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**MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
Auburn University
School of Forestry and Wildlife
Sciences Conference Hall
Auburn, Alabama
December 18, 2014**

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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 School of Forestry and Wildlife
Sciences Conference Hall, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn,
Alabama, on Thursday, December 18, 2014, commencing
at approximately 10:12 a.m.

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 2 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr. Commissioner
- Mr. Angus R. Cooper, III
- 3 Mr. Raymond A. Keller
- Dr. John Valentine
- 4 Dr. Robert O. Lawton
- Dr. Gary Hepp
- 5 Mr. Frank "Butch" Ellis
- Mr. H.E. "Sonny" Cauthen
- 6 Mr. Leo Allen
- Dr. Michael Woods

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11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thanks to everybody
 12 for waiting a few minutes. It is a
 13 little hard to find this place if you've
 14 never been here before. But it's really
 15 nice to be up here in Auburn today.
 16 And, actually, all the folks that helped
 17 us make this possible, there's no one
 18 here.

19 But Heather Crozier and Dean Graeme
 20 Lockaby were gracious enough to let us
 21 kind of get this place at the last
 22 minute. So if you run into them or see
 23 them or see anybody from the Auburn

1 School of Forestry and Wildlife
2 Sciences, please let them know how much
3 we appreciate the opportunity to be here
4 today. I think it was particularly nice
5 for our staff who usually has to spend
6 the night somewhere and in this
7 particular case were able to drive over
8 this morning. So we're definitely
9 grateful to the school for letting us
10 use this nice facility. So whether
11 you're an Auburn fan or an Alabama fan,
12 it's a pretty nice place.

13 At this time I'd like to call the
14 role to establish that we have a quorum.
15 So if you would indicate your presence
16 when your name is called, I would
17 appreciate it.

18 Dr. Woods?

19 DR. WOODS: Present.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

21 DR. HEPP: Here.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

23 DR. VALENTINE: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Cauthen?

2 MR. CAUTHEN: Here.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

4 MR. ALLEN: Here.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ellis?

6 MR. ELLIS: Here.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton?

8 DR. LAWTON: Here.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cooper?

10 MR. COOPER: Here.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Pate?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Holland?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Keller?

20 MR. KELLER: Here.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: And Mr. Porter?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have -- including

1 myself, we have a quorum. All right.
2 So we can conduct business today. So if
3 the record would reflect we have a
4 quorum and we may conduct business.

5 So at this time do any of the board
6 members have any public comments or want
7 to introduce any guests at this time?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lockaby, we were just
10 talking about you. Come up. I wanted
11 to -- this is Dr. Graeme Lockaby, the
12 Dean of the School of Forestry and
13 Wildlife Sciences.

14 And, Dr. Lockaby, we want to thank
15 you and the school for allowing the
16 Forever Wild Board to meet here today.
17 I know school is out. Y'all have
18 probably got a lot of things you're
19 trying to wrap up. And we're greatly
20 appreciative of the opportunity to be
21 here, to be at the school and to be able
22 to use your facility. Thank you very
23 much.

1 MR. LOCKABY: We're very glad that y'all
2 selected this location for your meeting.
3 I apologize for my informal attire
4 today, but we are catching up on a lot
5 of things, as Mr. Guy mentioned. Y'all
6 are very welcome. Y'all are some of our
7 most important stakeholders. So we're
8 always very eager to collaborate and
9 listen to your input.

10 So thank you for coming here. If I
11 can do anything to make your stay
12 smoother or more pleasant, please let me
13 know.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Appreciate it.

15 Okay. At this time I'm going to
16 call on those that have filled out a
17 card to speak. They're in no particular
18 order. I'll try to put like causes
19 together, if I can, to make it a little
20 bit easier, and that way there's no
21 repetition. I'll try to also get your
22 names right, and if I don't, just please
23 excuse me.

1 Shane Ellison.

2 Hey, Shane. How are you doing?

3 I would remind everybody, as I
4 always do, that we do have a court
5 reporter here that takes down what is
6 said at our meetings, and then that's
7 posted online. And so remember when
8 you're speaking on something to speak
9 slowly, and particularly if you're
10 reading from something, because she
11 wants to get it right. And I might note
12 that to you every now and then. So I
13 apologize in advance.

14 But, if you would, go ahead,
15 Mr. Ellison. Thank you, sir.

16 MR. ELLISON: Again, my name is Shane Ellison.

17 I am the mayor's assistant in Gadsden,
18 Alabama. I was formerly in the city's
19 planning department. So I've had a good
20 bit of experience with trails. That's,
21 I guess, one of the reasons that I am
22 here before you today.

23 I brought a large map. You also

1 have handouts there that show the
2 80 acres that I believe you are
3 considering today. I'm going to hold
4 this up a little bit, if I can stand
5 here and point, so you'll be able to
6 see.

7 I think it's very important to note
8 the relationship of the subject
9 property, which you see there and is
10 here on the map labeled, relative to
11 Noccalula Falls Park, which is one of
12 the most popular tourist attractions in
13 the state and actually the Southeast.
14 So there are quite a few folks that come
15 through the park each year.

16 As you see here, this is the main
17 highway, Noccalula Road, which is a
18 state highway. It connects the city
19 with the interstate. It's one of the
20 connections anyway.

21 And if you note here, the purple
22 line is the Black Creek Trail which has
23 been under construction. Started about

1 five years ago and has been open now for
2 approximately three years. And that was
3 funded with a combination of state --
4 state funds and city funds. So that was
5 a successful project.

6 And the squiggly lines that look
7 like -- unlike a road for sure are
8 mountain-bike trails that we completed
9 just about a year ago. And so we have
10 approximately four miles of
11 mountain-bike trails here.

12 And at the further -- at the most
13 northern point you're approximately 1800
14 feet from the property that's being
15 considered. At present we do not own
16 the property immediately connecting the
17 two, but we do own property connecting
18 to Hinds Road which the 80 acres
19 borders. So in our next phase of
20 mountain-bike trail we would simply
21 connect it with the roadway here so that
22 you could access the 80 acres in
23 question.

1 I met with a gentleman just
2 yesterday, and there is a mountain-bike
3 organization that is actually going to
4 fund a full comprehensive mountain-bike
5 trail plan for the park. So that will
6 be completed most likely within the next
7 six months, and then we can continue our
8 construction. So we think it is a --
9 the perfect fit because of its
10 relationship distance-wise to Noccalula
11 Falls Park.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right.

13 MR. ELLISON: Does anyone have any questions?

14 I'll be glad to answer them.

15 MR. CAUTHEN: Is that for bicycles or
16 motorized bikes?

17 MR. ELLISON: No motor bikes, no, sir. The
18 Black Creek Trail itself starts at the
19 wedding chapel and the campground
20 entrance. And it is a
21 handicap-accessible eight-foot-wide
22 crushed-stone trail, has bridges. So
23 it's easily accessible for families, for

1 folks on bicycle. It's not a bad walk
2 at all. It's about two-and-a-half
3 miles.

4 The mountain-bike trails are more --
5 more strenuous. And it is truly just
6 for mountain bikes and hikers and
7 walkers, that kind of thing, because
8 it's not ADA compliant. It's just a
9 dirt path. And that's what they prefer.
10 So that was the intent. So we can serve
11 a diverse group with the trails that we
12 have there.

13 MR. CAUTHEN: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. ELLISON: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

16 MR. KELLER: Do you have access -- how much
17 access did you say you have to the other
18 property?

19 MR. ELLISON: The property is -- adjoins Hinds
20 Road, which it's more like a gravel road
21 than anything else. And it connects
22 from basically the midpoint of the two
23 parcels here to our park boundary here.

1 And it does -- this map actually has not
2 been updated, but we just recently
3 acquired this portion here which
4 connects us with Hinds Road. We
5 actually connect further on down, but
6 this puts you in close proximity.

7 So this is approximately 1800 feet
8 between the two parcels here. You're
9 about 2,000 feet. And it with the road
10 itself would make for good bicycling.
11 So it's a very close connection.

12 And we actually -- our goal is to
13 acquire everything inside Hinds Road.
14 It's just you don't have some willing
15 property owners just yet. And so we
16 would connect directly at some point.
17 That's the goal. That's the goal.

18 MR. CAUTHEN: Public road? Public road,
19 dedicated?

20 MR. ELLISON: Yes, sir. Yes, sir, it is.

21 MR. KELLER: It's a continuation. What you're
22 doing down here, you want to continue it
23 up here?

1 MR. ELLISON: Exactly. Exactly. We think --
2 I mean, our plan was already to continue
3 this direction. That was the -- like I
4 said, we'll be getting a master plan
5 completed here in the next six months.

6 This was actually done -- one of the
7 few projects I can say that was done --
8 the initial phases, the planning and the
9 layout, with total volunteer labor.
10 Because these folks have been driving to
11 Oxford, to Coldwater, to bike there. So
12 they said, hey, if we can help, we'll be
13 glad to. So they walked every inch of
14 this property with a GPS, laid it out,
15 and then we constructed it with contract
16 labor.

17 So now if we have a full plan, it
18 will be easy. That's something that we
19 can put out for bid. And we can
20 construct another three to four miles.
21 It cost approximately \$50,000 for what
22 we did here. So we can put another 50 a
23 year and just continue on down the road.

1 And it's perfect because we have the
2 campgrounds there, and a lot of people
3 that bike also camp. So we have cabins
4 there. We have campsites. So we can
5 fully support the expansion of the
6 trails.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Have you done any
8 demographics, Mr. Ellison, on the
9 expected group that would -- that are
10 now using the current system or that
11 might be using the other property if it
12 were to be purchased?

13 MR. ELLISON: No, sir, I don't have actual
14 numbers. But I would imagine that it's
15 majority -- and I can't say if it's
16 70/30 or what -- local usage of the
17 mountain-bike trails. And, of course,
18 the park is probably more in the 50/50
19 range, out-of-town visitors and local
20 citizens.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure. Sure.

22 MR. ELLISON: But, yeah, it's more of a local
23 experience now. But that's -- we

1 believe that's simply because we only
2 have three to four miles of trail.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right.

4 MR. ELLISON: If we have 10 to 12 miles of
5 trail, then we'll be a statewide
6 destination for mountain biking.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: I understand. And you may
8 have said this, so I apologize.

9 MR. ELLISON: That's okay.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you charge the folks to
11 use the current trail system?

12 MR. ELLISON: No, sir. No, sir. The only
13 thing that's -- that there's a fee is
14 actually the Noccalula Falls Park, which
15 is the Pioneer Village and animal
16 habitat. That's the only thing that
17 there's a fee for. But the walking
18 trail, the mountain-bike trail, all of
19 that is -- is totally free.

20 And it actually connects the
21 mountain community here with our -- a
22 whole different community. You've got
23 an elementary school here. You've got a

1 middle school on the other side of the
2 road. You've got a Boys and Girls Club,
3 fire station. So there's a lot of
4 public use on the south end of the
5 trail.

6 So we actually benefited from a
7 Transportation Enhancement grant
8 initially and a Recreational Trails
9 grant within the park. So it's been a
10 good partnership between the city and
11 the state.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: And then my last question
13 is -- just because, again, I'm a
14 little -- the red line here -- I was
15 looking at your legend.

16 MR. ELLISON: The red line is the park
17 boundary.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So this subject
19 property, is it in the city of Gadsden?

