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**MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
Spanish Fort Community Center
Spanish Fort, Alabama
May 11, 2017**

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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 Spanish Fort Community Center,
7361 Spanish Fort Boulevard, Spanish Fort, Alabama,
on Thursday, May 11, 2017, commencing at
approximately 10:10 a.m.

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 2 Commissioner N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Chairman
- Mr. Rick Oates
- 3 Dr. Gary Hepp
- Mr. William H. Satterfield
- 4 Dr. Lori R. Tolley-Jordan
- Mr. Charles E. Ball
- 5 Mr. Russell Runyan
- Mr. Horace H. Horn, Jr.
- 6 Dr. Michael Woods
- Mr. David Wright
- 7 Dr. John Valentine
- Mr. H.E. "Sonny" Cauthen

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COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning. It got real quiet, so it must be time to start the meeting.

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16

I want to thank everyone for being here this morning. This is our Forever Wild Board Meeting of May 11, 2017. And the first thing I would like to do is call the roll to establish a quorum.

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Mr. Oates?

22

MR. OATES: Here.

23

COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

1 DR. VALENTINE: Here.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lori Tolley-Jordan?

3 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Here.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

5 DR. HEPP: Here.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

7 DR. WOODS: Here.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball?

9 MR. BALL: Here.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Runyan?

11 MR. RUNYAN: Here.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Wright?

13 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Satterfield?

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Horn?

17 MR. HORN: Here.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

19 MR. CAUTHEN: Here.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: And Mr. Ellis?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Counting myself, we have 12
4 board members in attendance, and we have
5 sufficient number of people to conduct
6 business.

7 Before we get into opening remarks,
8 we have a few people here I want to
9 recognize and thank for being here.

10 We have State Representative Jim
11 Hill. Representative Hill, thank you
12 for being here today, sir. Glad to have
13 you.

14 County Commissioner Ken Crowe.
15 Thank you, sir.

16 Former Commissioner Barnett Lawley.
17 Barnett, thank you for being here today.

18 Mayor William Isley. Mayor, thank
19 you, sir.

20 Mayor Mike McMillan from Spanish
21 Fort. Is he here yet?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Let me just -- I

1 hate that he's not here right now.

2 Hopefully he'll be in after while.

3 If there's anybody here from Spanish
4 Fort, let me express on behalf of the
5 board our sincere appreciation for
6 letting us use this very, very nice
7 facility to conduct our business today.
8 I think we'll be back because this is a
9 great place to have a board meeting.
10 And so I want to thank the mayor and all
11 of the -- all of the officials here in
12 the City of Spanish Fort for allowing us
13 to do that.

14 I also want to just mention real
15 quickly that yesterday the board --
16 several -- most of us on the board had
17 an opportunity to do a tour of the
18 Delta. I myself had not had a chance to
19 take a Delta tour yet since I had been
20 in office and really appreciate
21 Dr. Valentine for helping put that
22 together along with Mark Berte, Alabama
23 Coastal Foundation, and Angus Cooper.

1 So thank you, Dr. Valentine, for
2 doing that. Appreciate all the board
3 members that could make it. And I think
4 we had an enjoyable time and had some
5 good fellowship, and it's always helpful
6 to do things like that. So we
7 appreciate the opportunity.

8 Okay. Does anybody else have any
9 announcements or have anything else they
10 want to say before we start with our
11 public speaking forum?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, also -- my bad -- one
14 other thing. We have a new member with
15 us today, and I just about forgot.
16 Mr. Rick Oates, who is the newly
17 appointed state forester.

18 Rick, thank you for -- I know you
19 come to these meetings and have been
20 coming, but we welcome you as a board
21 member. Thank you for being here today.

22 MR. OATES: Thank you. It's interesting to be
23 on this side of the table for a change.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, you'll fit in right
2 away because I know you come to these
3 meetings, and I feel like you'll catch
4 on really quickly. But if you have any
5 questions, please don't hesitate to ask
6 some of us.

7 Okay. Now I will call on the people
8 who have signed up for public speaking,
9 and hopefully -- sometimes there are
10 multiple people speaking on the same
11 subject. And I do know sometimes who
12 wants to speak first and sometimes I
13 don't. So if I call someone on a
14 particular subject and you would rather
15 not be the first speaker, just let me
16 know, and we'll defer to one of the
17 other people that have signed up and
18 just apologize in advance for that.

19 So Libba Vaughan on Big Canoe Creek.

20 Thank you, Ms. Vaughan.

21 MS. VAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: I always kind of forget to
23 mention that we do have a court reporter

1 here that takes down the minutes. So
2 for those of you that might be nervous
3 in speaking, don't be, because we want
4 her to try to get down what you say. So
5 just every now and then if she gives you
6 a funny look or me a funny look, I might
7 ask you to slow down. We can't talk
8 over each other. So thank you.

9 MS. VAUGHAN: Good morning. My name is Libba
10 Vaughan. I'm the executive director of
11 the Freshwater Land Trust in Birmingham,
12 and I really appreciate the opportunity
13 to be here today to talk about the Big
14 Canoe Creek Nature Preserve in St. Clair
15 County.

16 We are excited to be here because
17 this place is a beloved place, and it's
18 for good reason. It's a town treasure,
19 and it's also a regional treasure. And
20 we have the opportunity today that we
21 could possibly make it accessible and
22 available to all Alabamians.

23 The Big Canoe Creek Preserve is --

1 it's also a beautiful place. And as the
2 president of the Big Canoe -- The
3 Friends of Big Canoe Creek, Doug
4 Morrision says it's the jewel in the
5 crown of Alabama's biodiversity. I love
6 it when he says that.

7 The acquisition of this tract will
8 not only protect the high-quality
9 riparian and forest and aquatic habitat,
10 but it will also provide an incredible
11 economic asset to St. Clair County and
12 the region. And I think -- I know there
13 are a lot of people here today that want
14 to speak on behalf of this project, and
15 I think that's really important.

16 This place has the enthusiastic
17 support not only of the Freshwater Land
18 Trust but also the St. Clair County
19 Economic Development Authority, the City
20 of Springville, the St. Clair County
21 Commission, and our state
22 representatives and senators. We're
23 real excited about that.

1 And in the effort to let them
2 speak -- and I know you have a lot of
3 information on this tract in your
4 packet. I'm not going to go into any
5 detail, but I do want to let them speak
6 as well. So thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

8 Any questions for Ms. Vaughan?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

11 The next speaker -- well, I know
12 Representative Jim Hill and Commissioner
13 Crowe are both here. Who would like to
14 speak next?

15 Representative. Thank you, sir.

16 MR. HILL: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,
17 thank you. I am Jim Hill. I am a state
18 representative for St. Clair County. I
19 represent this particular area of our
20 county.

21 The Big Canoe Creek, that project is
22 most wanted in our county. I realize
23 that from time to time you have entities

1 or areas that simply do not want you in
2 their area. That's fine. Please take
3 the opportunity to give us those
4 projects that they do not want because
5 we think this will be a tremendous
6 asset.

7 You know, as I think back, one of
8 the wisest moves that anyone ever made
9 in the history of the United States of
10 America was President Theodore
11 Roosevelt. What he did was set up
12 national parks. They have been enjoyed
13 by people since that point in time, and
14 I myself -- and I would imagine most of
15 you -- have enjoyed those national
16 parks.

17 Certainly this is not on that scale,
18 but it is that same idea. And we
19 welcome the opportunity to have this
20 Forever Wild project in our area so that
21 it can be enjoyed by our citizens from
22 now on.

23 Thank you very much for letting me

1 speak. I appreciate it.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

3 MR. HILL: If you have any questions, I
4 certainly would be delighted to answer
5 them.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen.

7 MR. CAUTHEN: I've got one, Representative
8 Hill.

9 How many acres is involved? I guess
10 I can read --

11 MR. HILL: It's roughly 400. I think it's 385
12 or something like -- but about 400
13 acres.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: Okay. That's all I had.

15 DR. HEPP: I have a question.

16 MR. HILL: Yes, sir.

17 DR. HEPP: Last year we tried to purchase some
18 tracts called Big Canoe Creek. Is this
19 different than those tracts?

20 MR. HILL: I believe it's the same area, sir.

21 DR. HEPP: So they were declined for some
22 reason. I'm not --

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: I think Ms. Powell can

1 speak to that.

2 MS. POWELL: Yeah. The board -- this probably
3 does sound familiar because it was
4 before the board previously. The reason
5 that transaction did not close was
6 simply because the owner at that time
7 was not willing to accept the
8 appraised-value offer that was made. So
9 there was no question as to the tract.
10 The board was interested in moving
11 forward, but we could not close that
12 because at that time the seller did not
13 accept that offer.

14 The nomination has come back
15 through. It has been rescored again.
16 We have gone through the procedure just
17 as normal. I think the last appraisal
18 had been done about three years ago.
19 The market has seen -- in this area as
20 well as many others has seen some
21 pickup. So there is potential for
22 getting the deal done.

23 But that is -- you are correct.

1 It's the same nomination that the board
2 was interested in before, but we just
3 couldn't get it closed.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Powell, can I ask you a
5 question? Maybe the rest of the board
6 will be interested.

7 Since that did happen, if we were
8 interested in this property again, would
9 we need another first-appraisal motion
10 as opposed to --

11 MS. POWELL: Correct. Correct. For two
12 reasons: One, because you would have a
13 very outdated appraisal in that
14 instance. But, more importantly,
15 because the nomination did proceed to
16 the -- us trying to close it and was
17 unsuccessful, it comes off your list,
18 which is why it had to be resubmitted as
19 a new nomination. It has to go back
20 through the scoring process. We did not
21 use the old score. We scored it again.
22 It has made the short list.

23 It is my understanding that there is

1 an appraisal that has been done by the
2 proponents of the project. There is an
3 opportunity for us to possibly utilize
4 that appraisal, but we would need to
5 start over as with a new nomination
6 and -- with a new motion to proceed to a
7 first appraisal. We could then evaluate
8 that appraisal.

9 It was done by one of the appraisers
10 that's under contract with us. So there
11 are some potential ways to utilize --
12 potentially utilize that appraisal and
13 not bear the cost of that. But for
14 purposes of this meeting, we would need
15 to proceed pretty much as normal just
16 like any new nomination that's on the
17 short list.

18 Any other questions?

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Ms. Powell.

20 Any other questions for Ms. Powell
21 or Representative Hill?

22 MR. CAUTHEN: Is she ready for a motion?

23 MS. POWELL: No. We'll do that during

1 general -- the general-discussion item
2 when we do -- if anyone would like to
3 make a motion at that time with all the
4 motions.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

6 MR. WRIGHT: May I ask a question?

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir, Mr. Wright.

8 MR. WRIGHT: I notice on the map up here it
9 looks like a county road. Can you give
10 me the number of that county road?

11 MR. HILL: County Road 9.

12 MR. WRIGHT: It looks like only one road goes
13 into the property, or does it have a
14 good road system throughout?

15 MR. HILL: I don't know that answer. I'm sure
16 someone here -- probably the mayor --
17 could answer those questions better than
18 I.

19 MR. DEATON: Mr. Wright, there is a network of
20 road systems in that property. The topo
21 map doesn't represent it, but if you
22 were to see an aerial photography, it
23 would show roads in there.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

3 MR. SATTERFIELD: I have one, Commissioner.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

5 MR. SATTERFIELD: I notice in the description
6 of this property there's a critical
7 habitat for a number of mussels in that
8 property. Do you know how that would
9 impact the potential use of that
10 property if it was acquired by Forever
11 Wild?

12 MR. HILL: No, sir, I do not. I cannot
13 imagine it would do anything but protect
14 it.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Powell, if you would
16 like to speak to that.

17 MS. POWELL: The exact measure we would take,
18 of course, would vary tract by tract.
19 But our goal is to use -- to manage all
20 of the tracts for public access to the
21 extent possible. Normally for us all
22 that simply means is being very
23 cognizant of the access points, if we

1 have trails, placement of those. We
2 will route them appropriately around.
3 But I am not aware of any issue with
4 this one that would concern --

5 MS. LEWIS: It's the river itself.

6 MS. POWELL: Yeah. So I don't think we -- we
7 did not identify any issues on this one
8 that would -- sometimes we'll have some
9 that we may have to tell you would be
10 more of a nature preserve; because of
11 the characteristics, we couldn't
12 incorporate recreational usage. But we
13 don't see that issue in this tract.

