move.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So moved by Dr. Sims.

7 DR. WOODS: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. Woods.

9 Any discussion, corrections,
10 additions, deletions?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seeing none, all those
13 in favor of approval of the minutes say
14 "aye."

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

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The
20 motion carries.

21 We're looking at the next meeting
22 somewhere in the Auburn area and working
23 with Auburn University to try and do

1 that there. That's just for
2 informational purposes -- our staff is
3 working on that -- to help you plan for
4 the next meeting.

5 Any other business for the board?
6 Anything else?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I'll entertain a motion
9 to adjourn.

10 MR. HORN: So move.

11 DR. SALOOM: So move.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Moved by Mr. Horn and
13 seconded by Dr. Saloom.

14 All those in favor say "aye."

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

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Very good
18 meeting. Thank you.

19

20 (Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.)

21

22

23

* * * * *

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 February 7, 2019.

The foregoing 125 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.

This 31st day of March 2019.

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2019
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large