20 MR. ELLISON: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. ELLISON: It is. We actually have
23 probably in the neighborhood of 350,

1 maybe more -- because we recently
2 acquired another 20 acres -- of park
3 property. And, of course, some of it
4 has the actual park. A good bit of it
5 already has trails. But we probably
6 have 50 percent undeveloped that we can
7 continue the trail.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

9 MR. CAUTHEN: I want to ask one more question.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

11 MR. CAUTHEN: Do they want to sell it?

12 MR. ELLISON: My understanding is that they
13 do. The gentleman that owned it
14 actually just passed away. From what I
15 read in the paper, Mr. Buster Miles out
16 of Calhoun County -- Buster Miles
17 Chevrolet, Buster Miles Ford -- he just
18 passed away. But my understanding is
19 that it was for sale. It's not really
20 buildable. I guess anything's buildable
21 for the right amount of money. But it's
22 a rock outcrop.

23 So I do believe that they would be

1 willing to part with it. And, you know,
2 I think it would be a great thing to
3 honor Mr. Miles if you wanted to name
4 something after him. Evidently he was
5 -- he gave a lot to the community.

6 I also know that the 19 acres to
7 the -- that would be to the east of the
8 property is possibly up for sale, and it
9 has the same features physically as the
10 80 acres do. So I spoke with this
11 gentleman, just happened to know him,
12 and he would consider parting with that
13 so it could continue to grow.

14 MR. KELLER: Do you have an idea of price?

15 MR. ELLISON: No, sir, I don't. But in the
16 past the appraised value, I think, in
17 this particular area was -- was between
18 1,000 and \$2,000 an acre.

19 This property is unique in that, you
20 know, it's not buildable. You know,
21 you're not going to be able to run water
22 and sewer on this property. So I don't
23 know what that would do. I wouldn't

1 think it would help the value from a
2 commercial aspect or residential aspect.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, sir.

4 Appreciate it.

5 MR. ELLISON: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Debbie Quinn. Debbie.

7 MS. QUINN: Hey. I'm Debbie Quinn. I'm the
8 chairman of the Alabama Trails
9 Commission which is housed with ADECA.
10 I am not a government employee. I also
11 have my associate here, Brian Rushing,
12 who is helping me out. We work a lot --
13 very closely with the University of
14 Alabama Economic Community Center and
15 also with the Auburn Forestry
16 Department.

17 What I'm here to talk about today is
18 just one minute. You have a map in
19 front of you that Brian passed out. It
20 looks like this. And it's a potential
21 linear park. Y'all have not ever done a
22 linear park. A lot of states are doing
23 them now. It goes very close to the

1 Geneva State Forest where a lot of
2 equestrians are. It's only about
3 seven-tenths of a mile from Frank
4 Jackson State Park. It goes through the
5 Virden-Pritchett tract that y'all are
6 thinking about buying. And then it's
7 about 43 miles long from Andalusia to
8 Geneva. Of course, Andalusia is one of
9 the cutoff spots for people to get to
10 the Panhandle and I-10. So a lot of
11 people go through that way. It would be
12 a great rail trail for people to walk,
13 hike, bike, ride horses, and we could
14 possibly talk about OHV, off-highway
15 vehicles, ATVs.

16 CSX owns the property in fee simple.
17 It's not an easement. It's not a right
18 of way. It's -- they own it. They have
19 deeds. And they're willing sellers.

20 Let's see. What else do I need
21 to -- do y'all have some questions?

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Debbie, would you mind --
23 you and I talked a little bit. Would

1 you just inform the board -- I think
2 it's good to let them know that there is
3 a lawsuit apparently challenging, I
4 guess, that fee-simple issue.

5 MS. QUINN: Right.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Tell them what the status
7 of that is just so they'll know.

8 MS. QUINN: One family who abuts the trail
9 line has -- someone came to them, a law
10 firm out of Kansas, I think, and is
11 challenging the fee simple with CSX.
12 They say it's an easement, that it's
13 their property, that we can't do this.

14 They have not sued us. They have
15 not sued the state. They have sued the
16 federal government. So I've been in
17 close contact with the Department of
18 Justice. I've sent them everything
19 we've done and everything we've talked
20 to CSX about.

21 CSX claims that they have no
22 standing to even put the suit forward.
23 But you know how it is sometimes with --

1 when people load a shotgun, it goes
2 everywhere. So that is hanging out
3 there a little bit. I don't know what
4 the resolution of that will be. But CSX
5 doesn't see that as a problem for us to
6 move forward.

7 Of course, they're not giving it
8 away. They are selling it. We do have
9 about \$450,000 worth of grants waiting
10 on this project to help with the
11 purchase of it. I have talked to DOT
12 about a TAP, Transportation Alternative
13 grant, to help also with it, with the
14 purchase. So if we could get that, too,
15 you'd have a pretty good starting place
16 for the purchase of it.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you know what the
18 purchase price they're asking is?

19 MS. QUINN: They appraised it, CSX, so you
20 know what that means. Their appraisal
21 is 1.6 for 43.1 miles. So we have about
22 450,000.

23 MR. CAUTHEN: How many acres?

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Acres, yeah. How many
2 acres is that? Do you know? Because
3 it's --

4 MS. QUINN: Total land area is 560.1 acres.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, I see. It's on this
6 map. Excuse me.

7 MS. QUINN: Yeah. Thank you, Brian, for
8 putting that on the map.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: I should have looked before
10 I asked.

11 MS. QUINN: We are working with the seven
12 cities that this goes through and the
13 three counties. They have -- all but
14 one small city have signed a resolution
15 saying they are for this. We are going
16 to go back in January and talk to that
17 particular city again but, also, talk to
18 all seven cities and the counties about
19 how they might could help manage the
20 property, mowing the grass, police
21 overseeing, litter pickup, if there's
22 some trailheads they could put in,
23 something for the handicapped. I know

1 there are several cities who don't even
2 abut it that want to put in RV parking
3 lots and equestrian parking lots. So
4 they can encourage that traffic on it.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: So that's a good question
6 that maybe would follow is, is there --
7 what would be -- what would this be open
8 to, like walking, biking? You mentioned
9 horses would be --

10 MS. QUINN: Right. If we use the Recreational
11 Trails money that we have and the Land
12 and Water Conservation Funds, it has to
13 be open to all of that, plus OHV.

14 Now, it's a hundred-foot wide. So
15 the trail --

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: OHV.

17 MS. QUINN: Off-highway vehicles.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: So --

19 MS. QUINN: ATVs.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's what I was going to
21 say. Four-wheelers, those kinds of
22 things as well?

23 MS. QUINN: Right. But you can also make it

1 to where they can't -- you know, they
2 have problems doing it. You can say the
3 path is just for walkers and hikers and
4 bikers. So they would have to get off
5 the path. They wouldn't be able to
6 get -- but they might could get on the
7 hundred-foot wide.

8 And the same thing for the
9 equestrian. You would put them off the
10 walking path. You wouldn't want to have
11 them on the walking path with the
12 walkers and the bikers.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I don't want to ask all
14 the questions because somebody else may
15 have one. But what is the -- I
16 forget -- I'm sure somebody has told us
17 before. What is the width of this --

18 MS. QUINN: It's a hundred-foot wide from
19 Andalusia to Geneva.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: So it's a hundred-foot
21 wide.

22 MS. QUINN: Right. That's pretty wide.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, ma'am.

1 MR. CAUTHEN: It is.

2 MS. QUINN: You can do a lot with a hundred
3 feet.

4 MR. CAUTHEN: A lot of coverage.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right.

6 MR. ELLIS: They've removed the rails already,
7 I take it?

8 MS. QUINN: Yes, they have. And then we had
9 them come back and drag the bed. So
10 it's not real lumpy, but it is pretty
11 big rock on it. So you'd have to come
12 back over with some smaller rock, some
13 crushable limestone or something that
14 would pack down that would make a good
15 walking trail.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Go ahead.

17 MS. QUINN: Also, there is a trestle that the
18 kids burned. So we'll have to come back
19 and build a trestle. But we're -- I've
20 talked to ALDOT about that. There are
21 separate monies for Rail-to-Trail
22 projects, and so I'm hoping that we can
23 work out something with them. They do

1 sit on my commission, along with Greg
2 Lein, and so hopefully we could figure
3 something out.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

7 MS. QUINN: Okay. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Rick Wallace.

9 Rick, how are you doing, sir? Good
10 to see you.

11 MR. WALLACE: My name is Rick Wallace. I'm
12 with the Weeks Bay Foundation in Baldwin
13 County. I'm the president. With me
14 today is Walter Kirkland. He's on
15 our -- chairman of our land committee.

16 And I'd like to talk to you today
17 about a tract called the Meyer tract.
18 And it's on Mobile Bay. And it was part
19 of three parcels that were put before
20 the board some time ago and were
21 approved, and when the investigation
22 went into the titles, one of the
23 parcels, the parcel I'm talking about,

1 the Meyer parcel, there were problems
2 with the title. And so you went ahead
3 and purchased the other two parcels.

4 The Foundation took it upon
5 themselves to look into the title, and
6 we were able to clear the title. And
7 it's my understanding that the parcel
8 has passed, you know, the first hurdle
9 in terms of being nominated for
10 consideration, but it hasn't been
11 approved for contacting the owner and
12 for second appraisal. So I'm simply
13 here to simply ask you to go ahead and
14 make that next motion and contact the
15 owner, which is us, and do the second
16 appraisal.

17 It's 29 acres, a thousand feet on
18 Mobile Bay, and it will connect those
19 other two properties and a whole lot of
20 property to the north that is already
21 within the State Lands Division and part
22 of the Natural Estuarine Research
23 Reserve.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Before you sit down, any
2 questions?

3 MR. KELLER: Price? Price?

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Price.

5 MR. WALLACE: We paid a hundred thousand.

6 Whatever it appraises for, we'll ...

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Patti or Jo, could y'all
8 remind us. Is --

9 MS. POWELL: This tract has been appraised,
10 and so that would be --

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Would it be in any of the
12 documents we currently have?

13 MS. POWELL: It would be in the document that
14 reflects appraised values that we break
15 out into executive session to discuss
16 the actual values of.

17 So in Tab --

18 MS. LEWIS: 3.

19 MS. POWELL: Tab 3.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, yeah. Okay. I
21 remember it now. Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. WALLACE: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: I just went blank. Thank

1 you, sir.

2 Any other questions?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Hearing none, thank you,
5 sir.

6 MR. WALLACE: Thank you for your time.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you very much.

8 Mr. Yeager. Charles. Good morning.

9 MR. YEAGER: Good morning. Thank you so much
10 for giving me the opportunity to speak
11 with you today.

12 Because of your support, 2014 has
13 shaped up to be a banner year at the
14 Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. We have
15 experienced growth on all fronts with
16 approximately a hundred thousand
17 visitors, 7,000 participants in our
18 public and school education programs and
19 a lot of new enhancements such as new
20 trails, picnic tables, benches, trash
21 cans, pollinator garden, changing
22 stalls, additional parking.

23 And we just completed work on a

1 five-star stream bank restoration
2 project which was funded by the National
3 Fish and Wildlife Foundation for which
4 we restored native vegetation to a
5 hundred feet on Turkey Creek's bank to
6 improve habitat conditions for the
7 endangered vermilion darter. This
8 project also included the implementation
9 of stone steps, an access point that
10 will provide safe creek access for
11 educational programs.