14 MR. SATTERFIELD: So the fact that it is
15 designated, though, as critical habitat
16 would be taken into account in the
17 appraisal of the property?

18 MS. POWELL: I'm so sorry. I was listening to
19 them.

20 MR. SATTERFIELD: I said the fact that it's
21 already got critical habitat designated
22 by Fish and Wildlife Service for these
23 mussel species would be taken into

1 account in the appraisal value of the
2 property?

3 MS. POWELL: If that factor did -- yes, did
4 impact the appraised value, that would
5 be something we would -- and, obviously,
6 we haven't reviewed this appraisal
7 for -- kind of in our next step like we
8 would fully review one.

9 But if there is anything that would
10 limit the highest and best use of the
11 property, that should be reflected in
12 the appraisal because it would impact
13 the value. If it was not seen to impact
14 the highest and best use, you may not
15 see a reference to it. It would depend
16 on the appraiser's interpretation of how
17 that would impact the usage.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Anyone else?

19 I know we have another speaker on
20 this.

21 And, Representative Hill, I want to
22 thank you for being here today. I know
23 you've got other business, and I

1 appreciate you taking the time out to
2 come down here and speak with us.

3 MR. HILL: No. Thank you for letting us --
4 thank you for considering our project.
5 We appreciate it very much.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: So Commissioner Crowe.

7 MR. CROWE: Good morning.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

9 MR. CROWE: I'm Ken Crowe with the St. Clair
10 County Commission.

11 I think you'll -- you've got a
12 letter from our chairman in your packet.
13 I'm here just to let you know that the
14 commission is behind this project. We
15 committed to it in 2014 when it first
16 came to our table, and we would love to
17 see it in St. Clair County.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

19 Any questions of Mr. Crowe?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I think they --
22 thank you, sir.

23 And then I also have -- Mayor Isley

1 is here. Good morning, Mayor.

2 MR. ISLEY: Good morning. Thank you for
3 having us today.

4 From its inception years back, the
5 City of Springville has embraced this
6 project. The current city council is
7 fully supportive of the project. We
8 stand behind future maintenance and
9 security and potential construction of
10 buildings on the property. The city
11 will incur and be involved in any and
12 all of that once this project is
13 approved.

14 We would love to see this happen.
15 It's got a tremendous potential impact
16 both in preserving nature in our area
17 and then also a potential economic
18 impact due to the fact we believe that
19 hundreds of thousands of people from
20 St. Clair County, Jefferson County, and
21 Blount County will -- and even Etowah
22 County -- will actually come to this
23 preserve once we have this in place.

1 We definitely want this board to
2 consider this a high priority.
3 St. Clair County doesn't have a Forever
4 Wild project. We want a Forever Wild
5 project and stand ready to commit our
6 resources towards it.

7 Springville, Alabama, was formed in
8 1872. If you've never been there, it's
9 a tremendously old town with a
10 tremendous, fantastic heritage that
11 thinks towards the past before it thinks
12 towards the future. I'm in my third
13 term there, and I had to learn that by
14 the people. The people there demand
15 that we preserve our heritage as a city
16 and preserve our lands. Most of them
17 are against the encroachment of other
18 citizens to our area, but that's
19 happened and it continues to happen.

20 And we -- we actually have a city
21 council in place that is in a majority
22 to move forward to assist in this
23 project. So everything is in place. We

1 just simply need the project to be --
2 you know, have an appraisal done,
3 please, and decide whether or not it's
4 something you feel like would be
5 successful. We think it would be.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

8 Any questions for the mayor?

9 MR. RUNYAN: Mr. Mayor?

10 MR. ISLEY: Yes.

11 MR. RUNYAN: Is this within the city limits of
12 Springville?

13 MR. ISLEY: It is.

14 And some of you have heard of
15 Homestead Hollow. That's a pretty
16 well-known arts and crafts festival in
17 the area that has a festival four times
18 a year, and it's within less than
19 one-fourth mile from that area. And
20 it's just got a beautiful river running
21 through it.

22 And, folks, if it's not going to be
23 a Forever Wild project, some day it will

1 be over 1,000 homes there. The city
2 would have a tremendous financial impact
3 from that. The city has decided that
4 that's not where we want to go. We want
5 to go with preserving that land for this
6 kind of a reason and this kind of a
7 purpose, because that's the nature of
8 our city. That's what we want to do.

9 MR. WRIGHT: I have a question.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir, Mr. Wright.

11 (Brief interruption by the court
12 reporter.)

13 MR. WRIGHT: You mentioned buildings at the
14 beginning of talking. Is there already
15 buildings --

16 MR. ISLEY: No, sir. No, sir. I'm simply
17 saying that restroom facilities are
18 necessary. I believe there's also
19 perhaps some type of a structure
20 mentioned by The Friends of Big Canoe
21 Creek in here where you would do an
22 educational-type facility that you would
23 have there.

1 The actual road -- it's got a -- you
2 know, it's got some roads into it, but
3 the actual improvement and widening of
4 those roads and the parking areas,
5 helping to construct the trails, both
6 hiking and biking or whatever type
7 trails, the city stands ready to assist
8 in any and all of that.

9 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mayor, thank you for being
13 here today. It's a beautiful part of
14 the state. We appreciate y'all coming
15 this far down here just to tell us about
16 it. And as you heard earlier, I think
17 last time we just ran into an issue with
18 the appraisal. So I'm sure the board
19 will give it, you know, good
20 consideration. And if it's nominated
21 again, just understand that by law we
22 cannot pay any more than an appraised
23 value.

1 MR. ISLEY: I do understand.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we'll -- if it comes up
3 again, we'll certainly work -- work with
4 you and everyone else here today and, of
5 course, the owner to see if we can --

6 MR. ISLEY: If the appraised value doesn't
7 reach the ending asking price of the
8 property owner, then the city and the
9 county and some other interested parties
10 will, I believe, see that it happens.
11 The gap will be met. But if there is a
12 gap, it will be met.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

14 MR. ISLEY: And then the last thing, I would
15 like to thank Representative Hill for
16 taking the time out from his duties on
17 Capitol Hill to come down today. It's
18 very important that he do that, and I
19 thank him for it.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. Thank you.

21 I think that was the last person to
22 speak on Big Canoe Creek. Did I miss
23 anybody else on that?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Barnett, you sure
3 you don't want to speak on it?

4 MR. LAWLEY: Yeah, I'm going to pass. Thank
5 you, though.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So the next
7 speaker I have is Jake Blackwell
8 speaking on Skyline WMA-Crow Creek
9 Valley.

10 Patti, I just -- this is where we
11 wanted people to have a little time to
12 find it in the package or not?

13 Help me out on what you want to do
14 here.

15 MS. POWELL: And for benefit of the board and
16 some of the public, we've had confusion
17 in past meetings sometimes because we
18 have to give our tracts a name that is
19 unique and works in our system. So
20 sometimes it doesn't match the name of
21 the individual speaking.

22 But I think Jo was a step ahead of
23 me this time, and so she has tried to

1 write on each green slip the name. So
2 if you can -- if you'll reread the name,
3 the board should be able to find it. It
4 will either be on your -- well, it may
5 be on the short list. It may be on
6 appraised nominations. It may be
7 something that the speaker is speaking
8 anew on it.

9 Anyway, we'll try to help you. But
10 if you'll read what Jo wrote down on the
11 green slips properly.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

13 MS. POWELL: And she was a step ahead of me as
14 usual.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: So, Jake, excuse me for
16 interrupting. What we're trying to do
17 is when people come up to speak, if we
18 have something in the packet, our board
19 members are doing the best they can to
20 find it while you're speaking, and we're
21 trying to be a little more efficient.

22 MS. POWELL: And this one has been appraised.
23 So you will see it on the appraised

1 nomination list in Tab 3.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right.

3 Thank you. Again, I apologize.

4 MR. BLACKWELL: Thank you. Not a problem.

5 My name is Jake Blackwell. I'm here
6 on behalf of the Henninger family to
7 talk about the Skyline WMA-Crow Creek
8 Valley Addition. It's 1521 acres in
9 Jackson County that was nominated at a
10 previous meeting for an appraisal.

11 This land has been in my family for
12 almost a hundred years, and we've
13 struggled with the thought of selling
14 it. But when we heard about this
15 program, we couldn't think of a more
16 fitting legacy for our family's land
17 than to be a part of a program that the
18 public can enjoy as well as our family
19 and future generations to enjoy like we
20 all did as we were growing up.

21 I just wanted to mention a few
22 things that I think would be of interest
23 to you guys and some of my favorite

1 aspects of this property for you to
2 consider.

3 First of all, this borders the
4 existing Skyline WMA property. We have
5 425 yards of common boundary on top of
6 the mountain. We've already got a road
7 system and trail system throughout since
8 we have leased out the hunting rights to
9 this property for the last 40 years.
10 We've got a main road going up the
11 mountain coming off of Highway 117 that
12 connects to the existing road system
13 that's already in the Skyline WMA. So
14 it makes a great access point to come in
15 from the other side of the property.
16 It's already got greenfields throughout,
17 trail systems throughout. It's ready to
18 be used as a WMA from the day that you
19 add it to Skyline.

20 Probably the most notable feature of
21 this property is Crow Creek that runs
22 through the middle of the property.
23 Crow Creek is a year-round deep-water

1 creek, and we have almost a mile of
2 frontage to this creek. It's commonly
3 used now for canoeing and recreation.
4 This flowing through the lowland area of
5 the property would be a great access
6 point for parking, launching canoes,
7 camping, whatever recreation you want to
8 do there.

9 And probably what made it score so
10 high with the WMAs is the fact that it's
11 got about 400 acres of lowland,
12 low-lying area along the creek. This is
13 something that's not -- that the
14 existing WMA does not have much of.
15 Most of it's mountainous, heavy timber,
16 and this is a lowland area.

17 170 acres of it are actively being
18 farmed now with corn and soybean. You
19 know, it can be used for food plots,
20 dove shoots, camping. You name it. But
21 there's -- it's something that could
22 really add to the existing WMA, some of
23 the low-lying areas.

1 We have managed the timber all the
2 time and select-cut about every 25
3 years. It was last cut about 15 years
4 ago, always under the advice of a
5 licensed forester.

6 And it has -- at the top is a -- up
7 the mountain there's big rock bluffs
8 overlooking all of Jackson County, and
9 it would be a great access point for
10 hiking and horseback riding and things
11 of that nature.

12 So we think it has a lot of unique
13 factors that would make it a great
14 addition to the existing Skyline WMA,
15 and we hope that you guys see -- see it
16 the same way and will be moving to a
17 second appraisal and to close on this
18 property at this meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
20 Mr. Blackwell?

21 Jake, I have a question for you.

22 MR. BLACKWELL: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm just trying to -- how

1 many miles of Crow Creek did you say ran
2 through that property?

3 MR. BLACKWELL: It is .82 miles.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: .82.

5 MR. BLACKWELL: So I said almost a mile.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is that in the -- what I
7 call the low area?

8 MR. BLACKWELL: Uh-huh (positive response).

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes. Okay.

10 Now, while I've got you, Mr. Sykes,
11 have y'all -- have you looked at that
12 and just -- sorry to catch you cold
13 there, but I think you're familiar with
14 it.

15 MR. SYKES: I'm familiar with it. We have --
16 I have not looked at it. I'm sure Drew
17 has when he went up and scored it, but
18 personally I haven't.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: That would be -- from just
20 looking at it, it would be, looks like,
21 a pretty good asset to our Skyline WMA
22 up there.

23 MR. SYKES: It does. And with Crow Creek,

1 too, with that offset down there.

2 Can I ask a question?

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure. Absolutely.

4 MR. SYKES: How many acres of farmland did you
5 say was active?

6 MR. BLACKWELL: So what's not mountain, what's
7 just flat land is 380 acres. A lot of
8 that is standing timber along the creek
9 which is not being farmed, obviously,
10 which I forgot to mention is currently
11 holding ducks. It floods in some of
12 those areas. So it's a duck habitat
13 now. We think the future of that may be
14 backing up some of the creek, flooding
15 some of the more agricultural fields for
16 duck hunting as well. But there's
17 actually 170 acres currently being
18 farmed.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you have leases on that
20 right now?

21 MR. BLACKWELL: We lease the hunting rights to
22 that. Nobody duck-hunts it. But deer
23 and turkey and things like that.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: And what about the farming
2 rights? You have it leased?

3 MR. BLACKWELL: We have leased out the farming
4 rights in the past, yes.

5 MR. SYKES: And, if I may, that would not be
6 something out of line with what we do
7 currently with our acreage up there on
8 quite a bit of that land. We do have
9 active farming contracts with probably
10 40 or 50 different contracts up there.
11 So we're very familiar with how to do
12 that.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

14 MR. BLACKWELL: And both parties, both farming
15 and hunting, would love to keep those
16 rights if they were extended, but at the
17 same time they're both aware that should
18 this deal go through that -- we've
19 already discussed, you know, that if it
20 has to end, it will end.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. And I see Patti
22 creeping up there, so I don't know what
23 that means other than beware.

1 MS. POWELL: I hate to say I'm creeping, but
2 lurking.

3 No. I just want to take this
4 opportunity -- not at the meeting. Just
5 we want to get with you and understand
6 exactly the location of that acreage.
7 We didn't -- it's not really on the map.
8 We just -- we didn't really have that
9 information. So if we could -- you can
10 catch up with staff after the meeting
11 or -- just want to be sure we understand
12 where that --

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's not this part right
14 here at the bottom on the other side of
15 the road?

16 MS. POWELL: Maybe I'm on the wrong map.

17 Anyway, if you'll just --

18 MR. BLACKWELL: I've got a map.

19 MS. POWELL: The bottom line is we just want
20 to be sure we understand exactly where
21 that is.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure. Would you check on
23 that and handle it before we get back in

1 here, Patti, if you can. Maybe make
2 sure Jake doesn't --

3 MR. RUNYAN: There are two Skyline additions.

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: This is the Crow Creek.

5 MR. RUNYAN: One of them is Crow Creek Valley
6 and one of them is Crow Creek Mountain.

7 (Brief interruption by the court
8 reporter.)

9 MS. POWELL: And, Commissioner, it is a
10 portion of that, but it's a portion
11 of -- would be a subset of what's on the
12 map. So we just want to be sure we
13 understand. I don't think there's an
14 issue. I just want to be sure we have
15 it --

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. I was looking at the
17 wrong one, so I apologize.

18 But, yeah, if y'all would just get
19 with Jake just so he doesn't leave. If
20 you need him to hang around for a
21 minute, would you be willing to do that?

22 MR. BLACKWELL: I'll stick around.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, sir.

1 Any other questions for --

2 Mr. Satterfield.

3 MR. SATTERFIELD: When you mentioned earlier
4 the 300 acres of flatland area, you're
5 talking about that northern part of the
6 property?

7 MR. BLACKWELL: That's correct.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: And I'm sorry. What is that
9 used for now?

10 MR. BLACKWELL: What is not creek and timber
11 around the creek that floods is
12 farmland.

13 MR. SATTERFIELD: So it's actively being
14 farmed now?

15 MR. BLACKWELL: Uh-huh (positive response).

16 MR. SATTERFIELD: I thought that's what you
17 said. I wanted to clarify.

18 MR. BLACKWELL: Of the 380, there's 170 acres
19 that are being farmed.

20 MR. SATTERFIELD: I'm sorry?

21 MR. BLACKWELL: Of the 380 that's total
22 flatland, 170 of it is what's being
23 farmed now.

1 MR. SATTERFIELD: 170. Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: 170.

3 Thank you, sir.

4 MR. BLACKWELL: Thank y'all.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Appreciate it.

6 And thanks, Patti, for pointing that
7 out.

8 The next speaker, Dale Lancaster,
9 Sipsy River-Taylor Creek.

10 MR. LANCASTER: Good morning,
11 Mr. Commissioner, board.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

13 MR. LANCASTER: Thank you for the opportunity
14 to have an audience with you this
15 morning.

16 My name is Dale Lancaster. I'm a
17 forester and real estate broker
18 representing our clients who own
19 approximately 1722 acres along the
20 Sipsy River in Greene County. It's a
21 very unique piece of property. You have
22 previously been given a packet of
23 information concerning this tract, and

1 I'd just like to recap real quickly.

2 The Sipsey is one of Alabama's ten
3 natural wonders. It flows for 92 miles
4 through four counties; Fayette, Pickens,
5 Tuscaloosa, and Greene. It has 37
6 mussel species, which is one of the
7 largest mussel colonies in the United
8 States. It has 102 species of
9 freshwater fish.

10 Again, it's a very unique piece of
11 property. The 1722 acres of the Taylor
12 Creek Addition has approximately eight
13 miles of river frontage.

14 Previously at one of the meetings,
15 the last meeting, a nomination was made
16 to move this property forward to first
17 appraisal. It is on the short list.
18 But there was a question and concern
19 about one of the parcels and the
20 acreage. Thanks to Director Powell, her
21 staff, and especially Jo Lewis, we have
22 clarified that.

23 So today I ask again that you,

1 please, just strongly consider this
2 unique piece of property and hopefully
3 move forward to the appraisal process.
4 And thank you for your time. I'll be
5 glad to field any questions that you may
6 have.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
8 Mr. Lancaster?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

11 MR. LANCASTER: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: The next speaker is
13 William -- is it Freise?

14 MR. FREISE: Freise.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir, Mr. Freise.

16 And I think Mr. Freise is speaking
17 on the Perdido WMA-Freise Addition. Did
18 I get close?

19 MR. FREISE: I think so. I'm not --

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, you're not here on that
21 one?

22 MR. FREISE: Sir?

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Which one are you here on?

1 MR. FREISE: I'm on the Freise Addition.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. That's it. Perdido
3 WMA-Freise Addition.

4 MR. FREISE: Thank you, Commissioner Guy, and
5 thank you to the board of directors.
6 I'm here representing the property. We
7 have, I think, 47 acres surrounded by
8 Forever Wild in that area. I think
9 we're one of maybe three private
10 landowners.

11 This property we acquired back in
12 1968 when I was in the Navy in
13 Pensacola, and a friend of mine who was
14 a real estate broker took me over there
15 and showed me the property. And I
16 bought it because it had a lot of deer
17 tracks and turkey tracks and very little
18 else.

19 I'm from Baldwin County, grew up
20 down here. In fact, we have had land
21 down here -- in fact, we still own two
22 acres across the road from here, and I
23 consider myself still a part of Spanish

1 Fort.

2 This property -- when we bought it,
3 I was stationed -- I went to California.
4 And we flew home on a week -- or during
5 Christmas holidays, and we attempted to
6 plant pine trees out there. The first
7 year the deer ate the tops of the pine
8 trees and the seedlings out. The second
9 year they pulled the whole seedlings
10 out. So we gave up on that.

11 The property has an abundance of
12 nice rattlesnakes. They're real good
13 size and scary. And it has a lot of
14 live oak trees, which is good for, you
15 know, game and everything else like
16 that. It's a -- other than that, it's
17 really not a forestry-type application.

18 We live in Georgia. We moved from
19 here up there, and all our family is
20 there. We don't have a lot of interest
21 in south Alabama anymore, and
22 we'd like to take this property and
23 either y'all buy it or put it on the

1 market and sell it and buy some land in
2 Georgia. And that's all I have to say.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you for your
4 comments.

5 Any questions?

6 Yes, sir, Mr. Horn.

7 MR. HORN: How many acres?

8 MR. FREISE: It'll be 47 -- 46 or 47.

9 MR. HORN: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Freise.

11 Have a good day. Appreciate your
12 comments.

13 Next speaker -- well, it looks like
14 maybe Yael is here. Thank you.

15 The Bon Secour River-Swift School
16 Tract. And I know there's three of you.
17 James Lee, Bob Glennon, and Yael. It's
18 the Bon Secour River-Swift School Tract
19 is what Jo wrote down.

20 MR. HORN: Is this under Tab 3, Patti?

21 MS. POWELL: This one is on the short list, so
22 it will be Tab 4.

23 MR. HORN: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Give her one second.

2 And you are ...

3 MR. LEE: I'm James Lee. I work for the Swift
4 family, who's the owners of this land.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir. Proceed.
6 Appreciate it.

7 MR. LEE: Yes. I would like y'all to consider
8 this land for a first appraisal on this.
9 The Swift family has owned this land for
10 over a hundred years, and they -- when
11 they bought the land, they had a sawmill
12 on it and operated on it for a while.
13 And they're ready to sell the land now,
14 and they -- there's such good
15 economic -- ecological value on that
16 land that they would like to have
17 somebody preserve it before they -- you
18 know, or give someone a chance to
19 preserve it before they put it up on
20 open market. That's all I have.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any questions for
22 Mr. Lee?

23 Both of y'all are going to speak

1 also. Why doesn't the next speaker come
2 ahead, and then that way we can just ask
3 questions of the group, if that's okay.

4 MR. GLENNON: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm
5 Bob Glennon. I'm the chairman of the
6 Baldwin County Historic Development
7 Commission. We are a not-for-profit
8 commission appointed by the county
9 commissioners as stewards of the county
10 historic landmarks.

11 About 2,000 feet from this property
12 that we're talking about on the Bon
13 Secour River is the Swift-Coles historic
14 home. That was bequeathed to us by a
15 gentleman that passed away about ten
16 years ago. And the interest that we
17 have in promoting this nomination for
18 the Swift property is the fact that from
19 our five acres that we have with about a
20 6,000-square-foot historic home is you
21 can see a long way across marsh grass.
22 And from -- if anything else happens
23 with this land other than it being set

1 aside for Forever Wild or some
2 organization like that, then the
3 historic ambiance, if you will, will be
4 lost in -- by something else being
5 there, like a high-rise condominium,
6 which seems to be a favorite thing in
7 south Baldwin County. But I doubt -- if
8 it wouldn't be that, it would be some
9 application that would be something
10 other than preservation of the historic
11 value that we see.

12 So we would like -- the land between
13 that -- in that 2,000 feet is also owned
14 by other members of the Swift family,
15 and we'd like to see if we could work
16 out something within ourselves to be
17 able to tie that together, like a
18 walking trail or a picnic area or
19 something like that, that would allow us
20 to get over to the other property.
21 We're talking about 250 acres that
22 Mr. (inaudible) was talking about. We
23 just need to have this happen so that we

1 could be able to help enhance what we
2 can get in Baldwin County. And welcome
3 to our county.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

5 MS. GIRARD: Hi, board. I'm Yael Girard,
6 executive director of the Weeks Bay
7 Foundation.

8 As James and Bob mentioned, this is
9 a 250-acre property on the Bon Secour
10 River. It actually has two creeks that
11 are encircled by the property. There's
12 two packages in front of you that we
13 gave y'all. The second one shows those
14 two creeks coming down. One is Shutt
15 Creek, and the other is an unnamed
16 creek.

17 And that is a large marsh area, and
18 it's very, very pretty. I've gone up it
19 by boat. You can actually access those
20 creeks by motorboat almost all the way
21 to the heads of them. And that marsh is
22 really intact, really well preserved.
23 No trash there. Seemingly no invasive

1 plants in it. Really protected habitat
2 for both wading birds and aquatic
3 creatures in that area.

4 The Foundation actually looked at
5 purchasing this property previously, but
6 due to our limited budget and resources,
7 we were unable to do it. But we do
8 believe that it has significant
9 conservation value. And it was
10 definitely not due to any unwillingness
11 to purchase it. It was just an
12 inability due to our limited funds. And
13 so we would definitely recommend for the
14 Forever Wild Board to please consider
15 this for a first appraisal.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

17 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I notice that
18 a map with an explanatory description
19 says there are two separate landowners
20 in this tract. And I presume both
21 landowners are approving this,
22 recommending this?

23 MR. LEE: Yes. Both landowners are wanting to

1 sell the land. They do.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Wright, did you have a
3 question?