12 All of this has contributed greatly
13 towards the public's awareness of the
14 preserve and the Forever Wild program.
15 In fact, I did a quick count of articles
16 featuring Turkey Creek from just this
17 year and found 35 separate published
18 pieces. Thomas Spencer even featured
19 Turkey Creek in his recently released
20 book Five Star Trails: Birmingham.

21 With all of this growth, we do not
22 have any intentions of slowing down in
23 2015. We are already developing plans

1 for the next year to further expand our
2 education programming with summer camp
3 programs and more public events. We
4 have also worked hard to seek out and
5 secure additional grant funding to
6 support our operation with part-time
7 assistants and interns.

8 The most exciting news I have for
9 you today is since our last meeting we
10 have been awarded a 60,000-dollar grant
11 from ADECA's Recreational Trails
12 program. This grant will provide us the
13 opportunity to further expand the
14 outdoor recreational potential for the
15 Turkey Creek Nature Preserve with the
16 development of over three-and-a-half
17 miles of additional trail that will be
18 designed to accommodate not only hikers
19 but also mountain biking and
20 cross-country running.

21 Additionally, funding from this
22 grant will provide us the opportunity to
23 develop a master plan for our entire

1 trail system. This means that if you
2 were to move forward with the second
3 appraisal and purchase of the Shepherd
4 addition, we already have secured
5 funding that will go towards the
6 development of that tract's trail system
7 which could include up to 11 additional
8 miles of multi-use trail. I hope that
9 you will keep this in mind today when
10 you have the opportunity to move forward
11 with this project.

12 Over the last year I have received a
13 great outpouring from the public about
14 their interest and support of the
15 Shepherd addition. In fact, in the last
16 month, with support of the property's
17 owner, David Shepherd, we have hosted
18 two public preview hikes with over 60
19 participants, and we're all excited to
20 see the potential recreational value
21 that this tract holds. I hope today
22 that you will, too -- that you, too,
23 will see the value and move forward with

1 the Shepherd addition.

2 Thank you so much for your time, and
3 I hope you guys have a wonderful holiday
4 season.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Any questions?

6 DR. WOODS: You said you had a grant?

7 MR. YEAGER: Yes.

8 DR. WOODS: That was how much?

9 MR. YEAGER: It's a little over 60,000.

10 MR. CAUTHEN: Little over 60,000?

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right.

12 MR. CAUTHEN: Same amount as your grant.

13 MR. YEAGER: That's right.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: And how many acres is it?

15 MR. YEAGER: 244.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: 242 or something, yeah. I
17 think it shows up on Tab 3 as 242.8.

18 Any other questions?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, guys.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Athey from Pintlala.

22 Yes, sir. How are you doing today?

23 MR. ATHEY: I'm doing well, sir. How are you?

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good to see you, sir.

2 MR. ATHEY: Gentlemen. I appreciate it.

3 I'm Thomas Athey. I have a little
4 farm out at the edge of Lowndes County,
5 600 acres on Pintlala Creek. I'm here
6 to advocate for your consideration again
7 today. I think y'all have it on the
8 short list.

9 I invite you to come out and look at
10 it. I think it's something you will
11 find to be quite amazing. It would be
12 an excellent opportunity to have some
13 recreation area for the people of
14 Montgomery. I'm about -- between 12 and
15 13 miles from the State Capitol itself.
16 It's good roads to it. Three miles of
17 creek line. Potential to put a boat
18 ramp in. Opportunity for
19 horseback-riding or walking, that kind
20 of thing. And really that about
21 describes it.

22 I again invite you to come and look
23 at it at any time to get a feel for what

1 the situation is like. I'm ready to
2 answer any questions you might have.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
4 Mr. Athey?

5 MR. CAUTHEN: I've got one.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

7 Oh, okay. Sonny.

8 MR. CAUTHEN: How much of it is timbered and
9 how much of it is open?

10 MR. ATHEY: It's -- it's 601 acres and less
11 than 200 acres of it is pastureland.
12 The rest of it is woodland. It's all
13 been -- the timber has been cut within
14 the past five or six years and it's been
15 replanted. The super trees are on it
16 and they're up about 20 feet now.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Athey.

20 MR. ATHEY: Thank you, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Rebekah Parker.

22 MS. PARKER: Thank you for allowing me a
23 moment to speak. My name is Rebecca

1 Parker, and I'm with the Freshwater Land
2 Trust out of Birmingham. And today I'm
3 talking about the Big Canoe Creek
4 Preserve that I know comes up later in
5 the miscellaneous business.

6 So all I really wanted to state was
7 that we recently had the opportunity to
8 meet with the mayor of Springville as
9 well as the St. Clair County Commission,
10 and they have renewed their support for
11 the project and their financial support
12 as well as their maintenance support.
13 And they've both submitted letters to
14 the State Lands Division to state that
15 support.

16 So I just wanted to bring that to
17 your attention and let you know how much
18 excitement there still is around the
19 project -- there was a recent newspaper
20 article about it in the *St. Clair County*
21 *Times* -- and just to let y'all know that
22 the project is still very much supported
23 in that area.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Any questions
2 for Ms. Parker?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: We'll take that into
5 consideration.

6 MS. PARKER: All right. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.
8 Patrick Thompson.

9 MR. THOMPSON: Good morning and thank you for
10 the opportunity to speak to you today.

11 I'm an arborist at the Davis
12 Arboretum here on campus, but today I'll
13 be representing the Alabama Plant
14 Conservation Alliance which has been
15 active for five years. And we're a
16 forum where we bring groups together,
17 including universities and public
18 gardens and state and federal agencies
19 that work with plant conservation, and
20 we make sure that things are happening
21 in a good streamlined manner, that
22 people aren't reproducing efforts that
23 other people are working on.

1 And I'm the chair of the Boynton oak
2 committee. And the sandstone rock
3 outcrop on Hinds Road is a very
4 prominent population for the Boynton
5 oak. And so I just wanted to explain to
6 you the value of it because it's the
7 type locality for the species. And
8 whenever a species is described, then
9 the author, in this case Beadle in 1900,
10 took a specimen and said that this is
11 the most typical specimen for the entire
12 species. And so that is the type of
13 thing that's useful for scientists and
14 researchers into perpetuity. And so by
15 preserving this piece of property,
16 you'll be able to preserve, you know,
17 the scientific value of the species, you
18 know, as a research and conservation
19 plant.

20 But Alabama in general is a pine,
21 oak, hickory forest. We've got about a
22 dozen species of hickory, about ten
23 pines, but 40 species of oaks. And the

1 Boynton oak is the only oak that's
2 endemic to Alabama. It has a very
3 narrow range, and it's the only true
4 species that is native just to Alabama
5 that we have that's not anywhere else.
6 And it is an S1-G1 species. That means,
7 you know, on a scale of five to one,
8 five being the least imperiled and one
9 being the most imperiled, this is
10 through the state and globally a very
11 imperiled species.

12 There's other important plants in
13 the community there, cactus, orchids,
14 carnivorous and parasitic plants, and so
15 the outcrops are home to a very
16 important group of plants.

17 Any questions?

18 MR. CAUTHEN: So you're talking in support of
19 the Hinds Road purchase?

20 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

21 DR. HEPP: What's the property ownership
22 around that 62 acres? Do you know?

23 MR. THOMPSON: I can't speak to that. I mean,

1 the area has been -- it's well-wooded,
2 but -- I've been there several times,
3 but I do not know any of the property
4 owners adjacent to it.

5 DR. HEPP: So how would you access that
6 property?

7 MR. THOMPSON: It's directly accessible from
8 Hinds Road.

9 DR. HEPP: Okay. So there aren't any
10 state-controlled properties,
11 federal-controlled properties that are
12 near that tract?

13 MR. THOMPSON: Well, through the trail system
14 that was mentioned earlier in the first
15 thing, that would be a connection that
16 could be utilized.

17 DR. HEPP: I'm just thinking about in terms
18 of --

19 MR. THOMPSON: Connecting to a larger tract of
20 land?

21 DR. HEPP: Yeah. Over time that's going to be
22 a 62-acre island of habitat if
23 everything around it gets developed. So

1 if there's an opportunity -- you know,
2 is there an opportunity to pull some of
3 that other land into public ownership to
4 maintain or preserve a greater piece of
5 habitat.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ellison.

7 MR. ELLISON: That's the property that the --

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do me a favor. Stand up so
9 the court reporter can hear.

10 MR. ELLISON: That's the property -- I think
11 it's 80 acres.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: It is.

13 MR. ELLISON: That's the property adjacent to
14 the 400, give or take, acres that the
15 city owns. So it definitely won't be an
16 island because our goal is to connect
17 that one parcel that divides the two.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's the property in
19 between?

20 MR. ELLISON: Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: The city owns that?

22 MR. ELLISON: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: And how much property is

1 that, Mr. Ellison?

2 MR. ELLISON: The city property?

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

4 MR. ELLISON: It's about 400 acres that we
5 have. So it will definitely be
6 connected.

7 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, let me get one thing
8 straight. Is this a 62-acre parcel or
9 an 80-acre parcel?

10 MR. ELLISON: My understanding was 80.

11 MR. THOMPSON: 80, yes. Sorry.

12 MR. CAUTHEN: Where did 62 come from?

13 MS. POWELL: I believe that was habitat
14 discussion. Or you -- refresh --

15 MR. CAUTHEN: Oh, okay.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah, that was habitat.

17 MR. THOMPSON: That was the rating. Sorry.
18 80 acres.

19 MS. POWELL: Commissioner, it may be helpful
20 if you have the map from the first
21 speaker for y'all to understand on
22 there -- you'll see the 80 acres
23 reflected -- maybe some further

1 explanation as to the location of the 62
2 you're referencing in connection with
3 that earlier map might help --

4 DR. HEPP: 62 is the ranking.

5 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah. The 62 is the ranking.
6 It's not the acreage.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's the ranking.

8 MS. POWELL: Oh, I'm so sorry. So I heard
9 acres too.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: That came from Dr. Hepp.

11 DR. HEPP: That was my mistake.

12 MS. POWELL: I was with you, so ...

13 MR. ELLISON: To the south it's bordered by
14 majority city-owned property. To the
15 north is residential. To the east and
16 west -- to the west is
17 sparsely-populated residential.

18 I actually spoke to the adjacent
19 property owner. His goal in owning the
20 19 -- 18, 19 acres adjacent is just a
21 buffer zone. So it shouldn't be --

22 DR. HEPP: No. It was my mistake. I -- you
23 showed us a map, and I didn't connect

1 this map that's also in our packet with
2 that map there.

3 MR. ELLISON: Okay. Very good.

4 DR. WOODS: How many Boynton oaks are there?
5 Do you know?

6 MR. THOMPSON: There is not a good census for
7 the species. Alabama -- the Florida and
8 Alabama, less than five counties, but
9 it's known from at least six. And it's
10 not a well-studied species, which
11 increases the value of having the whole
12 type -- or the type locality for the
13 species preserved.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: So even with a trail system
15 you would see that as a preservation of
16 those as opposed to a detriment to those
17 oaks?

18 MR. THOMPSON: I would.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

20 MR. THOMPSON: At Oak Mountain there's one of
21 the few other populations that's
22 protected, and they're working with the
23 bike paths to make sure the Boynton oaks

1 are preserved there.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure. Okay. I just wanted
3 to make sure.

4 All right. Any other questions?

5 Mr. Cauthen?

6 MR. CAUTHEN: Not a thing.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: I know you need to know a
8 little bit more about those Boynton
9 oaks. You need to read that book.