4 MR. WRIGHT: I missed the -- who do you
5 represent?

6 MS. GIRARD: I represent the Weeks Bay
7 Foundation. We are a land trust that is
8 in Baldwin County, and we protect an
9 area right through this -- this focus
10 area where this property is located. We
11 did have an interest in purchasing it,
12 but we were unable to purchase it due to
13 our limited budget.

14 But it is the same sort of resources
15 that we protect regularly and have been
16 protecting for about 27 years throughout
17 Baldwin and Mobile Counties. So we
18 wanted to speak to the conservation
19 value as a group that knows the
20 conservation value of properties down in
21 coastal Alabama. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yael, I have a question
23 just to be sure I'm oriented correctly.

1 Is this 59 running this way?

2 MR. LEE: It is. Yeah, it is.

3 MS. GIRARD: Yeah.

4 MR. LEE: 59 is a little further over than
5 that.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

7 MR. LEE: Or that could be --

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: I think it is 59. I'm just
9 trying to ...

10 MS. GIRARD: Gulf Shores Parkway.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: So you turn there off 59.
12 And I'm familiar with Bon Secour and
13 that area over there.

14 So you just go -- so is this
15 property -- what is it -- it borders a
16 road?

17 MS. GIRARD: It does. It borders County
18 Road 10. If you know where the Tin Top
19 Restaurant is --

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right. That's where I was
21 going to ask about.

22 MS. GIRARD: Okay. Yeah. It's right down the
23 road from there.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

2 MS. GIRARD: It does have significant road
3 frontage. It does have one dirt road
4 access into the property already. And
5 there's definitely road frontage there
6 that would be developable home sites for
7 a significant number of homes.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. GIRARD: Before I leave I was hoping to
10 speak on our other property because I
11 don't want to take up too much of your
12 time coming up and coming back.

13 So while I'm up here, I wanted to
14 mention the Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows
15 Phase III Addition. This is a property
16 that was submitted as a suite of tracts
17 with the possibility of them moving
18 forward separately. Two of the
19 landowners within the group have decided
20 to no longer be considered for
21 nomination. And so at the last board
22 meeting there was a motion to move on a
23 first appraisal for the entire Meadows

1 Phase III Addition. However, with the
2 acreage change, we will need to have a
3 new motion for an appraisal. We ask
4 that the board consider moving forward
5 on the remaining properties for the
6 first appraisal.

7 And as a reminder, this suite of
8 tracts, the remaining three tracts, are
9 under the Weeks Bay Reserve's NOAA
10 acquisition grant and will be matched
11 one/one -- one to one with Forever Wild
12 funds. So whatever the cost of those
13 remaining three tracts would be, it
14 would be matched. So you only end up
15 paying half of the appraised value for
16 these.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay, Yael. I don't know
18 if that's in our package, so let me just
19 ask --

20 MS. POWELL: Yeah. I just wanted to -- that
21 is actually under Tab 5, 5-A. That is
22 noting the acreage change. And we will
23 bring that up later in the meeting and

1 explain that to the board. But that is
2 the Phase III tract.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Meadows Phase III.

4 MS. POWELL: That's right. And it's
5 referencing the fact that we had a
6 motion for appraisal, but we then had an
7 acreage change. And so due to the
8 significance of the acreage change,
9 we're going to bring that back before
10 the board during our miscellaneous
11 reports, and we'll discuss next steps
12 then.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Very good.

14 MS. GIRARD: And then the final property that
15 I wanted to mention was the Harrod's
16 Farm tract. And although not nominated
17 by the Foundation, this property is of
18 significant conservation value in our
19 management area. The board did make a
20 motion for a first appraisal at the last
21 meeting, and we would like consideration
22 for a second appraisal and move to
23 purchase.

1 The property is around 200 acres,
2 and the wetland acreage of that Harrod's
3 Farm tract is about a hundred acres and
4 is also under that NOAA acquisition
5 grant for a one-to-one match.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for Yael?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. GIRARD: Thank y'all so much. I do want
9 to say we know that there have been some
10 issues in the state, certain parties
11 trying to diminish the ability for
12 Forever Wild to do the great work that
13 is important to our public lands. And
14 on behalf of the Weeks Bay Foundation,
15 I'd like to say that we believe those
16 efforts are misguided and do not reflect
17 the beliefs of most people in this
18 state.

19 When we shared those proposed bills
20 and their consequences with our
21 membership on social media, it reached
22 over 3600 people, all who had strong
23 responses in favor of Forever Wild. It

1 is a cherished program, and we will
2 continue to stand with Forever Wild.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

4 The next speaker I have is Mr. Sam
5 Parris. Sam.

6 Thank you, Sam. And I've got you
7 down here for Red Hills-Parris Trust
8 Addition.

9 MR. PARRIS: That's correct.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

11 MR. PARRIS: Good morning.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

13 MR. PARRIS: And, again, my name is Sam
14 Parris. I am the sole beneficiary of
15 the Parris Trust. I was appointed to
16 handle all real estate matters by
17 majority vote of the trustees.

18 I am requesting that the board
19 consider a motion for the second
20 appraisal and purchase of the property.
21 It was nominated in 2011. This 305-acre
22 property is actually adjoining to one of
23 the Red Hills Complex parcels already

1 owned by Forever Wild.

2 The property provides a crucial
3 habitat for the federally listed Red
4 Hills Salamander. It also provides
5 recreation opportunities including
6 hunting, birdwatching, and wildlife
7 viewing. There is significant timber
8 value including old-growth longleaf.

9 My mother refrained from cutting
10 timber for the past five years just
11 because of her desire for the tract to
12 be acquired by Forever Wild. Since her
13 recent death, selling the assets in the
14 trust has become a priority.

15 It's also my understanding that the
16 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Section 6 grants
17 can be applied to this tract. There are
18 many properties in this area privately
19 owned. I believe this is a perfect
20 opportunity for Forever Wild to expand
21 its footprint in this region and to
22 further protect the Red Hills Salamander
23 while also providing additional

1 recreation opportunities.

2 I'll be happy to answer any
3 questions.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
5 Mr. Parris?

6 I want to make sure everybody has
7 found the tab.

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

10 MR. PARRIS: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Appreciate your time.

12 Jeff DeQuattro.

13 MR. DEQUATTRO: Hey, good morning. Thank you
14 for having me.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

16 MR. DEQUATTRO: So today I am representing the
17 advisory board of the Alabama Trails
18 Commission. And I'll be very quick, but
19 we just want to reconfirm our support
20 for the Wiregrass Trail project in
21 Geneva County and Covington County.

22 It's a 431 -- I'm sorry -- 43.1-mile
23 backcountry trail, a paved trail along

1 the CSX railway. 560 acres, plus or
2 minus, would be involved in the project.
3 We're currently fundraising with local
4 governments for the hazardous
5 waste and materials survey that's needed
6 before Alabama Forever Wild is able to
7 conduct the appraisal or the survey.

8 I was asked to remind folks to look
9 at this as an economic development
10 project and a great conservation project
11 as well. There could be excellent
12 health impacts, job impacts, increases
13 in bicycle tourism, and it's a good
14 thing for this area of the state. So we
15 just would like you to continue to
16 support this project. Thank you.

17 I'll take any questions.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
19 Mr. DeQuattro?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: So for some of the board
22 members that are new, we discussed this
23 a year or so ago maybe. And I'm sure

1 Patti at some point -- not right now --
2 would be happy to probably -- it's just
3 it's very -- I was just going to say
4 we're very supportive of it, but there
5 are some complications -- I'm sure Jeff,
6 I think, was there and knows some of
7 this -- but as far as what we can and
8 can't do, legal issues and those kinds
9 of things. And I know that we have
10 talked to a lot of local mayors and
11 things about trying to figure those out.
12 I know that, for instance, Horace for
13 Andalusia -- we've talked, you know, and
14 I think some of us are very interested
15 in trying to see how we can get through
16 this.

17 So, Jeff, appreciate you being here
18 today. I think you know where we are.
19 And we're going to continue to work on
20 that and I think y'all are continuing to
21 work on it, as you just mentioned, to
22 see if we can build possibly the same
23 kind of economic corridor that we did

1 over there on Interstate 20, I think,
2 going towards Atlanta.

3 But anybody is welcome to ask a
4 question. I'm not trying to cut you
5 off. It was well discussed for a couple
6 of meetings. And I know our staff has
7 continued to do work on that, and I'm
8 sure the Trails Commission folks are
9 doing it as well. So don't give up on
10 us. We're going to continue to work
11 with those local governments and try to
12 do the best we can to make something
13 happen.

14 MR. DEQUATTRO: Good deal. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you again.

16 Ms. Tammy Herrington. Good morning,
17 Tammy.

18 MS. HERRINGTON: Good morning. I'm Tammy
19 Herrington. I'm the executive director
20 of Conservation Alabama and Conservation
21 Alabama Foundation. And I'm here on
22 behalf of the conservation community to
23 talk to you about what Yael Girard

1 mentioned earlier, which is what we
2 consider an attack on the Forever Wild
3 Land Trust.

4 And those of you who were at the
5 last board meeting may remember that I
6 presented a return-on-investment study
7 that was conducted by The Trust for
8 Public Lands that shows that for every
9 dollar invested by the Forever Wild Land
10 Trust, \$5 is returned to our state in
11 goods and services.

12 And to highlight some of those
13 numbers, just to remind you, there are
14 \$494 million in tax revenues shown on
15 behalf of the program. It supports
16 86,000 jobs and provides \$2 billion in
17 wages.

18 In addition to these economic
19 benefits, as you know, the program has
20 had overwhelming support from the
21 community. When it was originally voted
22 on in 1992, it was supported by 83
23 percent of voters. It was reauthorized

1 in 2012 with 75 percent of the vote.
2 And then just last year public lands
3 again had overwhelming support by 80
4 percent in amendment -- a constitutional
5 amendment to protect money for our state
6 parks.

7 So we know that we have overwhelming
8 public support. We also see the program
9 provide these huge economic benefits to
10 our state. So because of that, there
11 are many of us in the conservation
12 community, some of whom are in this room
13 with me today, who are concerned about
14 House Bill 502 and its threats to the
15 program and purchasing of additional
16 land.

17 Representative Hill earlier said,
18 you know, there are some counties that
19 don't want you there. We do. Come
20 here. Take advantage of us. We've also
21 had a lot of the local county support --
22 show support for the program.

23 And as Ms. Girard mentioned, their

1 program -- I mean, their action-alert
2 system, thousands of emails were sent.
3 Through ours we've had -- it's now close
4 to 8,000 emails sent to the governor and
5 legislators on behalf of Forever Wild.

6 So we stand here in support of the
7 program here together with the
8 conservation community and just want to
9 let you know that this is something that
10 we consider a threat to what the voters
11 have said we wanted through the Forever
12 Wild Land Trust, and we will continue to
13 let our leaders know that we want this
14 program to continue untouched. Thank
15 you.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Tammy.

17 Any questions for Tammy?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: I will say this. For those
20 who didn't either -- and I know she
21 passed out that booklet that they did.
22 Very interesting reading, pretty well
23 done. So if anybody either lost it or

1 needs another one, I'm sure Tammy can
2 get you that information.

3 Or is it online, Tammy?

4 MS. HERRINGTON: It's online through The Trust
5 for Public Land website. And if you go
6 to our Foundation website,
7 ConservationAlabamaFoundation.org,
8 there's a public lands tab, and there
9 are links to both the -- basically a
10 two-page report that gives the
11 highlights and the full
12 return-on-investment study.

13 And it's great -- you know, if
14 anyone is interested, it also highlights
15 particular communities like Anniston,
16 Dothan, and their stories, how they were
17 able to utilize these lands to build the
18 economy in their areas of the state.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you again. I
20 just wanted to make sure everybody was
21 aware of that if they needed to look at
22 it again.

23 MS. HERRINGTON: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: So that was the last
2 speaker that I had. I know there are
3 some more people here. So I'm going to
4 make an assumption that nobody else
5 wants to speak. If you do, raise your
6 hand.

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Well, with
9 that, that ends our public comment
10 session, and our board will need to
11 recess into executive session. And
12 before doing so, we have to go through
13 this motion and vote aloud. So let me
14 read this so that I get it right for the
15 court reporter.

16 By regulation, appraisal values are
17 confidential during periods of
18 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
19 discuss tract appraisal values, the
20 board will need to go into recess for an
21 executive session.

22 Is there a motion for the board to
23 now recess to attend to an executive

1 session?

2 MR. HORN: So move.

3 MR. CAUTHEN: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Who was the second?

5 Mr. Cauthen was the second.

6 Okay. It's necessary for me to do
7 this by roll call to make sure that I
8 have everybody's affirmative votes.

9 Mr. Oates?

10 MR. OATES: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

12 DR. VALENTINE: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Jordan?

14 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

16 DR. HEPP: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

18 DR. WOODS: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball?

20 MR. BALL: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Runyan?

22 MR. RUNYAN: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Wright?

1 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Satterfield?

3 MR. SATTERFIELD: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Horn?

5 MR. HORN: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

7 MR. CAUTHEN: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: And myself, aye.

9 So it's unanimous. So at this time,
10 for those in the audience, we will take
11 approximately a 20-minute recess, which
12 I have about ten after. So let's just
13 say 11:30. We will come back into
14 session, and we will take up the rest of
15 our agenda including any nominations and
16 administrative work.

17 So at this time we will recess for
18 20 minutes.

19 (Recess for executive session was
20 taken at approximately 11:08 a.m.
21 and the meeting was called back to
22 order at approximately 11:51 a.m.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So at this time

1 we will reconvene for the rest of our
2 program. And at this time I'm going to
3 call on staff for program status
4 reports, and it looks like maybe
5 Ms. Powell will be first.

6 MS. POWELL: Although I'm going to make a
7 staff motion to take the gavel away from
8 the chair. A little too much power up
9 there.

10 For benefit of the public, I am
11 Patti Powell. I'm director of the State
12 Lands Division for the Department of
13 Conservation. What we normally do at
14 this point in the meeting is take a
15 little time to run through the current
16 financial information for the board as
17 well as talk about -- remind everyone of
18 the tracts that have had previous
19 action, asking the staff to get them
20 closed. They're in various stages of
21 closing. So I'm going to run through
22 those for the board.

23 Part of what we do is talk about the

1 closings we are working on so that you
2 can take that into account in looking at
3 the current balance in the fund. Just
4 like your checkbook, it may not be a
5 check that has cleared, but it is a
6 check that we are holding funds to
7 cover. So that's why we run through
8 this.

9 The tracts that are in various
10 stages of closing are the following:
11 Dallas County WMA Addition, obviously
12 Dallas County; DeSoto State Park-French
13 Addition, DeKalb County; DeSoto State
14 Park-Jones Addition; Uchee Creek
15 Confluence, Russell County; Upper Wolf
16 Bay Savanna and Marsh Tract, Baldwin
17 County; Lake Yates-North Addition,
18 Elmore County; Coon Gulf-Heard, Jackson
19 County; Grand Bay Savanna-Solet
20 Addition, Mobile County; Lake Lurleen
21 State Park-Roebuck Addition, Tuscaloosa;
22 Old Cahawba Prairie-Childers Creek
23 Addition, Dallas County; Skyline

1 WMA-Pole Branch Addition, Jackson
2 County; Tannehill-Ayers Addition,
3 Jefferson; Weeks Bay Reserve-Bay Road
4 West Addition, Baldwin County; Weeks Bay
5 Reserve-Sunset Shores Addition, Baldwin
6 County.

7 The balance of funds in the account
8 currently is a little over 31 million,
9 but if you subtract out the obligations
10 that you have committed to close that
11 I've just listed, that would leave an
12 unencumbered balance of just over
13 12 million.

14 However, this is one of the fun
15 things I get to discuss, which is state
16 budgeting procedure and those
17 constraints that are associated with
18 that. I'll save you the painful
19 details, but the bottom line, until we
20 roll into the next fiscal year that will
21 begin October 1st, this board only has
22 spending authority that is closer to
23 7.6 million. So keep that figure in

1 mind as you may take action on closing
2 of additional properties.

3 Again, beginning --

4 MR. HORN: Say that again. How much --

5 MS. POWELL: About 7.6 million in spending
6 authority.

7 MR. HORN: Thank you.

8 MS. POWELL: So we will -- that figure will
9 change as of October 1st. But that's
10 your current spending authority as we
11 sit here.

12 Any questions on that?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. POWELL: I would like to run through the
15 tracts that have been closed in this
16 fiscal year briefly.

17 Autauga WMA Phase II; Dallas County
18 WMA Phase II; DeSoto State Park-Tutwiler
19 Addition; Guntersville State
20 Park-Stubblefield Mountain Addition;
21 Indian Mountain-Simmons Addition; Monte
22 Sano State Park-Dug Hill West Addition;
23 Old Cahawba Prairie Addition; Shelby

1 County Park-Shades Creek Addition;
2 Skyline WMA-Threwer Point Addition;
3 Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows Phase II
4 Additions.

5 And that's what has closed in this
6 fiscal year. The current fiscal year
7 ends September 30th. The new fiscal
8 year will start October 1st.

9 Any questions on that segment of the
10 financial information?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. POWELL: Okay. If there are no questions,
13 I will move into the stewardship fund
14 financial information.

15 Again, this fund is populated with
16 funds -- every time the board makes an
17 acquisition, the program also has to
18 have enough funds to transfer 15 percent
19 of the value of that acquisition into
20 the stewardship account. That is to
21 provide perpetual funding for the
22 maintenance of the tracts, our land
23 management activities, and is designed

1 to ensure that forever in the future the
2 tracts will have existing funding to
3 care for them. As we have extra
4 funding, it can also be used to add
5 recreational aspects to the properties.
6 But that's what I want to run through.

7 The balance in that account is over
8 32 million currently. Now, again, we
9 work very hard, to the extent that we
10 can, to only expend interest earnings
11 off the stewardship fund to care for the
12 tracts. Again, it takes that balance
13 sitting there to throw off enough
14 interest to try to manage these tracts.
15 We'll talk about that a little more
16 later. But that is -- while that seems
17 like a large number, the purpose of it
18 is to generate interest to provide
19 perpetual maintenance of the tracts.

20 You will see in the financial
21 information that we had -- again,
22 talking about budgetary authority -- had
23 budgetary authority -- spending

1 authority of 1.5 million. You will
2 still see as we sit here today a fairly
3 large available balance within that
4 budgeted amount of over 1.2 million.
5 But we are in the high time of the
6 activities that we engage in this time
7 of year. So you will see that figure
8 drop by the next meeting.

9 But that's where we are. We're in
10 good shape right now with those
11 activities, and we are moving forward
12 with those.

13 Any questions for the stewardship
14 fund account?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. POWELL: All right. Commissioner, I'll
17 just keep moving on into appraised
18 nominations.

19 I want to remind the board of tracts
20 that you have instructed staff to move
21 forward with as to the first appraisals.
22 I will run through the appraisals that
23 have been received to date from those

1 motions, and those will be the tracts
2 that if the board chooses to take
3 action, it would be proper for a motion
4 for second appraisal and to proceed with
5 purchase today. So let me run through
6 those.

7 Byrnes Lake, Baldwin County; Coosa
8 WMA-Hancock Phase III, Coosa County;
9 Emauhee Creek Lake, Talladega County;
10 Laguna Cove, Baldwin County; Natural
11 Bridge Creek Tract, Covington; Pine
12 Barren Creek Tract, Dallas County;
13 Pintlala Creek, Lowndes County; Red
14 Hills-Parris Trust Addition, Monroe
15 County; Rickwood Caverns State
16 Park-Helms Tract, Blount County; Skyline
17 WMA-Crow Creek Valley Addition;
18 Tannehill-Mud Creek Addition, Bibb
19 County; Terrapin Hill, Coosa County;
20 Weeks Bay Reserve-Harrod's Farm, Baldwin
21 County; White Oak Plantation, Macon
22 County.

23 Very, very roughly, just looking at

1 those appraisals, that's a total of over
2 \$42 million worth of acreage. So I'll
3 just -- you know, you have a little bit
4 more appraised than you have current
5 funding for. But we always keep track
6 of that. Again, that's just a -- just
7 an FYI.

8 Commissioner, that is -- unless
9 there is a question on any of the
10 financials so far.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry. I was looking
12 at something. I want to ask a question.
13 You may not can answer it now. It may
14 be Doug discusses it.

15 Is there a place where -- you know,
16 we had a bad drought last year. And I
17 know that's -- I've looked at the timber
18 market. It's awful. So will that be
19 addressed -- or can it be addressed by
20 somebody later just about what we might
21 be doing or --

22 MS. POWELL: We could certainly talk about it
23 at any time. We did want to mention in

1 connection with that the current concern
2 statewide about pine beetle
3 infestation -- not just infestation,
4 but, frankly, the resulting financial
5 impact if you had to take any salvage
6 actions. Prices are terrible. And so
7 in addition to being concerned about the
8 beetle and the impact of the beetle, if
9 you did have to salvage any of the
10 timber, it's not very good monetary
11 result from that. But we -- we're going
12 to mention that briefly in the
13 miscellaneous reports section.

14 Galen Grider, who is a forester with
15 my State Lands Division, has been
16 attending meetings. And we want to very
17 much thank the Forestry Commission and
18 Mr. Oates for really spearheading that
19 effort, one, to not just let state
20 agency know that there is a threat, but
21 also private landowners and engaging in
22 actions. But we'll circle back to that.
23 I don't mind discussing it, but it is on

1 the agenda.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: I see it now. I apologize.

3 It's under miscellaneous reports. My
4 bad.

5 MS. POWELL: But if there are no questions,
6 we'll move into -- I'll get Doug to come
7 up. And we want to give our usual
8 report related to grant opportunities
9 and efforts that we are engaged in to
10 find grant money to leverage this
11 board's money. So if there's nothing
12 else, I'll turn it over to Doug.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

14 MR. DEATON: All right. I would like to
15 mention to the board and those attending
16 the meeting today that DCNR staff, State
17 Lands Division staff, and Wildlife and
18 Freshwater Fisheries staff -- we
19 routinely try to find land acquisition
20 grants that can help further the Forever
21 Wild dollar. And we give a report of
22 that at each meeting to let you know
23 where we are in the process of those

1 grants.

2 So at the last meeting I reported
3 that we have a NOAA grant available that
4 was secured by Weeks Bay Reserve staff
5 that could be applied to the Weeks Bay
6 Reserve-Sunset Shores Addition, the
7 Weeks Bay Reserve-Bay Road West
8 Addition, the Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows
9 Phase III Addition, and the Harrod's
10 Farm Addition. This grant requires a
11 50/50 match for the acquisitions.

12 At the direction of the board, the
13 Weeks Bay Reserve-Sunset Shores Addition
14 and the Weeks Bay Reserve-Bay Road West
15 Addition are currently under the
16 negotiation process.

17 The board also directed for a first
18 appraisal at the last meeting for the
19 Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows Phase III
20 Addition and the Harrod's Farm Addition.

21 The Harrod's Farm Addition appraisal
22 has been received. It's on your
23 appraisal list that you have there

1 before you. As a reminder to the board,
2 a portion of that -- I believe it's 80
3 acres of the wetlands -- is available to
4 be used for the 50/50 match. The total
5 acreage for the tract is 235 acres, but
6 only 80 acres is available for that
7 50/50 match, as mentioned early.

8 The Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows
9 Phase III Addition appraisal has not
10 been initiated yet. We had some acreage
11 changes from the time that you guys
12 initiated for us to do that. And we'll
13 present that later in the miscellaneous
14 reports section.

15 Are there any questions about that?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DEATON: The next -- at the February
18 meeting we discussed a grant-leveraging
19 opportunity with the National Fish and
20 Wildlife Foundation, NFWF, funds
21 associated with property located along
22 the coast of Mobile County. This tract
23 is the Grand Bay Savanna-Solet Tract,

1 which is 2600 acres approximately. The
2 Nature Conservancy has finished closing
3 those tracts as of April. And this is a
4 100-percent donation to the Forever Wild
5 Land Trust with the requirement that we
6 put 15 percent of appraised value into
7 the stewardship fund.