10 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, I was just telling him
11 that I've lived 65 years and never seen
12 one, I don't think.

13 MR. THOMPSON: It's the rarest oak in Alabama.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, we might ought to go look.

15 MR. THOMPSON: We have some specimens at the
16 Davis Arboretum right down the road, so
17 join us there.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is the Davis Arboretum the
19 one behind the President's mansion?

20 MR. THOMPSON: Adjacent to the President's
21 mansion and College Street.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Been there. All
23 right.

1 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

3 The last speaker I have, Mr. Greg
4 Lein. Mr. Lein.

5 Have I missed anybody that signed
6 up?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. LEIN: Good morning, Commissioner. Good
9 morning, Board.

10 I'm here this morning to speak on
11 behalf of the State Parks Division
12 relative to three properties that were
13 recently nominated to the Forever Wild
14 program. At the June meeting at
15 Guntersville State Park earlier this
16 summer our park managers had an
17 opportunity to speak to the board
18 relative to these three tracts, the
19 DeSoto State Park-Gray Road addition,
20 DeSoto State Park-Steward Gap addition,
21 and the Guntersville State
22 Park-Stubblefield Mountain addition.
23 Those three properties had previously

1 short-listed through the Forever Wild
2 process. And at that board meeting you,
3 the board, elected to move forward with
4 appraising those three tracts.

5 And what I wanted to represent to
6 you was that we've been able to maintain
7 contact with those families and the
8 landowners since the June meeting and
9 keep that dialogue taking place, make
10 them aware of your process, that you so
11 often have many more properties
12 available to you than you have money
13 with which to buy and the deliberations
14 that you have to undertake in all of
15 this. So we've been able to maintain
16 that dialogue and make them aware of the
17 steps, the considerations, the schedule
18 of the meetings.

19 And we know that those families and
20 the landowners remain very interested in
21 working with you on this effort to see
22 these properties secured and made
23 available as additions to the State

1 Parks system, and we know that they
2 would welcome an offer to purchase from
3 you if you chose to take that next step
4 here today. So, again, I just wanted to
5 make you aware of the work we've
6 undertaken to keep these projects alive.

7 And I also wanted to say that these
8 properties have a value to us beyond
9 just the additions of the land to the
10 parks themselves. The ability for us to
11 serve the public and the tourists that
12 come to Alabama to enjoy our outdoors,
13 one of the greatest opportunities we
14 have to maintain and grow the State
15 Parks system relative to the growth of
16 the state's population and the growing
17 interest in the outdoors is through the
18 Forever Wild program and adding land to
19 the State Parks system. We haven't
20 added a state park system -- or state
21 park to the system since the '80s.

22 So the opportunities that come
23 through this program and nominations of

1 property before you are significant for
2 that reason also. And so we appreciate
3 your attention to these opportunities
4 and look forward to working with you
5 more in the future.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Greg.

7 MR. LEIN: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for Mr. Lein?

9 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir.

10 MR. CAUTHEN: Total -- total cost?

11 MR. LEIN: I think that --

12 MR. CAUTHEN: Total appraisal?

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: You can't discuss
14 appraisals.

15 MR. LEIN: I think that's in your packet, yes,
16 sir.

17 MR. CAUTHEN: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir.

19 MR. KELLER: I couldn't hear. The DeSotos --
20 the two DeSotos and the Guntersville,
21 those three?

22 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

1 Yeah. Those were -- those were
2 brought up at the Gunter'sville meeting.
3 And then Greg was going to speak to them
4 at the last meeting, but I asked him not
5 to because there were some other issues
6 that came up. So I think y'all -- most
7 of you were at that meeting, so --

8 MR. CAUTHEN: I apologize for trying to dig
9 out confidential information.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: You're okay. You're fine.
11 We're good. We're not going to let you
12 say anything you're not supposed to say,
13 or we're going to try to at least.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, I hope you do. I hope you
15 do.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Everybody does it.
17 Everybody does it.

18 Anybody else got a question?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Greg.

21 MR. LEIN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Appreciate it.

23 Okay. So I don't have any other

1 cards. So we have no further guests to
2 speak.

3 At this time we're going to have to
4 take up our regular executive session,
5 and so I'm going to read this again like
6 I always do. Y'all give me a minute to
7 read it, and then I'm going to need a
8 motion actually after that. Then I need
9 to record that motion. We haven't
10 recorded it, but they're saying that I
11 need to record it. So I need the board
12 to approve or not the motion.

13 So by regulation, appraisal values
14 are confidential during periods of
15 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
16 discuss tract appraisal values, the
17 board will need to go into recess for an
18 executive session.

19 Is there a motion for the board to
20 now recess to attend an executive
21 session?

22 MR. COOPER: So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Who was that?

1 Angus?

2 Okay. So there's a motion. Do I
3 have a second?

4 MR. ALLEN: Second.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We've got a
6 second. Mr. Allen.

7 All right. Now, I need to call your
8 name and, if you would, vote whether or
9 not you want to go into executive
10 session.

11 Dr. Woods?

12 DR. WOODS: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

14 DR. HEPP: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

16 DR. VALENTINE: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

18 MR. CAUTHEN: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

20 MR. ALLEN: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ellis?

22 MR. ELLIS: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton?

1 DR. LAWTON: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cooper?

3 MR. COOPER: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Keller?

5 MR. KELLER: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So unanimous.

7 At this time, for those that are in
8 the audience, I would just ask you to be
9 patient while we take approximately a
10 20-minute recess. And so I have
11 approximately eleven o'clock. We will
12 attempt to return and to go back into
13 regular business at approximately 11:20.
14 Thank you very much.

15 **(Recess for executive session was**
16 **taken at approximately 11:00 a.m.**
17 **and the meeting was called back to**
18 **order at approximately 11:29 a.m.)**

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So it's 11:29. At
20 this time we'll go back into public
21 session. And the first item -- or the
22 next item on the agenda is financial
23 data by Mr. Smith.

1 Chris.

2 MR. SMITH: All right. Thank you,
3 Commissioner, and good morning, Board.

4 Program status information is found
5 in Tab 2. And I'll begin with going
6 over the different nominations that the
7 board has moved on and that are in
8 closing or in negotiation phase.

9 To start off with, your current
10 balance is \$21,059,700.

11 We have four nominations that the
12 board has previously moved on that are
13 now in the closing process. They
14 include the Riverton Community Hunting
15 Area-Hog Hollow tract, which is 507
16 acres in Colbert County; the Riverton
17 Community Hunting Area-RMK tract, which
18 is 20 acres in Colbert County; the
19 Perdido River WMA-Barnhill tract, 191
20 acres in Baldwin County; and the Heron
21 Bay tract, which is 487 acres also --
22 excuse me. That's in Mobile County.

23 We have five nominations that are

1 currently in the negotiation phase
2 heading toward closing. One of those is
3 the Big Canoe Creek Preserve tract in
4 St. Clair County; the Pritchett tract,
5 400 acres in Covington County; the
6 Lillian Swamp tract, 689 acres in
7 Baldwin County; the Grand Bay
8 Savanna-Drake addition, 120 acres in
9 Baldwin County. And we are working on
10 the land swap between the Forever Wild
11 Land Trust and the Martin Timber Company
12 that the board approved at the last
13 meeting where that's heading into
14 closing as well.

15 Considering the adjustments
16 associated with these different actions,
17 your unencumbered balance at this time
18 is \$16,454,628. And this is within your
19 capital spending authority of
20 \$20 million at this time.

21 On the next page you'll notice that
22 we've had -- you know, we're early in
23 the current fiscal year. You can see

1 the tracts that were closed in FY14. We
2 have now entered into FY15. And since
3 the beginning of this new fiscal year
4 we've closed on one property, and that
5 was the Sipsey River Swamp-Pruett
6 addition, 274 acres in Tuscaloosa
7 County.

8 We had one nomination that the board
9 had moved or motioned to purchase, the
10 Weeks Bay-Benton. On behalf of the
11 board, we made an offer on that
12 property, and that owner declined that
13 offer.

14 On the next page you'll see the
15 Forever Wild stewardship account
16 information. Again, we're early in the
17 fiscal year. We have a budget
18 authorization of \$1 million for FY15.
19 At this time there's been roughly
20 \$166,000 toward -- spent toward
21 maintenance, habitat management, and
22 reforestation.

23 The next item I'll talk about is the

1 overview of appraised nominations. This
2 is located in Tab 3. And these are
3 nominations the board has motioned to
4 get a first appraisal on. And they
5 include the Byrnes Lake tract, 2,952
6 acres in Baldwin County; the Coosa
7 WMA-Hancock Phase III tract, 877 acres
8 in Coosa County; the DeSoto State
9 Park-Gray Road addition, 104 acres in
10 Dekalb County; the DeSoto State
11 Park-Steward Gap addition, 253 acres in
12 Dekalb County; the Guntersville State
13 Park-Stubblefield Mountain addition, 636
14 acres located in Marshall County; the
15 Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Shepherd
16 tract, 242 acres in Jefferson County;
17 the Walls of Jericho-Estillfork
18 addition, 72 acres in Jackson County;
19 the Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift #2 Meyer
20 addition, 29 acres in Baldwin County;
21 the Yates Lake-Guy addition, 123 acres
22 in Elmore County.

23 And the board had also motioned on

1 getting appraisals done on the Skyline
2 WMA-Little Coon Creek addition and the
3 Natural Bridge tract, 1200 acres located
4 in Covington County.

5 And that completes the program
6 status report, Commissioner. If there's
7 any questions, I'd be happy to answer
8 them.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, I've only been doing
12 this four years, but I always forget.
13 We're on a -- the same calendar year as
14 the state; right? I mean, our first
15 quarter is October?

16 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir, that's correct.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: And does this reflect --
18 have we already received the first --
19 the quarterly payment into the amount
20 here for this quarter of 2015 -- I mean,
21 2014?

22 MR. SMITH: We receive them at the beginning
23 of the quarter, yes, sir. So this

1 reflects --

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: You get it at the
3 beginning?

4 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. That's -- thank you.

6 MR. CAUTHEN: How much was that just out of
7 curiosity?

8 MR. SMITH: Roughly 3.7 million -- 3.75
9 million.

10 Okay. I'll move into the grant
11 status updates.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Please, sir. Thank you.
13 Unless there's other questions.

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. SMITH: You know, we currently have two
17 National Coastal Wetland Grant
18 Conservation Program grants working.
19 One is associated with the Heron Bay and
20 Portersville Bay tracts. Portersville
21 Bay has been purchased. The Heron Bay
22 tract is one I just mentioned that has
23 moved into closing. So once that tract

1 closes, we will seek reimbursement for
2 money to come back into the Forever Wild
3 program and then close out that grant as
4 well.

5 We also have a National Coastal
6 Wetland Conservation Grant Program award
7 or grant on -- to support the Lillian
8 Swamp nomination, which is one I also
9 just mentioned a minute ago that is in
10 the negotiation phase.

11 We did secure a NOAA grant
12 associated with the Weeks Bay-Benton
13 tract. As I mentioned just a minute
14 ago, the offer made on that property has
15 been declined. So we're currently
16 working through looking at other
17 opportunities, other nominations that
18 might fit the criteria of that grant
19 program and utilize that money as
20 opposed to returning it back to NOAA.

21 Not necessarily associated with a
22 Land Acquisition grant, Commissioner, I
23 wanted to mention that we have a Forever

1 Wild property in Bullock County that we
2 kind -- the State Lands Division kind of
3 supports the -- an organization here at
4 Auburn University similar -- similar
5 like a grant. We have a memorandum of
6 agreement where we support some
7 education programs at the Wehle Land
8 Conservation Center and Wehle Nature
9 Center. And I just wanted to mention
10 that Ms. Kay Stone, who is in our
11 audience today -- Kay, would you raise
12 your hand.

13 She, you know, does a great thing at
14 that facility -- State
15 Lands-Conservation Department facility.
16 And she was awarded the "Educator of the
17 Year" this year by the governor, and I
18 just wanted to recognize that at this
19 point. It's not a Land Acquisition
20 grant issue, but it is kind of a
21 grant-supported thing that we do.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'd like to give Kay a
23 hand.

1 Maybe sometime -- you know, we don't
2 tout some of the good stuff we do. We
3 need to have a short presentation
4 sometime about all the different things
5 that we do on these properties. We
6 always talk about buying them and
7 purchasing them, but we rarely ever --
8 some of the board members unless they
9 hear it otherwise -- understand all the
10 great things that go on. So we really
11 ought to think about that maybe.
12 Because, you know, staff and people, you
13 know, like Kay and all these other folks
14 that do so much, we need to -- we need
15 to talk about that a little more.

16 MR. SMITH: I agree. We've got a lot of neat
17 things happening on a lot of Forever
18 Wild properties throughout the state.

19 The next thing we're going to do is
20 the short list. But I wanted to mention
21 before Jo gets into that that we've been
22 working hard recently on kind of making
23 improvements to our process. And I just

1 want to mention to the board that, you
2 know, typically we've done the
3 short-list presentation at the June
4 meeting every year. You know, this year
5 we've -- since the June meeting -- you
6 know, the board at that time moved on
7 several nominations and we received
8 several new nominations. So we decided
9 to put together another short-list
10 presentation at today's meeting.

11 And through that process and
12 discussion we've kind of decided that
13 we're going to be headed toward having
14 what I'll call a rolling short list. So
15 like nominations that we receive now --
16 in between now and the February meeting,
17 we'll go ahead and score it. If they
18 make it onto the short list, we will
19 have an updated short list to present at
20 the February meeting. And at that time
21 we might not -- we won't go over every
22 property on that, but if there's a new
23 one that makes it to the short list,

1 we'll bring it to the board's attention
2 and profile it similar to what we're
3 doing today.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Lewis.

5 MS. LEWIS: Good morning. For the audience
6 and for the minutes, I'm Jo Lewis. I'm
7 with the State Lands Division. And
8 today I'm going to talk about the
9 material under Tab 5, which is the short
10 list.

11 I guess I need to speak up. I'm
12 going to use my big voice.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Use your big voice.

14 MS. LEWIS: Use my big voice. It may quaver.

15 I've rearranged the short-list
16 information slightly for this packet.

17 There's four tabs, A, B, C, and D.

18 Tab A contains the --

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Jo, would you like to come
20 up here? Would it be easier?

21 MS. LEWIS: I'm okay.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. You've just got a
23 lot in your hand, and I was going to try

1 to offer --

2 MS. LEWIS: Security blanket.

3 Tab A contains an alphabetical list
4 of the highest-ranking current
5 nominations.

6 Following that in Tab B are maps and
7 narratives about each of the tracts that
8 are on that alphabetical list.

9 Tab C is a list of all active
10 nominations, which are nominations that
11 have a willing seller, and some relevant
12 information about each of those
13 nominations, including their scores and
14 when they were nominated.

15 And, finally, there is another
16 alphabetical list in Tab D, which is the
17 list that you received in June. So
18 that's the alphabetical list from June
19 with notes about what has been done or
20 not done on each of those nominations --
21 each of those short-listed nominations.
22 It's a -- it's its Swan song. You won't
23 see that list next time. You'll see

1 another version of the list in Tab A.

2 I'm going to run through the
3 nominations on the Tab A list, which is
4 also the list of the maps and narratives
5 that follow.

6 We've got Beaverdam Swamp, which is
7 approximately 167 acres in Limestone
8 County. We have Cheaha State
9 Park-Cassidy addition in Clay County.
10 Coon Gulf-Heard, which is 40 acres in
11 Jackson County adjacent to a current
12 holding. Cooters Pond, which is 160
13 acres in Elmore County right on the
14 Alabama River. DeSoto State Park-French
15 addition, which is 3 acres in Dekalb
16 County. DeSoto State Park-Jones
17 addition, which is approximately 10
18 acres in Dekalb County. Double
19 Mountain, which is about 1500 acres in
20 Shelby County. Emauhee Creek Lake,
21 which is about 900 acres in Talladega
22 County.

23 High Rock Preserve, which is

1 approximately 40 acres in Etowah County.
2 The owners of that tract have offered a
3 50-percent contribution in cost.
4 Basically they're donating half the
5 value of the property.

6 Then we have the Hinds Road
7 Outcrop-Miles nomination, which we had
8 two guest speakers address today, which
9 is near the Noccalula Falls Park. I
10 hope I said that right.

11 Following that we have the Indian
12 Mountain-Simmons addition, which is 520
13 acres in Cherokee County. Laguna Cove,
14 which is 53 acres in Baldwin County.
15 Lake Lurleen State Park-Roebuck
16 addition, 70 acres in Tuscaloosa County.
17 MTD or Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Simmons
18 addition, 300 acres in Baldwin County.
19 Muddy Prong tract, which is a thousand
20 acres in Shelby County. Old Cahawba
21 Prairie addition, which is 1500 acres in
22 Dallas County. Pintlala Creek, which
23 you had a guest speaker on, which is 601

1 acres in Lowndes County.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Jo, just for the record,
3 Pintlala doesn't have two "L's" at the
4 end. It's just one. That's one I have
5 to take care of right there.

6 MS. LEWIS: Thank you. I'll have to check on
7 that.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Since I am a resident of
9 that area.

10 MR. CAUTHEN: You need to check on the
11 pronunciation of Dekalb also. It's
12 "Dee-kab."

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Depending on what part of
14 the state you're from.

15 (Brief interruption with multiple
16 speakers.)

17 MS. LEWIS: All right. Now on to Post Oak
18 Flat-Shiflett addition in Jackson
19 County, 290 acres. Red Hills-Fountain,
20 a little over 6,000 acres in Monroe
21 County. Red Hills-Parris Trust
22 addition, 300 acres in Monroe County.
23 Shell Banks Bayou in Baldwin County, 25

1 acres. Skyline WMA-Pole Branch
2 addition, 111 acres, Jackson County.

3 Splinter Hill Bog, 511 acres in
4 Baldwin County, again adjacent to some
5 current holdings. Tannehill-Ayers
6 addition, 328 acres in Jefferson County,
7 which is adjacent to a previous
8 acquisition and also that historic state
9 park.

10 Middle Ridges, 2,288 acres in --
11 well, I'm going to get it wrong now --
12 Dekalb County. The Weeks Bay
13 Reserve-Ollinger addition, which is 143
14 acres in Baldwin County. Weeks Bay
15 Reserve-Sunset Shores addition, which is
16 2.75 acres in Baldwin County, again,
17 with an offer of a 50-percent value
18 donation.

19 And, finally, the last one is the
20 Wiregrass Rail Trail.

21 Sorry. That's the Sunset Shores.

22 There's the Wiregrass Trail --
23 Wiregrass Rail Trail, which is

1 approximately 520 acres with the grant
2 that Ms. Quinn mentioned. That's the
3 43-mile-long trail.

4 So that completes all the current
5 priority tracts or short-listed tracts.
6 And I'd be happy to take on any
7 questions.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
9 Ms. Lewis?

10 DR. HEPP: I have one question.

11 On some of these maps the proposed
12 property compared to maybe some current
13 Forever Wild holdings doesn't appear to
14 be contiguous. It looks like -- is that
15 a mapping problem, or is that
16 actually -- so if you look at Weeks
17 Bay-Sunset Shores, for example, there's
18 narrow strips of land there that don't
19 show up as either being currently
20 Forever Wild or -- is that somebody's
21 property?

22 MS. LEWIS: No. That's a mapping problem.

23 DR. HEPP: Okay.

1 MS. LEWIS: Until we move to the first
2 appraisal, we don't ask for deeds. So
3 the property that the state owns, we
4 have deed-quality drawings of the
5 information whereas the nominations we
6 do best available information. So those
7 conflicts do show up.

8 DR. HEPP: Yeah, I understand.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good question. Any other
10 questions?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Jo.

13 Chuck Sykes is going to make a
14 presentation on Sport Fish Restoration
15 Funds -- Wildlife and Sport Fish
16 Restoration Funds.

17 MR. SYKES: Thank you, Commissioner. And I'll
18 try to be brief and talk up where
19 everybody can hear me.

20 At the last meeting I sort of let
21 the board know that we had been working
22 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on
23 some matching opportunities. We have

1 finally got that completed. And I put
2 together a short PowerPoint just to let
3 you know what our intentions were with
4 that money where if y'all choose to act
5 on some of the properties y'all will
6 know the direction that we're going.

7 For the first time since the
8 inception of Forever Wild we are going
9 to be able to use Forever Wild money as
10 match to reach federally-apportioned
11 dollars that we get through the
12 Pittman-Robertson excise tax. During
13 the fiscal year 2015, which will close
14 on September the 30th, we have the
15 opportunity to match up to \$5 million of
16 Forever Wild funds with what has been
17 apportioned to the state to use to
18 acquire WMA properties.

19 The objectives with this money is to
20 purchase inholdings and adjacent
21 properties to our current WMA systems.
22 The red dots show where our WMAs are
23 right now. And I'm just going to give

1 you two examples of what we're looking
2 for.

3 In Barbour County we've got roughly
4 28,000 acres.

5 And if y'all will look, there is a
6 copy of the PowerPoint in each one of
7 the packets.

8 There are some isolated inholdings
9 and some adjacent properties within
10 Barbour that we would like to eventually
11 acquire. We are working with some
12 partners right now getting clear titles
13 on some of these lands that have
14 multiple heirs. This is probably going
15 to take a little while. I just wanted
16 to let the board know what we were
17 looking for.

18 The immediate goal right now is to
19 attempt to reassemble the old Autauga
20 WMA. In its heyday it was roughly
21 7,000 acres. It's currently down to 370
22 acres that our division owns. There are
23 three willing sellers that have

1 approximately 6,000 acres that join the
2 remnants of the old WMA. We have spoken
3 with each of the three sellers. This
4 was a last-minute thing. They have been
5 nominated. They have not been on the
6 short list.

7 This is sort of how the breakdown
8 will be. One seller right here, 25
9 percent of the value of the property
10 would be deeded to Forever Wild. 75
11 percent would be deeded to Wildlife and
12 Freshwater Fisheries. We have to do it
13 this way because of the federal nexus
14 that goes along with our money. Income
15 that comes from Forever Wild properties
16 has to go back to the general fund.
17 Income that comes off of Wildlife and
18 Freshwater Fisheries has to go into
19 program income and to be used for more
20 wildlife management purposes.

21 It took us about a year to get all
22 the I's dotted and all the T's crossed
23 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to

1 make sure that we were doing everything
2 correctly where when audits came down we
3 would not be in violation. My staff has
4 worked extremely hard to make this
5 happen where we can have the matching
6 opportunities to make the Forever Wild
7 dollars go a lot further.