8 They have finished the closing, and
9 so we're working with them to get the
10 Phase I reports, appraisal information,
11 title work, survey information so we can
12 proceed to closing. So that's going
13 into process right now.

14 Any questions about the Solet Tract
15 or ...

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DEATON: I also want to make the board
18 aware that our forester, Galen Grider,
19 was able to secure a grant that helped
20 us with some reforestation costs. We
21 received approximately \$178,000 from
22 NFWF that was used to plant 1100 acres
23 of shortleaf at Freedom Hills and

1 Lauderdale WMA and 361 acres of longleaf
2 at the Coosa WMA tract. And we're also
3 receiving a donation from The Longleaf
4 Alliance for this next planting season
5 of approximately 200 acres' worth of
6 montane longleaf seedling to be planted
7 at Coosa WMA tracts and at the Autauga
8 WMA tracts for, as I said, the 2017-18
9 planting season.

10 And that's all I have. Any
11 questions about that information?

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for Doug?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. DEATON: Chuck has an update that he would
15 like to share about some of his wildlife
16 funds.

17 MR. SYKES: Thank you.

18 There was a memo that was sent out
19 to the board concerning the Pine Barren
20 Creek Tract. We'll take responsibility
21 for the numbers being wrong in Jo's
22 report.

23 Looking at our future apportionment,

1 where typically we have partnered with
2 Forever Wild on a three-to-one basis --
3 for one dollar of Forever Wild we have
4 provided three -- with the current
5 presidential administration, we are
6 anticipating our Pittman-Robertson funds
7 going down. Gun sales and ammunition
8 sales are projected to go down a little
9 bit.

10 So for the Pine Barren Creek Tract,
11 right now I don't want to step out on a
12 limb and say that we can match three to
13 one. We've got enough that I know we
14 can match one to one. If our
15 apportionment comes in above what we're
16 anticipating in October, then we can go
17 back to the three-to-one match. But I
18 did not want to overextend what our
19 budget was. I wanted to give y'all fair
20 warning. We do want the tract. We
21 think it would be a great addition to
22 our WMA system. But right now all we
23 can commit is 50/50.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for Chuck?

2 DR. WOODS: Chuck, I have a question.

3 So if we wait until after October,
4 then we would know if it's a 50 percent
5 or 75 percent?

6 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir. We can guarantee 50/50,
7 but after October when we get our FY18
8 apportionment, we can possibly go back
9 to that 75 percent match like we've done
10 in the past on the latest acquisitions.

11 DR. WOODS: Okay. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions for
13 Chuck?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is that all right now?

16 MR. SYKES: That's it, yes, sir. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

18 And it looks like, Jo, you're going
19 to talk to us about the nominations
20 short-list update.

21 MS. LEWIS: Good morning. This is the routine
22 presentation. For the sake of the
23 audience, my name is Jo Lewis. I'm part

1 of the staff of the State Lands
2 Division.

3 Today, this morning, I'm going to
4 run through what we call the short list,
5 which is the nominations that scored
6 best -- three-best-scoring nominations
7 in each category of use in each of the
8 three geographic districts of the state.
9 Hypothetically, there could be 36
10 tracts. This morning there are 26 due
11 to some categories of use having no
12 nominations that have the attributes
13 they need and some nominations
14 short-listing in more than one category
15 of use.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: So, Jo, before you get
17 started --

18 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- as always, you're
20 talking about Tab 4; correct?

21 MS. LEWIS: Yes. Thank you. I'm running
22 through Tab 4-A.

23 The second page of 4-A is the table

1 in which you can see which nominations
2 are the top-scoring nominations in each
3 of the categories of use of the four and
4 then each of the geographical regions.
5 Some of the nominations on that list are
6 redundant because they have short-listed
7 in more than one category of use.

8 To simplify things, I then arranged
9 them on the first page of Tab 4-A
10 alphabetically by the name of the tract.
11 It's difficult to take a matrix and
12 multiply attributes and make it linear,
13 so the alphabetical is supposed to be
14 objective. It is not a prioritization.

15 As I read through these, you can
16 look at the narratives and the maps of
17 each of these which are arranged in
18 Tab 4-B. They are arranged in the same
19 order in which I'm going to read them.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: So most of us didn't
21 realize -- it looks like we have a
22 PowerPoint up here on the wall.

23 So you can see that, Sonny.

1 Otherwise, we may have to look down.

2 MS. LEWIS: The maps that will be projecting
3 up there are the exact same maps as we
4 have in your packet. The information on
5 the side is just some of the high points
6 of the narrative material. If there's
7 multiple scores, then they short-listed
8 in multiple categories of use. At the
9 bottom you can see when the tract was
10 nominated, basically how long you've had
11 it available to you to consider it.

12 We begin with Autauga Wildlife
13 Management Area-Swift Creek Addition in
14 Autauga County, approximately 1,145
15 acres.

16 Move along to the Bennett Creek
17 Tract, which is 2,174 acres, and it sits
18 on the Mobile-Washington County line.

19 We have the Big Canoe Creek Tract,
20 which is 377 acres. It's in St. Clair
21 County. The map says 383. The
22 appraisal that's been discussed has 377.
23 There's a five-acre discrepancy on the

1 southern border of the tract which is
2 encumbered with the access easement. I
3 believe those five acres would be
4 available and would not be a problem
5 that the appraiser excluded them.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Could I ask a question
7 about that now, or would you rather me
8 ask at the end?

9 MS. LEWIS: It's fine by me. I don't know if
10 I'll have the answer.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so it just says -- the
12 checkered part of it says other Forever
13 Wild active nominations.

14 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: So what they talked about
16 today was the non-checkered part;
17 correct?

18 MS. LEWIS: Correct.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. And so how many --
20 how many other active nominations are
21 within that checkered? Is it one?

22 MS. LEWIS: It's just one nomination.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's just one.

1 MS. LEWIS: One that didn't short-list this
2 time.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: What's the name of it?

4 MS. LEWIS: Big Canoe Creek-Epps.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: But it did not short-list?

6 MS. LEWIS: Did not this time, no.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

8 MS. LEWIS: The next is the Bon Secour
9 River-Swift School Tract, which is 250
10 acres in Baldwin County.

11 Then we have Briar Lake, 111 acres
12 in Baldwin County.

13 The Cahaba River Access Tract, which
14 is 40 acres in Bibb County.

15 Caldwell Swamp, which is
16 approximately a hundred acres in Baldwin
17 County.

18 Coldwater Mountain-Rice Addition,
19 which is an inholding in the Coldwater
20 Mountain Recreation Area. That's in
21 Calhoun County.

22 We also have the Coldwater
23 Mountain-Sarrell Addition, which is

1 adjacent there to the right of the map,
2 which is 22 acres, again, Calhoun
3 County.

4 The Coosa River Tract, which is 710
5 acres in Elmore County.

6 Deer Head Cove-Hartline, which is
7 213 acres in DeKalb County.

8 Then we have Dear Head Cove-Low Gap,
9 280 acres in DeKalb County, which you
10 can see they're adjacent.

11 Go on to D'Olive Bay, which is 87
12 acres in Baldwin County.

13 Freedom Hills Wildlife Management
14 Area-Randolph Hollow Addition, 239 acres
15 in Colbert County.

16 Horse Creek National Forest Retreat,
17 which is 240 acres in Clay County.

18 Hurricane Creek Park Addition, which
19 is 72 acres in Cullman County.

20 Lauderdale Wildlife Management
21 Area-Newman Addition, 160 acres in
22 Lauderdale County.

23 MTD or Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Sheffield

1 Addition, 130 acres in Baldwin County.

2 MTD or Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Simmons
3 Addition, 300 acres in Baldwin County.

4 Perdido Wildlife Management
5 Area-Freise Addition, 47 acres, Baldwin
6 County.

7 Red Hills-Ziebach Addition, which is
8 50 acres in Monroe County.

9 Shell Banks Bayou, 25 acres in
10 Baldwin County.

11 Sipsev River Swamp-Taylor Creek
12 Addition, 1,722 acres in Greene County.

13 Skyline Wildlife Management
14 Area-Crow Mountain Addition, which is
15 178 acres in Jackson County.

16 Tannehill-South Additions, which
17 there are -- you should see separate
18 parcels -- a total of 422 acres in Bibb
19 and Shelby Counties.

20 And, finally, Weeks Bay Reserve or
21 WBR-Meadows Phase II: Gill. This is a
22 nomination that's been around for a
23 while but is currently available. It's

1 name is cumbersome and is unrelated to
2 any of the other groups of nominations
3 we're working through. But it is an
4 available nomination, and it would be an
5 addition to the Weeks Bay Reserve. It's
6 in Baldwin County, 38 acres.

7 I'll be happy to address any
8 questions and try to get the answers.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I have a
10 question.

11 MS. LEWIS: Yes, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm always going to be the
13 one to ask something I should probably
14 know.

15 But going back to that Big Canoe --
16 can you go back to that slide for me?

17 I should have looked at this
18 earlier, and I wish I would have asked
19 the folks that were here.

20 So the parcel that you're talking
21 about that did not make the short
22 list --

23 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- how big is that parcel?

2 MS. LEWIS: It's a 40.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: 40?

4 MS. LEWIS: A 40, I believe. I can look at my
5 active nominations list, which happens
6 to be 4-C in your notebooks.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's what number?

8 MS. LEWIS: The Tab 4-C has all active
9 nominations.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, that's what I was
11 looking for, Jo. I'm sorry.

12 MS. LEWIS: So if we look at the -- it's going
13 to be in the Northern District,
14 St. Clair County, Big Canoe Creek-Epps.
15 Yes, that's a 40-acre tract. So it's
16 the second page.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So my question there
18 is -- and I see Patti.

19 So when it doesn't short-list, does
20 that keep us from purchasing it even
21 though it's part of a bigger piece, or
22 does it?

23 MS. POWELL: Well, it is a separate

1 nomination, so separate willing seller.
2 But it's a separate nomination.
3 Sometimes sellers come together, and
4 that's -- sometimes you'll see maps --
5 and we may have a parcel -- may have a
6 tract with five parcels and three owners
7 or whatever, but they've come together
8 with individual tracts. This was
9 submitted as two different nominations.
10 So the only one available for action
11 today is the one that you heard the
12 speakers talk about.

13 Now, to give some context, just as
14 an example -- and I am not involved in
15 the scoring. You wouldn't want me
16 involved in the scoring. But let me
17 give you one way -- one thing that I
18 will mention.

19 Right now neither of the parcels are
20 in the program. If the larger parcel
21 became part of the program, became
22 acquired acreage, that smaller 40, which
23 by itself is a separate nomination --

1 I'm not completely surprised it didn't
2 short-list -- it would then be adjacent
3 to a significant amount of acreage owned
4 by the program. And there is a chance
5 it would then move up in scoring. But
6 as they were submitted -- we processed
7 them as submitted as -- in the willing
8 seller letters that we get, so they are
9 separate.

10 But that -- I wouldn't be surprised
11 to see that happen. But we don't have
12 that right now. And, yes, you are
13 limited to the authorized parcels
14 which are on the short list that we --
15 our slang term, our short list.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, this has helped me
17 learn something. Every year I learn
18 something.

19 So on this one, why did it not
20 score -- I'm sorry. Did you say --

21 MS. LEWIS: The 40 does not have any creek
22 front.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: It didn't have creek front?

1 MS. LEWIS: The 40 does not have creek front;
2 so, therefore, it doesn't have that
3 critical habitat and it offers far less
4 protection to those sensitive species.

5 So as a nature preserve, which in this
6 case is one of the significant
7 categories, it did not offer the same
8 level of protection as the big tract.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Was that a timbered
10 property, or do you remember, if you
11 know?

12 MS. LEWIS: Has it been timbered?

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: No. Has it got timber on
14 it?

15 MS. LEWIS: I believe, yes, it does have
16 timber, mixed hardwoods, I'm
17 remembering.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's fine. That's fine.
19 Thank you. I know I caught you off
20 guard there. I appreciate it.

21 There's a gentleman raising his
22 hand. We don't -- yes, sir.

23 MR. TRAVIS: Would it be okay --

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Come to the microphone.