8 This is just one example of the
9 properties. Out of the 1450 acres,
10 approximately 362 acres would be deeded
11 to Forever Wild. 1,088 would be deeded
12 to Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.
13 One of the other properties, 1500 acres,
14 1100 acres roughly would be deeded to
15 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. 25
16 percent, or 370 acres, would be deeded
17 to Forever Wild.

18 The final block is roughly 3,000
19 acres. The seller only wants to sell
20 approximately 1500 acres per year. So
21 this would be a phased purchase during
22 '15 and '16. And, again, the breakdown
23 is roughly 2300 acres for Wildlife and

1 Freshwater Fisheries, 775 acres for
2 Forever Wild. When this property gets
3 put back together, we will have a little
4 over 6400 acres in an area that we feel
5 is underserved and will be utilized
6 greatly with it being in close proximity
7 to Wetumpka, Prattville, and Montgomery.

8 That's the ten-cent tour of it.

9 I'll be happy to answer as many
10 questions as I can without taking up too
11 much of y'all's valuable time.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Questions?

13 MR. CAUTHEN: Do you need a motion?

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, no, not right now.

15 MS. POWELL: I wanted to clarify --

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me -- can I ask a
17 question first? Can I ask a question?

18 Go ahead. Go ahead, Patti. Go
19 ahead.

20 MS. POWELL: The only thing I was going to
21 clarify just briefly that Chuck said --
22 I don't think there was any confusion.
23 But the tracts, when Chuck said they

1 have not been on the short list,
2 frankly, they've just been nominated so
3 we could begin our evaluation. So it's
4 not that they did not make it. It's
5 that we haven't had them long enough to
6 have done an evaluation or scoring. So
7 we don't know where they would fall.
8 But I didn't want anybody to interpret
9 that as they had not made it on there
10 because of a scoring issue.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Well, let me follow
12 up on that.

13 So you're saying they're out there
14 in the documents now. So if there was
15 a -- okay. I'm looking at Jo.

16 MS. LEWIS: No. They --

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: They couldn't be -- what I
18 think -- and I don't want to speak for
19 Sonny or whoever asked that question.
20 But nobody can make a motion on a first
21 appraisal at this time because --

22 MR. SYKES: No. No, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. That's what I wanted

1 to know.

2 MR. SYKES: No, sir.

3 MS. POWELL: We have not had them really long
4 enough. The packets were printed
5 before --

6 MR. CAUTHEN: What I was talking about, does
7 Chuck need a motion to proceed with what
8 he's trying to do?

9 I'm not trying to nominate property.
10 I just want to know what he needs other
11 than encouragement.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. I'm sorry.

13 MR. SYKES: No, sir. That -- all I'm wanting
14 is to let y'all know what we're looking
15 for, what the opportunities are for the
16 board, if you so choose. And at the
17 February meeting we will have this
18 nailed down. It will be in Jo's packet
19 and at that point will be -- I will be
20 asking for a motion to proceed if y'all
21 choose to do that.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Would you remind the
23 members of the public a little bit that

1 weren't at the last meeting and just for
2 the record how is it you lost all that
3 acreage from -- when it used to be in
4 the management area.

5 MR. SYKES: Over the years a lot of y'all that
6 are familiar with land prices -- you
7 know, back 20 or 30 years ago large
8 landowners would let the Department
9 utilize their property for basically
10 maintenance and were not charged a fee.
11 They were allowed to be used as public
12 hunting areas.

13 Well, lease prices have gone up.
14 It's just business. They can no longer
15 do that now. A lot of these large
16 landholdings have been bought by TIMOs
17 and REITs. It's their job to produce
18 revenue for their investors.

19 We lost one management area this
20 year. That was one of the oldest
21 management areas that we had from the
22 Murphy family. It's nothing personal.
23 It was just business. The Coosa WMA in

1 its heyday was 38,000 acres. It's down
2 to 22,000 now. Another timber
3 investment company pulled 11,000 acres
4 right out of the middle of it this year.

5 So in preparation for more of this
6 happening and now that we have the
7 opportunity to use this federal money
8 and Forever Wild as match, we're trying
9 to do -- make as wise investments as we
10 can, because we understand that a lot of
11 these lands are going to be taken back
12 and going to be leased out. And, again,
13 it's nothing personal with what the
14 Department has been doing. It's just
15 good business. So we want to make sure
16 that we're providing ample public
17 hunting opportunities, and with what
18 this program can do, I think we can do
19 that.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, another question that
21 I think that the -- I'm going to ask it.
22 The board may want to know this.

23 Next year, should the board decide

1 to act, is it just the obligation of the
2 money that is good enough? In other
3 words, does it have to close before --
4 that's what I --

5 MR. SYKES: That's a tricky thing because --
6 we would prefer to have it closed by
7 September the 30th, just in case
8 something happens, because we do not
9 want that money to go back. If we don't
10 spend it, if we don't obligate it
11 properly, it's a reversion, and that
12 money goes back into the pot and is
13 distributed among all the other states.

14 I understand that this is last
15 minute with what Patti and Jo were
16 talking about. This is -- we've been
17 working on this for a month, and it's --
18 we're shooting at a moving target.
19 Hopefully by February we're going to
20 have this Autauga ready to go. And Drew
21 and I and Ray are already working on
22 things in the future where we can try to
23 stay ahead of the curve where we're not

1 in a position where it's last minute and
2 we're looking at possibly reverting some
3 money.

4 MR. SYKES: Dr. Hepp.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp.

6 DR. HEPP: So you know how much money you're
7 going to have for this fiscal year right
8 now?

9 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

10 DR. HEPP: And then you have to spend that by
11 September 30th?

12 MR. SYKES: That's correct.

13 DR. HEPP: And so if any of this needs -- has
14 a good probability of getting done, then
15 when we meet in February, we need to
16 start --

17 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

18 DR. HEPP: -- getting on the --

19 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

20 DR. HEPP: -- asking for first appraisals?

21 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

22 Mr. Allen.

23 MR. ALLEN: Chuck, some of us had talked and I

1 brought up the point about -- and maybe
2 you can explain this for the public and
3 for us, too, is the management of the
4 properties. You know, with Wildlife and
5 Freshwater Fisheries owning most of the
6 property and Forever Wild owning just
7 small parts around these tracts, do you
8 ever foresee a management problem?

9 MR. SYKES: No. Because basically -- and I'll
10 refer to Patti if she wants to come up
11 here. Those properties that are in the
12 WMA system, we're managing them as WMAs.
13 So even though it has a deed to Forever
14 Wild, we're still managing it just like
15 it was ours in the WMA system.

16 MS. POWELL: Yes. And we have spent a good
17 bit of time with Chuck and his staff
18 talking about this, as we do with any
19 property. I mean, the management
20 concerns that may come with any
21 acquisition is something that my staff
22 has to take into consideration and on
23 occasion we have to raise, you know, we

1 have a concern, we're not sure how this
2 would work, we're concerned about the
3 amount of money it may take, et cetera.

4 For us it boils down to being very,
5 very similar to what we've already done.
6 When the board has moved through the
7 program to purchase additions to
8 existing WMAs, we've had to keep
9 separate activities that are purely
10 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and
11 purely Forever Wild. This is very
12 similar to that. Chuck's division
13 manages those properties anyway.

14 So the physical management, you
15 know, we really don't see as any problem
16 or any difference. We've always been
17 careful with the accounting side of
18 that. There is a heightened need for
19 that separation, and that took some
20 discussion with the federal
21 representatives for them to be
22 comfortable how we were doing it, that
23 we would continue to keep those fundings

1 and those activities separate.

2 And so we have addressed all those
3 questions. So we are comfortable,
4 unless we hit something completely
5 unforeseen in the actual operation, that
6 this would present no -- not only not
7 too great of a challenge, but no real
8 different challenge than we've
9 accommodated in the past.

10 But I do appreciate you asking that,
11 and it is a consideration on every tract
12 that our staff has to work through.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I know it's not good
16 protocol to brag, but I wanted to brag
17 on Chuck particularly and his staff.
18 Because this is the first time this has
19 ever been done by U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service, and it's mainly because Chuck,
21 number one, has built a good
22 relationship with them and, number two,
23 has worked real hard with them about

1 this issue. And they have now
2 certainly, you know, bought into it and
3 said it's good.

4 And as I understand it, Chuck, a lot
5 of other states are following behind us
6 in this case. So one particular case
7 where Alabama is out front before
8 anybody else is doing the right thing
9 and trying to use this for good -- you
10 know, for good use.

11 MR. SYKES: It's a golden opportunity that we
12 have not had in the past, and we're
13 looking forward to working with the
14 board to supply some new public hunting
15 area.

16 MR. CAUTHEN: How did you get the idea to even
17 try it?

18 MR. ALLEN: He's smart.

19 MR. SYKES: Mr. Cauthen, it was just common
20 sense. I'm new to this job, and I was
21 just asking questions, trying to learn
22 what we were doing and why we were doing
23 it and just got to asking questions and

1 working with Drew and working with Ray.
2 And as y'all all know in business,
3 there's more than one way to skin a cat,
4 and we figured out a new way to do it.

5 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, that's good. I commend
6 you.

7 MR. SYKES. Thank you. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Good.

9 All right. So at this time the
10 floor is open for any general discussion
11 by board members which might include
12 either nominations for first appraisals
13 or nominations for purchase and second
14 appraisals. So I'll recognize anybody
15 that might have a motion.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, Dr. Valentine.

17 DR. VALENTINE: I'll go ahead and get this
18 started.

19 I'd like to -- I'm not sure the
20 correct word is nominate, but I would
21 like to request a second appraisal of
22 the Weeks Bay-Meyer tract with intention
23 of purchase. So now you can correct my

1 vernacular here.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: I think you did just fine.

3 And it is a second appraisal with a
4 motion to purchase --

5 DR. VALENTINE: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- which is -- flows from
7 the second appraisal, I assume, is what
8 you want to do, purchase it?

9 DR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So we have a
11 motion by Dr. Valentine for a second
12 appraisal and purchase of Weeks
13 Bay-Meyer property.

14 MR. COOPER: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Have a second. And I'm
16 sorry. Who was it?

17 Okay. Angus. Mr. Cooper.

18 So I have a motion and a second.
19 Any discussion on the motion?

20 (No response.)

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

23 (All board members present respond

1 "aye.")

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

5 MR. COOPER: I'd like to make a motion that we

6 have a second appraisal and purchase of

7 the Yates Lake-Guy addition tract in

8 Elmore County.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a --

10 MR. CAUTHEN: I second it.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- motion and a second on

12 the second appraisal for the Yates

13 Lake-Guy addition.

14 No relationship. I will continue to

15 make sure everybody knows that. Need to

16 know who it is, though, but I don't have

17 any kinship to them.

18 Any discussion on the motion?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion

21 say "aye."

22 (All board members present respond

23 "aye.")

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

4 MR. KELLER: I'd like to make a proposal for
5 purchase and a second appraisal on the
6 Guntersville property.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. That's
8 Mr. Keller --

9 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- for a motion on the --
11 is that the Guntersville State Park
12 addition?

13 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir. And I'm going to do
14 the other two as first appraisals --
15 second appraisals right behind it.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Well, let's just do
17 one at a time.

18 I believe that's the Guntersville
19 State Park-Stubblefield Mountain tract.

20 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we have a motion.

22 DR. VALENTINE: I'll second.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: And we have a second by

1 Dr. Valentine.

2 Any discussion on the motion?

3 (No response.)

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

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

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

11 All right, Mr. Keller.

12 MR. KELLER: DeSoto.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. There's two
14 pieces. I'm just going to say we should
15 probably do them separately.

16 MR. CAUTHEN: I second it.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: So let's --

18 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, he said DeSoto.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: I know. But there's two --

20 MR. CAUTHEN: I distinctly heard him.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: He did. But let's -- we're
22 going to do them separately. So I'm
23 going to pull out one if that's okay,

1 Mr. Keller.

2 DeSoto State Park-Steward Gap
3 addition, 253 acres in Dekalb County.

4 Is that okay?

5 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So there's a
7 motion by Mr. Keller for a second
8 appraisal and purchase of that
9 particular tract, and there's a second
10 by Mr. Cauthen.

11 Any discussion on the motion?

12 (No response.)

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

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

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So, Mr. Keller,
20 do you want to nominate the other one
21 for a second appraisal?

22 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: So there's a motion by

1 Mr. Keller for a second appraisal and
2 purchase of DeSoto State Park-Gray Road
3 addition. Is there a -- were you
4 seconding that one, too, Mr. Cauthen?

5 MR. CAUTHEN: I will.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So there's a second
7 on that one as well by Mr. Cauthen.

8 Any discussion on the motion?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Also in Dekalb County.

11 And hearing no discussion, all in favor
12 of the motion say "aye."

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

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: That motion carries as
18 well.

19 DR. WOODS: I make a motion for a second
20 appraisal and purchase of Walls of
21 Jericho-Estillfork addition.

22 MR. KELLER: I'll second it.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I have a

1 motion by Mr. Woods on -- Dr. Woods on
2 Walls of Jericho-Estillfork addition and
3 a second.

4 Was that you, Mr. Keller?

5 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Any discussion
7 on the motion?

8 (No response.)

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

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

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

16 MR. CAUTHEN: I've got one, Gunter.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Mr. Cauthen.

18 MR. CAUTHEN: I make the motion that we do a
19 second appraisal and move toward
20 purchase on the Turkey Creek Nature
21 Preserve-Shepherd tract.

22 Come on. Don't let me die for a
23 second.

1 DR. HEPP: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm not letting you die.

3 I'm trying to find it.

4 So we've got a motion on the -- by
5 Mr. Cauthen on the Turkey Creek Nature
6 Preserve-Shepherd -- that's why I was
7 sitting here trying to find it on my
8 piece -- 242 acres in Jefferson County.

9 Is there a second by you, Dr. Hepp?

10 DR. HEPP: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Hepp.

12 Any discussion on the motion?

13 (No response.)

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

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

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

21 Any other discussions, motions, or
22 second appraisals at this time?

23 DR. HEPP: I'd like to make a motion for a

1 first appraisal for the Beaverdam Swamp
2 in Limestone County.

3 DR. LAWTON: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. There's a motion by
5 Dr. Hepp for a first appraisal on
6 Beaverdam Swamp in Limestone County. Is
7 that right, Dr. Hepp?

8 DR. HEPP: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Which is on the short list;
10 right?

11 DR. HEPP: Right, it's on the short list.

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

13 All right. Do I have a second?

14 DR. LAWTON: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I have a
16 second.

17 MS. POWELL: Dr. Lawton.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton.

19 Any discussion on the motion?

20 I'm just taking a breath.

21 (No response.)

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

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

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: That motion carries as
6 well.

7 DR. WOODS: I make a motion for a first
8 appraisal on that Hinds Road, Gadsden,
9 80 acres.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Dr. Woods.

11 MR. KELLER: I'll second that.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. There's a
13 second by Mr. Keller.

14 All those in -- any discussion on
15 the motion?

16 (No response.)

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

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

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Carries.

1 DR. HEPP: And I'll make another motion for a
2 first appraisal on the Indian
3 Mountain-Simmons addition in Cherokee
4 County.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So Dr. Hepp has
6 a motion for a first appraisal on Indian
7 Mountain-Simmons addition in Cherokee
8 County.

9 DR. HEPP: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is there a second on that
11 motion?

12 MR. KELLER: I'll second it.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Mr. Keller has
14 seconded that motion.

15 Any discussion on the motion?

16 (No response.)

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

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

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Y'all are getting kind of

1 close every now and then on me on these
2 last two.

3 I'm going to say that carries unless
4 my legal staff has any problems with
5 that.

6 MS. POWELL: You didn't hear any names on
7 that.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: I didn't hear any names,
9 and I believe that I'm pretty sure there
10 was a consensus. Well, I will just say
11 I know there was a consensus on the
12 motion.

13 All right. Any other discussion or
14 motions other than Patti standing up?

15 MS. POWELL: I'm coming at the end though. So
16 I'll wait till I know you're ...

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Having heard no
19 more discussion or motions --

20 MR. CAUTHEN: Let's appraise that Pintlala
21 tract.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, it's up to you,
23 Mr. Cauthen, to decide whether you want

1 to do that or not.

2 MR. CAUTHEN: First appraisal, yes. I
3 nominate that Pintlala tract for a first
4 appraisal.

5 MR. ELLIS: What was that, Sonny?

6 MR. CAUTHEN: The Pintlala tract.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: He wants to nominate the
8 Pintlala --

9 MS. POWELL: Creek.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- Creek -- I'm trying to
11 get the exact name of it.

12 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, it's hard to recognize
13 because they've got it misspelled.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's just listed as the
15 Pintlala Creek addition.

16 All right. So there's a motion by
17 Mr. Cauthen to nominate the Pintlala
18 Creek property in Lowndes County.
19 That's on the short list. Do I hear a
20 second on the motion?

21 MR. KELLER: I'll second it.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Mr. Keller.

23 Any discussion on the motion?

1 (No response.)

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

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

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 DR. WOODS: Aye.

9 DR. VALENTINE: Aye.

10 DR. LAWTON: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Motion carries.

12 All right. Any other discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Having heard no
15 motion, we'll -- no other discussion,
16 we'll move on to --

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

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, Patti. Patti's
19 jumping up.

20 MS. POWELL: You know I was dying to stand up.
21 I couldn't stand it any longer.

22 Legal -- our astute legal folks have
23 raised a concern that the motion related

1 to the Guntersville State Park, a motion
2 for a second appraisal and to proceed
3 with purchase, did not expressly include
4 the proceed to purchase. So we -- it's
5 been suggested that we revisit that
6 motion to confirm that the Guntersville
7 State Park -- and I don't have the full
8 name --

9 MR. KELLER: Stubblefield.

10 MS. POWELL: -- Stubblefield --

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Read it back. I thought I
12 said --

13 (Brief interruption.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's all right. I
15 thought I said that on each one of them.
16 And it's implicit on the second
17 appraisal it's a motion to purchase, but
18 we'll do it just to clear it up.

19 So Guntersville State
20 Park-Stubblefield Mountain, we'll
21 revisit that since there was some
22 concern. There was a motion, and I
23 don't remember who -- who made the

1 motion on that?

2 MS. POWELL: Mr. Keller.

3 MR. KELLER: I did.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Keller. Do you

5 remember who the second was?

6 MS. POWELL: Second was Dr. Valentine.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Dr. Valentine.

8 Any discussion on that?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion

11 for a second appraisal and purchase of

12 that property say "aye."

13 (All board members present respond

14 "aye.")

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Motion carries

16 a second time. But thanks for y'all

17 looking out.

18 All right. Anything else by

19 Ms. Powell or anyone else?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So at this time

22 we'll move on. And thank you for

23 discussion on those motions and

1 properties. And I believe Chris
2 Smith -- Mr. Smith is going to speak to
3 us on some miscellaneous matters. At
4 least he's first up.

5 Actually, you're -- you've got all
6 of this.

7 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. Thank you,
8 Commissioner.

9 We've got a few items to cover in
10 the miscellaneous section of our meeting
11 today. And the information associated
12 with what I'm going to talk about is
13 located in Tab 4.

14 The first -- the first item located
15 in Tab 4-A is a memo and a map
16 associated with the Big Canoe Creek
17 Preserve nomination. This was a
18 nomination that the board had motioned
19 to get a second appraisal and purchase
20 back in September of 2013. And during
21 the negotiation phase of that process,
22 the nomination owner brought forth -- or
23 brought to our attention a restrictive

1 covenant document, and at that time --
2 you know, that hadn't been brought to
3 our attention prior.

4 Typically when we -- just to let you
5 know, when we request deeds and request
6 different information from nomination
7 owners, we solicit any information that
8 might have impact on the management or
9 the value of the property.

10 But at that negotiation we made an
11 offer on that on behalf of the board.
12 This restrictive covenant document was
13 brought forward. Our department's legal
14 section reviewed that document, felt
15 that that restrictive covenant had a
16 value -- an impact -- would have an
17 impact on the value of the nomination.
18 And so then at that time we started
19 discussing with the nomination owner
20 possible dissolving of that restrictive
21 covenant or some solution to remove that
22 burden from the property.

23 To give you a little background of

1 why the restrictive covenant existed,
2 this nomination is owned by a
3 development company. That property that
4 we are considering buying was purchased
5 from an adjacent landowner, and the
6 agreement between this developer and the
7 adjacent landowner to -- for that
8 landowner that's adjacent to this
9 nomination to maintain access and
10 maintain different things associated
11 with development of their property --
12 this restrictive covenant was drafted.

13 And so for several months we worked
14 toward trying to figure out, like I
15 said, dissolving it or maybe coming up
16 with a different easement that's not as
17 restrictive, and we just haven't -- we
18 haven't made it there and we're not
19 going to make it there.

20 So what you see in your packet and
21 up on the screen is an alternative
22 nomination where we have -- or
23 nomination boundary where -- and all

1 parties have agreed to this. And when I
2 say all parties, the current owner of
3 the nomination, the adjacent landowner
4 who has this restrictive covenant.

5 But we've proposed that the current
6 owner maintain the ownership of the
7 property, the southern 54 acres, and
8 that if, you know, the board was
9 agreeable and decided to continue with
10 this that they would then purchase the
11 red portion on your map or on the screen
12 as, you know, an addition to the Forever
13 Wild holdings. The restrictive covenant
14 would be dissolved as it exists today
15 and then moved to apply to this southern
16 54 acres. And that would not become,
17 you know, Forever Wild property. And
18 then the current owner would be able to
19 satisfy his agreement with the adjacent
20 landowner.

21 Considering this alternative, we
22 re-evaluated it in our scoring criteria.
23 It does not impact the -- you know, the

1 values that were -- that brought this to
2 the short list back in 2013. There's
3 still the same recreation opportunities,
4 access opportunities, and the frontage
5 on Big Canoe Creek, which is a driving
6 force in the nature preserve category.

7 So I'd be happy to entertain any
8 questions. If the board is agreeable or
9 is okay with this -- with us moving
10 forward in the purchasing process of
11 this reduced-acreage footprint, we will
12 need a motion to do so. And what we
13 will do at that time, we will get an
14 updated appraisal to reflect the change
15 and then proceed like that.

16 Does anybody have any questions?

17 DR. WOODS: Will it be one appraisal or two?

18 MR. SMITH: It would be an update -- I guess
19 we would probably have to get an update
20 of both appraisals.

21 And, also, this is -- I do want to
22 mention -- I failed to mention this as I
23 was describing this. Throughout the

1 discussion with the board in the past
2 there's been offers by St. Clair County
3 and Springville as financial and
4 management support with this nomination,
5 a \$225,000 combined effort between
6 St. Clair County and Springville. As
7 one of the public speakers mentioned,
8 you know, we have confirmed that. That
9 support will remain as well as
10 management assistance, very similar
11 to -- you know, with tract security,
12 trail maintenance, that kind of thing.