2 MR. TRAVIS: Would it be okay for you to back
3 up on the slides until you get to the
4 127-acre Sheffield tract?

5 I was not aware you were going to
6 show it on the map. I'd like to see the
7 scores on it, if I could.

8 MS. LEWIS: That would be fine.

9 MR. TRAVIS: Back up. Should be the Sheffield
10 tract.

11 MS. LEWIS: MTD?

12 MS. POWELL: Y'all, please speak up. Please
13 speak up.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: So this is a little --

15 MR. TRAVIS: Sheffield tract.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: State your name for me,
17 please, sir.

18 MR. TRAVIS: Ed Travis. I'm a timberland
19 broker and consulting forester
20 representing Mr. Sheffield.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. It's a little bit
22 out of order, but just -- have you just
23 got a question about what it scored?

1 MR. TRAVIS: She went through it, and I didn't
2 get to write down a score. That's all I
3 wanted to see.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. I'll tell you what,
5 Jo will get with you, if that's okay.

6 MR. TRAVIS: Yeah, that's fine. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: And we'll give you that
8 document. Thank you, sir.

9 And, yes, Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

10 MS. LEWIS: Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

11 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I have a question about
12 the Sipsey River Tract. I'm looking for
13 its name.

14 MS. LEWIS: Taylor Creek Addition.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Taylor Creek.

16 MS. LEWIS: Additions.

17 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I think at the last
18 meeting there was some confusion about
19 parcels.

20 MS. LEWIS: There was.

21 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: And I guess that's been
22 resolved. I meant to ask that earlier.

23 MS. LEWIS: It has.

1 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Okay. So this is all --

2 MS. LEWIS: I've interacted with the

3 landowners. And Mr. Dale Lancaster is

4 here as the agent representing it. This

5 1,722 acres is definitely available, and

6 this is definitely what it is.

7 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Okay. No. I just wanted

8 to make sure.

9 MS. LEWIS: Previously someone else had

10 nominated the properties from other

11 sources of information. We have gotten

12 a more authoritative source of

13 information now.

14 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: That's good.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions for Jo?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you,

18 ma'am. Thanks for your report.

19 Okay. So ...

20 MS. POWELL: Could I mention something while

21 you're thinking?

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes. Go ahead.

23 MS. POWELL: As we move into a later portion

1 where we begin to have motions from the
2 board related to proceeding with second
3 appraisals and purchases, if y'all
4 would -- and we may pause in between
5 those, assuming there are some. We are
6 trying to keep up with the dollar
7 figures to keep the board -- so we're
8 not math whizzes, so if y'all might just
9 pause between each so we can calculate.
10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Patti.

12 All right. So at this time we go to
13 the agenda item that concerns general
14 discussion by the board members. That
15 can include nominations for first
16 appraisal, second appraisal and
17 purchase, or any other matter that you
18 would like to bring up.

19 I would just like to kind of
20 mention, like what Patti said, after she
21 went over the financials and given the
22 first appraisals already, just please
23 keep in mind as you move through that

1 that we will need to be tracking any
2 requests for second appraisals and
3 purchases so that we can make sure we do
4 not exceed the amount that we have
5 available to us.

6 So I just want to remind everybody
7 to kind of be cognizant of that.
8 Because that has not been the case for a
9 while, and some of us have been -- we've
10 been through that one time before. But
11 this one more than likely could get that
12 way pretty quickly, you know, if we're
13 not ready for that, so --

14 MS. POWELL: And, Commissioner, one thing --
15 and you said -- if it's okay -- but you
16 said nominations for appraisals. If we
17 could use the term motions for
18 appraisals -- motion for first
19 appraisal, motion for second
20 appraisal -- instead of nominations, it
21 helps in reading back through the
22 minutes for some to keep straight what's
23 a nominated tract versus a motion for

1 action on that tract. It helps us a
2 little bit, but really it helps the
3 examiners to keep straight when we're
4 motioning and when we're talking about a
5 nomination. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: We'll try to keep that in
7 mind. Remind us if we don't.

8 All right. I see -- I want to
9 recognize Dr. Woods first. I saw his
10 hand first.

11 DR. WOODS: I make a motion for a second
12 appraisal and move to purchase Red
13 Hills-Parris Trust Addition in Monroe
14 County.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: You went through that so
16 fast I didn't get it. Which one is it?

17 DR. WOODS: Red Hills-Parris Trust Addition,
18 Monroe County.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So we've got a
20 motion. Do I have a second?

21 DR. HEPP: I'll second.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Second.
23 Dr. Hepp.

1 Any discussion on the motion?

2 I'm still trying to -- I'm sorry.

3 I'll still trying to find it.

4 DR. WOODS: Halfway down.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

6 All right. Any discussion on the
7 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. HORN: Mr. Chairman?

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir, Mr. Horn.

18 MR. HORN: I'd like to make a motion that we
19 move for a first appraisal on the Big
20 Canoe Creek Tract.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

22 MR. CAUTHEN: I second.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have a motion and the

1 second was Mr. Cauthen.

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 Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. POWELL: No. It was a good motion. I
13 just wanted to say we will -- staff will
14 take a look at the existing appraisal.
15 If there is a chance for efficiencies of
16 cost of utilizing that appraisal --
17 again, we have not reviewed it for that
18 purpose, but it was performed by one of
19 the appraisers that are under contract
20 with the state that we utilize.

21 So I will throw that out. We will
22 take a look at that. But either way, we
23 will utilize that or have a new

1 appraisal pursuant to this motion. I
2 just wanted to let y'all know there's an
3 outside chance we could save that money,
4 but I'm not sure of that right now.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: And while you're here, I
6 just always -- miscellaneous things go
7 through my head.

8 So we have one more board meeting
9 before we get to our next fiscal year,
10 which is in August; right?

11 I know we've changed. Is it August
12 now?

13 MS. POWELL: Yes, sir, August.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So just to remind
15 everybody, we have another board meeting
16 in August. And, you know, so we'll kind
17 of still be under these conditions. I'm
18 just kind of laying it out for
19 everybody.

20 Then the next meeting will be after
21 our -- when our new fiscal year begins
22 which will allow for the possibility of
23 more money. Just kind of planting that

1 in your brain. No particular reason.

2 Just to make sure you know.

3 All right. Any other discussion?

4 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman?

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

6 MR. BALL: I'd like to make a motion that we

7 do a first appraisal on Cahaba River

8 Access Tract, 40 acres, Bibb County.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. All right. So we've

10 got a motion for the Cahaba River Access

11 Tract, 40 acres in Bibb County. That's

12 a motion for a first appraisal. Do I

13 have a second?

14 DR. VALENTINE: I'll second.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second. Dr. Valentine.

16 All right. Any discussion on that

17 motion?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion

20 say "aye."

21 (All board members present respond

22 "aye.")

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

3 Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

4 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I'd like to make a motion
5 for first appraisal of the Sipsey River
6 Swamp-Taylor Creek Addition, Greene
7 County.

8 DR. WOODS: Second.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Woods.

10 Any discussion on that motion?

11 (No response.)

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

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

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

19 Yes, sir, Dr. Woods.

20 DR. WOODS: I make a motion for --

21 MS. POWELL: Commissioner, I'm sorry. I'm so
22 sorry. If we could take just one
23 second. We just want to double-check.

1 It was a little hard for us to hear. We
2 want to be sure we have the correct
3 tract that we just --

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sipsey River --

5 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Sipsey River Swamp-Taylor
6 Creek Addition that was just discussed.

7 MS. POWELL: Thank you. I just wanted to
8 confirm that. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's just listed here as
10 Taylor Creek Addition on the short list;
11 right? Is that the one you're talking
12 about, Dr. Tolley-Jordan, 1722 acres?

13 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Right.

14 MS. POWELL: And we just wanted to double --
15 we had a little trouble hearing, so we
16 wanted to confirm. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah, sure.

18 I'm sorry. Dr. Woods.

19 DR. WOODS: Yes. I'd like to make a motion
20 for a first appraisal on Caldwell Swamp,
21 100 acres in Baldwin County.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Again, on the short list.
23 You might want to be looking. 100.37

1 acres.

2 I have a motion. Do I have a
3 second?

4 DR. HEPP: I'll second.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Hepp.

6 Any discussion on the motion?

7 MS. POWELL: I'm sorry. We were confirming
8 something here. Could y'all tell us
9 again which tract?

10 I'm very, very sorry.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: This one?

12 MS. POWELL: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Caldwell Swamp.

14 MS. POWELL: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's all right.

16 In Baldwin County; correct,
17 Dr. Woods?

18 DR. WOODS: Correct.

19 MS. POWELL: Thank you. Sorry.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: No problem.

21 I'm watching staff over there.

22 Okay. Are y'all ready?

23 MS. POWELL: We are.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I think we
2 have a motion and a second.

3 Any discussion? I may have asked
4 that already.

5 (No response.)

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

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

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

13 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I have one more.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

15 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I'd like to make a motion
16 for first appraisal of the Bon Secour
17 River-Swift School Tract in Baldwin
18 County.

19 MR. BALL: Second that.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a
21 motion and a second.

22 And I'm looking for that one. Where
23 is it?

1 Oh, I see it now. Swift School
2 Tract.

3 Okay. And did I get a second
4 already?

5 MR. BALL: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. By Mr. Ball.

7 Any discussion on the motion?

8 (No response.)

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

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

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Dr. Hepp.

15 DR. HEPP: Yeah. I would like to make a
16 motion for first appraisal on the
17 Perdido Wildlife Management Area-Freise
18 Addition in Baldwin County, 47 acres.

19 DR. WOODS: Second.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Woods.

21 Any discussion on the motion?

22 (No response.)

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

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

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

6 Yes.

7 DR. VALENTINE: Is the Mobile-Tensaw
8 Delta-Sheffield Addition available for
9 movement for a first appraisal?

10 I'm a little confused by what
11 happened.

12 MS. POWELL: I'm sorry. Dr. Valentine, could
13 you move your microphone?

14 DR. VALENTINE: Can I move for the
15 Mobile-Tensaw-Sheffield Addition for
16 first appraisal?

17 MS. POWELL: Yes. It is on the short list.
18 It's on Tab 4-A and available.

19 DR. VALENTINE: I would like to do so, then.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I have a motion. Do I
21 have a second?

22 MR. BALL: Second.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Mr. Ball. Second.

1 Any discussion on the motion?

2 That's the 130 acres right there?

3 DR. VALENTINE: Right.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any discussion on
5 the motion?

6 (No response.)

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

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

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

14 DR. VALENTINE: One more.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Again,
16 Dr. Valentine.

17 DR. VALENTINE: I would like to move for the
18 Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows Phase III for
19 first appraisal. I understand that
20 that's necessary.

21 MS. POWELL: And I'm sorry. I had a little
22 trouble hearing you. But the Phase III
23 Addition?

1 DR. VALENTINE: III, yes.

2 MS. POWELL: That one was the tract that we
3 had -- the board had previously moved
4 for an appraisal. We had an acreage
5 change. We could discuss that now if
6 you would like to.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: So what I understood
8 earlier is that he can still act on that
9 when we discuss the acreage change;
10 correct?

11 MS. POWELL: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So let's just save
13 that.

14 MS. POWELL: Okay. Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's okay. Just remember
16 that.

17 Anybody else?

18 Yes, sir.

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like
20 to make a motion to move to first
21 appraisal on Freedom Hills WMA-Randolph
22 Hollow Addition.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a

1 motion.

2 MR. CAUTHEN: I'll second it.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second. Mr. Cauthen.

4 Any discussion on the motion?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion

7 say "aye."

8 (All board members present respond

9 "aye.")

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

13 MR. SATTERFIELD: One more.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: Move for a first appraisal

16 for the Lauderdale WMA-Newman Addition.

17 DR. WOODS: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a

19 motion and a second. 160 acres.

20 Any discussion on the motion?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion

23 say "aye."

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

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

6 Anyone else?

7 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman, I have one more.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball.

9 MR. BALL: I'd like to ask for a first
10 appraisal on Red Hills-Ziebach Addition,
11 50 acres, Monroe County.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. We have a motion.

13 Do we have a second?

14 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Tolley-Jordan, I
16 believe.