13 Yes, sir.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: I got it figured out. I
15 was trying to get my acreage right.

16 So what you're saying is if the
17 board desires to purchase it, we need
18 another motion to purchase it with the
19 reduced acreage?

20 MR. SMITH: That's correct.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Since that's --

22 MR. SMITH: Since what was presented to the
23 board previously has now changed --

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Was incorrect.

2 MR. SMITH: If the changes would have
3 impacted, you know, our evaluation, we'd
4 have to start back at the beginning, but
5 it didn't happen. So we're basically
6 coming to the board informing them of
7 this change and --

8 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, did he pull it -- or did
9 the owner pull it because it appraised
10 higher than he wanted it to, or why did
11 he do that?

12 MR. SMITH: Pull what?

13 MR. CAUTHEN: Pull the acreage.

14 MR. SMITH: No. This is our suggestion as a
15 solution to the problem.

16 MR. CAUTHEN: Oh, okay. All right.

17 MR. SMITH: I mean, we tried to get the two --
18 the adjacent landowner and the
19 nomination owner -- we tried to help
20 them. I mean, it was their decision
21 what they do with that restrictive
22 covenant. But we offered alternatives
23 with language of easements that the

1 board currently has, and they just
2 couldn't come together and resolve that.

3 So this is an alternative to --

4 MR. CAUTHEN: We've already -- we've already
5 approved this one time, haven't we?

6 MR. SMITH: That's correct.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we just need to go back
8 because we have to take out those acres.

9 Does anybody - it's not that it's
10 necessarily relevant, but does anybody
11 remember who nominated that?

12 MR. SMITH: I believe it was Dr. Hepp.

13 DR. HEPP: Yeah, I did.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

15 DR. HEPP: I make a motion to ...

16 MS. POWELL: Just to proceed with purchase at
17 the reduced acreage.

18 DR. HEPP: Proceed with purchase with the
19 reduced acreage.

20 DR. WOODS: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Motion to
22 proceed with purchase at the reduced
23 acreage. There's a second by Dr. Woods.

1 Any discussion on the motion?

2 (No response.)

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

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

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

10 MR. SMITH: Thank you, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

12 MR. SMITH: The item in Tab 4-B is a
13 management plan associated with the
14 Dothan Recreation tract. State Lands
15 Division staff have met with the City of
16 Dothan and their leisure services and
17 the mayor. And as you can see in the
18 management plan, it is written and
19 reflects what was presented to the board
20 by the City of Dothan with respect to
21 their assistance with management,
22 day-to-day upkeep, trail-building. They
23 will do those things under the guidance

1 of the Department of Conservation and
2 Natural Resources. If the board has
3 reviewed that plan and agrees with it,
4 we would need a motion to adopt that
5 management plan.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can we just ask if the
7 staff is good with the plan?

8 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Does anybody have
10 any questions about the plan before we
11 entertain any motions?

12 MR. CAUTHEN: I make the motion.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So a motion by
14 Mr. Cauthen to, I would assume, adopt
15 the Dothan Trail Park management plan.
16 Is that the correct way to phrase that?

17 MR. COOPER: I'll second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second. I didn't hear who
19 seconded it.

20 MR. CAUTHEN: Angus.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Angus. Mr. Cooper.

22 All right. Any discussion on the
23 motion?

1 (No response.)

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

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

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

8 Mr. Smith.

9 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. Thank you.

11 The final item in the miscellaneous
12 is I just wanted to provide the board an
13 update on our work toward putting
14 together a draft five-year plan. You
15 may recall -- our new board members that
16 weren't here back in 2011 -- the board
17 passed a resolution to develop a
18 five-year planning document that would
19 help guide in acquisition goals and
20 management activities.

21 Just to kind of recap what's
22 happened over the last 12 or 14 months,
23 we kind -- we put together a draft, and

1 then we discussed internally in the
2 Department. Then we went out to the
3 public, held three public listening
4 sessions, one in each district. We --
5 during that entire time we solicited
6 comments on the Alabamaforeverwild.com
7 website.

8 We have now compiled all the public
9 comments, revisited discussions
10 internally, and are very close to having
11 a final plan to bring to the board. I
12 think between today's meeting and the
13 February meeting we will e-mail you a
14 draft for your review so that we can
15 discuss that at the February meeting.
16 And I just wanted to provide that update
17 to the board.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. We look forward
19 to that.

20 Any other ...

21 MR. SMITH: That's it.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Any other
23 reports by anyone else?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. The next item on the
3 agenda is the list of tentative meeting
4 dates. I don't think we -- we know we
5 have to have our first meeting, I
6 believe, in Montgomery.

7 MS. POWELL: The meeting by law has to be
8 between the 1st and the 10th. So we
9 have selected February 5th, which is the
10 customary Thursday.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: So if everyone would mark
12 their calendars for February 5th for
13 that first meeting date.

14 Do we have a place yet, Patti?

15 MS. POWELL: I don't think we -- it will
16 certainly be in Montgomery. And we
17 traditionally do it at the Capitol
18 auditorium, but --

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: We need to look. I was
20 just telling Jo. We need to look at
21 that real quick because there's a lot
22 going on in February this year at the
23 Capitol. So we need to -- we need to

1 check on that quick, Chris, because if
2 we can't, we need to --

3 MS. POWELL: And if we secure that, we'll try
4 to arrange the customary parking. I
5 know parking is always an issue, but we
6 should have the deck availability again.
7 So we'll work on that also.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

9 All right. And then we'll try to --
10 we'll try to give you some idea ahead of
11 time where we might meet. I know Dothan
12 really wants us to come back next year.
13 They -- you know, we didn't go back this
14 year, but I told them that we would
15 certainly consider that. They really
16 want us back.

17 MR. CAUTHEN: Let's go. I missed it.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So we'll try to go
19 to Dothan next year. And if anybody
20 else has an idea, just let our staff
21 know.

22 Next item on the agenda is approval
23 of the minutes of the September 18,

1 2014, meeting. Hopefully you've had a
2 chance to look at that. Does anybody
3 have any additions or corrections to
4 those minutes?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: If not, do I have a motion
7 to approve?

8 MR. COOPER: So moved.

9 MR. ALLEN: Second.

10 (Brief interruption.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any discussion on the
12 motion?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
15 to approve the minutes of September 18,
16 2014, signify by saying "aye."

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

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

22 All right. Before we adjourn we
23 need to recognize a few individuals that

1 will be leaving us that have served on
2 this board for some time now and have
3 been very valuable to everything that we
4 do, everything that we're about.

5 And so if you could, Mr. Cooper,
6 would you come up.

7 I'll read Mr. Cooper's first. I
8 think they all say the same thing. As a
9 matter of fact, why doesn't every --
10 Mr. Keller, if you would come up.

11 And Dr. Holland is not here, but
12 we'll certainly let him know.

13 So let me just read this, which is a
14 Certificate of Appreciation to
15 Mr. Cooper and to Mr. Keller. Know all
16 by these presents that Angus R. Cooper,
17 III, has shown a sincere commitment to
18 conservation in the state of Alabama,
19 has demonstrated his dedication to the
20 protection of Alabama's unique natural
21 heritage through participation in a
22 program to acquire public lands in order
23 that current and future generations of

1 Alabamians may continue to appreciate
2 and enjoy the state's diverse natural
3 resources. In sincere gratitude, we
4 recognize and commend your outstanding
5 efforts to ensure that part of Alabama
6 remains Forever Wild. Done this 18th
7 day of December 2014. Robert Bentley,
8 Governor.

9 So, Angus, thank you very much for
10 your service to the state of Alabama.

11 MR. COOPER: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Raymond. On behalf of the
13 governor, thank you very much for your
14 service to the state of Alabama.

15 Give everybody a hand.

16 I want to give y'all a chance to --
17 I know y'all have served on the board
18 for a while. I don't know if you have
19 any comments, but if you do, we'd love
20 to hear about the number of years that
21 you've dedicated to this and appreciate
22 it very much. We're going to miss
23 y'all.

1 MR. COOPER: Well, it's been an honor. I
2 mean, this is one of the things that you
3 can do for your state that really makes
4 a difference. And, you know, it's --
5 I've been doing this now, I think, six
6 years, you know, and have seen a lot of
7 changes throughout this program and all
8 for the better. And even got Sonny on
9 here to stir it up a little bit. It's
10 been great.

11 MR. KELLER: I'd like to thank y'all for the
12 opportunity to serve. And my interest
13 in the board was --

14 I'm not a doctor and I'm not a
15 lawyer. I'm not a teacher. But I'm in
16 business, the timber business.

17 -- that we have somebody to
18 represent our interests, the good part
19 of it and the bad part, to explain and
20 whatever. But I really -- I enjoyed it.
21 It seems a short six years. I didn't
22 even know it ended until today.

23 But I've enjoyed each one of you.

1 You've all received me well, been kind
2 to me. And I think it's good work and I
3 think it needs to be carried on.
4 And care for your neighbor, care for
5 your state, and do something good for
6 someone. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

8 And I just want to say to both of
9 you and Dr. Holland -- wish he was
10 here -- you know, there's a lot of
11 people -- of course, we have some new
12 ones on the board since I've come. But
13 particularly the two of you, I mean, I
14 want to thank you for receiving me well
15 when I joined as part of this and for
16 helping me in a lack of knowledge. And
17 y'all have always been, you know, very
18 good folks, good gentlemen to me and
19 just worked with us, and couldn't ask
20 for any better. So thank you very much
21 for what you've done for me and helping
22 me with trying to manage the board.

23 So I also want to -- when I got up

1 here, I forgot earlier that we're almost
2 at Christmastime. So one thing I want
3 to say is to all our stakeholders and
4 the people that come to the board and
5 the public and everybody that's here
6 today, you know, I want to wish you a
7 merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a
8 good new year.

9 You know, when you come and you
10 participate in this process, we very
11 much appreciate that, and I think it's a
12 good time to tell everybody how much we
13 do. So we wish you and your families
14 the best.

15 As well to our board. I want to
16 thank you so much for what you do on
17 this board. It takes a lot of time.
18 People don't actually know sometimes how
19 much it does take from your schedules in
20 traveling and that kind of thing. And I
21 certainly want to express my gratitude
22 to each one of you and wish you and your
23 families a happy holiday and merry

1 Christmas and happy new year before we
2 start this again next year.

3 And then, lastly, I don't want to
4 leave out the staff and the folks that
5 we have working at the Department.

6 And would y'all all stand, please,
7 everybody that's here that works in the
8 Department.

9 So I'd like to give them a hand. It
10 takes a lot to keep us straight. And I
11 want to wish y'all a merry Christmas and
12 happy holidays and happy new year as
13 well.

14 With that, Mr. Cauthen, do we have a
15 motion to adjourn?

16 MR. CAUTHEN: You can sure get it.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: We're adjourned.

18 (Meeting adjourned at
19 approximately 12:33 p.m.)

20 * * * * *

21 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

22 * * * * *

23 STATE OF ALABAMA:

1 MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

2 I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified
3 Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of
4 Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported
5 the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board
6 Meeting on December 18, 2014.

7 The foregoing 125 computer-printed pages
8 contain a true and correct transcript of the
9 proceedings held.

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

13 This 22nd day of January 2015.

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Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2015
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large