17 And any discussion on the motion?

18 (No response.)

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

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

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

3 Anyone else?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: So if no one else, I have a
6 question before I -- Chuck, could you
7 come up and let me ask you a couple of
8 things?

9 I think this is the appropriate
10 time.

11 So two things, the first one being I
12 believe either a board member or board
13 members asked you to look at the White
14 Oak Plantation nomination --

15 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- last time.

17 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I believe you had
19 indicated to me that you had, and I
20 thought that this would be a good
21 time -- I think it's an appropriate time
22 for you to report on that simply because
23 we are in nominations. And I feel like

1 it's time for them to hear what you
2 found out.

3 MR. SYKES: Keith Gauldin, the chief of
4 Wildlife, and I rode down and met with
5 Mr. Speaks who's representing the
6 property. At this time we do not have
7 the staff or the funding to keep up the
8 facilities. In our opinion, our money
9 would be better spent somewhere else.
10 So at this point in time Wildlife and
11 Freshwater Fisheries would not agree to
12 accept the facilities at White Oak.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can you give me an example?

14 It's pretty bad. I remember you
15 telling me.

16 MR. SYKES: It's just in -- there is a lot of
17 infrastructure there. It's a very nice
18 former hunting lodge, and we would
19 pretty much have to staff someone there
20 24/7 just for maintenance of the grounds
21 and the facilities. And it's just not
22 something that we feel is in the best
23 interest of the department or the public

1 hunting right now to dedicate that much
2 staff and money just to do upkeep on the
3 facilities.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Does anybody have any
5 questions about that before I go on
6 to -- and I have another question for
7 you.

8 Yes, Mr. Horn.

9 MR. HORN: So there's a lot of infrastructure
10 as far as buildings and improvements
11 that are there that would have to be
12 maintained. Is that what you're saying?

13 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir. There's a formal dining
14 hall. I think it will sleep 40 people.
15 So there is -- there's way more
16 infrastructure there than we're prepared
17 to step off into right now.

18 It would be a -- again, it would be
19 one staff dedicated strictly to a
20 thousand acres just for upkeep and
21 maintenance, and we just don't think
22 that's the best use of our funds.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Wasn't the electricity bill

1 like \$10,000 a month or something crazy?
2 MR. SYKES: Well, it was pretty high. I don't
3 think it was quite that, but it was a
4 couple of thousand dollars a month
5 during the off season, and then it
6 peaked up to five or \$6,000 a month when
7 you're running everybody there. It's
8 just not something that we feel like we
9 need to do right now.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen.

11 MR. CAUTHEN: I can support what Chuck is
12 saying. I've been there twice and
13 hunted, and it's a wonderful place. But
14 it has got -- it is decked out as far as
15 infrastructure and hunting lodge. It's
16 just -- it's just the kind of place you
17 dream of.

18 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: But it's not something that our
20 budget will allow. So I concur with
21 what Chuck says.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: We need to see if the
23 Cauthen Trust can somehow find the money

1 for that.

2 MR. SYKES: Absolutely.

3 MR. HORN: The only thought I have, if the
4 power bill is \$10,000 a month, I think I
5 serve that. I might even --

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: I shouldn't have mentioned
7 that.

8 All right. I just wanted everybody
9 to know that. I know there was a big
10 discussion.

11 MR. SYKES: It was. Dr. Strickland made the
12 motion for first appraisal and asked us
13 to go look at it.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. My second
15 question involves the gentleman that
16 spoke earlier today about the Skyline
17 WMA. I think it was the Crow Creek
18 Valley parcel in Jackson County that
19 had --

20 MR. SYKES: The ag property on it?

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. That had the ag
22 property connected to our WMA up there.

23 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so what I would like --
2 I have a -- I'm going to request you to
3 address the issue about just ag property
4 in general. I know that most people on
5 the board, maybe some people in
6 attendance, know that we've taken the
7 position to try to stay away from ag
8 property, but there have been issues --
9 or cases where we have been able to work
10 that out with the folks that have
11 interest in that or some of our
12 partners that have a concern about that
13 that we work with.

14 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: So, first of all -- and
16 I'll just tell you -- ask you to address
17 that and how we've -- what we do in that
18 regard.

19 And then, secondly, I was going to
20 ask you -- I think it's okay to ask you,
21 instead of acting on this today, that
22 you might reach out to our partners in
23 this -- if Wildlife and Freshwater

1 Fisheries has an interest in this, to
2 those that have concerns about the ag
3 properties.

4 And the reason this property is of
5 interest to me and I think would be of
6 interest to Wildlife and Freshwater
7 Fisheries, if we got past any
8 concerns -- and I want to do that
9 first -- is that I've had a chance,
10 luckily, to go to north Alabama and do
11 some duck hunting up there. And it is
12 incredible duck-hunting areas up there.
13 But we are -- I think or I believe we
14 are -- as far as WMAs, don't have quite
15 as much as there is a demand. And if
16 there was a way that -- if Wildlife and
17 Freshwater Fisheries thought this was
18 the right property and we could work out
19 any concerns of this big ag property,
20 then I just want you to look into it and
21 talk with our partners and people about
22 that and report back to us.

23 MR. SYKES: Okay. The first question is as

1 far as ag properties go, Wildlife and
2 Freshwater Fisheries stepped out and
3 bought a 2,000-acre tract two years ago
4 in Lowndes County that bordered the
5 Lowndes WMA that had 600 acres of ag
6 land on it. Rick was very instrumental
7 in the negotiations with all this
8 working with farmers. That is still
9 under ag contract. We are not in the
10 business of taking ag out. Ag benefits
11 the wildlife and it benefits the public
12 hunting.

13 What we did with that 600 acres is
14 we just put in field borders and
15 contracted with the farmer to leave "X"
16 number of acres of grain in the field
17 for wildlife and to provide public
18 hunting opportunities like dove hunting.
19 We had some fantastic dove hunts out
20 there last year.

21 Just in Jackson County alone where
22 the Skyline property is -- we've got 26
23 farming contracts just in Jackson

1 County. All of the properties that we
2 manage up there that have ag fields on
3 it are still in ag production. And,
4 again, we -- the way the rent has worked
5 out is with grain left in the field, and
6 then when the farmer is done with that,
7 we flood it for -- first utilize it for
8 dove hunting in September. Then we
9 flood it late season and have waterfowl
10 impoundments out of it.

11 So to kind of carry on what the
12 Commissioner said, that is an area up
13 there that we can use all of the public
14 waterfowl hunting opportunities that we
15 could get, and with a piece of property
16 that has almost 400 acres that we could
17 flood with timber as well as ag field, I
18 think that would be a good addition for
19 us.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: So would you just -- would
21 you look into that --

22 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- and make sure your staff

1 takes a good hard look so you can report
2 back and probably reach out to our
3 farm -- the folks that have interest in
4 the farming land --

5 MR. SYKES: Sure. Not a problem.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- like you've done before.

7 And I think that -- I think that
8 would be -- it would be of interest to
9 me, I know, just from what I know about
10 the opportunities up there in north
11 Alabama and how popular that's getting
12 to be.

13 MR. SYKES: I think it would be a good
14 addition. We don't get opportunities of
15 good duck land very often.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Correct. And I see Patti
17 about to jump up, so watch out.

18 MS. POWELL: And just for additional
19 clarification -- and we'll communicate
20 and work with Chuck -- to understand the
21 existing leases that may be in place --
22 in addition to the fact there's some ag
23 usage, you have leases in place. I know

1 Chuck's division with the Wildlife and
2 Freshwater Fisheries funds in some of
3 those purchases has retained those
4 private leases for that activity. That
5 would be something else that this board
6 would have to consider, whether to
7 retain those leases. In the past we --
8 well, and not because they're ag leases,
9 but just the fact that they are private
10 leases, we have not carried those
11 forward on the Forever Wild acreage as
12 opposed to possibly Wildlife acreage.

13 We'll delineate all that and figure
14 that out, and we'll work with Chuck.
15 But that will be a second aspect of the
16 question because it's Forever Wild funds
17 as opposed to division funds.

18 So we'll work out all that. I just
19 wanted to let everybody know that we
20 will have all that separated and
21 available for board discussion also.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Now Chuck is creeping up
23 behind you.

1 MR. SYKES: Yeah. I creeped up behind Patti.
2 She doesn't need all the credit for
3 creeping.

4 All I was going to say -- and,
5 again, I don't want to go too far out
6 until October. But it could be
7 something, in theory, that if the board
8 chooses to move on it and we can partner
9 where we have deed to the ag land rather
10 than Forever Wild, then that would
11 eliminate a bunch of -- when we do the
12 splits like we've done at Autauga or
13 Dallas, we could carve out the ag land
14 where it would be strictly deeded to
15 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. That
16 would take the board out of it and we
17 could ensure that we carried on those
18 contracts with the farmers up there.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I didn't mean to take up
20 all the -- does anybody else have a
21 question for Chuck about that?

22 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

1 MR. WRIGHT: I just want to be sure that I
2 heard right.

3 The farmers that you're contracting
4 with, the fee they're paying is the
5 grain left in the field?

6 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir. Right now --

7 MR. WRIGHT: You determine the acreage they
8 leave?

9 MR. SYKES: That's right. It's basically
10 they're leaving -- in return for us
11 allowing them to farm, they're leaving
12 approximately 25 to 30 percent of the
13 grain left in the field as their rent
14 payment.

15 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Anyone else?

17 MR. CAUTHEN: Chuck?

18 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: Have you seen a huge increase in
20 the game population around there?

21 MR. SYKES: Absolutely. Just the Dutch Bend
22 Tract in Lowndes County that I was
23 telling you about -- just within one

1 year of putting in the field borders,
2 our quail are already coming back. We
3 had some of the best public land dove
4 shoots that you could have asked for
5 last year on that place. We were
6 working with a quality farmer who worked
7 with us and took out some of the little
8 nooks and crannies that was hard to
9 farm, planted some 20-acre dove fields
10 for us, left grain standing, and it's --
11 it's been phenomenal.

12 MR. CAUTHEN: That's good. I just thought
13 that it should be.

14 MR. SYKES: It's working really well. And,
15 also, in north Alabama with our
16 waterfowl areas, we're being able to
17 utilize them during dove season and then
18 flooding them and having quality public
19 waterfowl hunting, too. So our farming
20 contracts are working very well.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Rick.

22 MR. OATES: I would like to say if this board
23 has never done the leases, like Patti

1 said before, I would prefer to talk to
2 Chuck and then do what he's talking
3 about. I think that would be a better
4 way for us to go. Chuck knows my
5 opinion on that.

6 MR. SYKES: Sure.

7 MR. OATES: And I think it would be better for
8 the board not to get into the leases if
9 we've never done that before unless it's
10 just something we need to do
11 necessarily.

12 MR. SYKES: And since we already have that
13 model where we're working together and
14 deeding land separately as far as our
15 grants and reporting go, that -- that
16 shouldn't be an issue as long as our
17 apportionment is where we can do that.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, that will be up to
19 you and what your folks think is a
20 priority, so ...

21 MR. SYKES: Y'all just need to convince people
22 to keep buying guns and ammo and it
23 won't be an issue. We can go 75/25 on

1 Pine Barren, and then we'll take the
2 rest and put it towards this one.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm buying as many as my
4 wife will let me buy.

5 MR. SYKES: Good. Good.

6 All right. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

8 So that was under still our general
9 discussion. Is there any more general
10 discussion? Anybody want to bring up
11 anything?

12 If not, we're going to move on to
13 miscellaneous reports, but I want to
14 give you one last time.

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Hearing none, we will move
17 on to miscellaneous reports.

18 And, Patti, it says Doug. Are you
19 jumping up there?

20 MS. POWELL: No.

21 Well, I did step in front of Doug.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: WBR --

23 MS. POWELL: I'm going to let Doug -- let me

1 say just as an introduction a little
2 explanation for the benefit of the board
3 and the public.

4 All we're moving into now is a
5 section that we just each meeting
6 entitle "miscellaneous reports." We
7 never exactly know what's going to pop
8 up. Things in this section do often
9 involve board motions.

10 But these are topics that staff is
11 bringing forward to the board to
12 identify that we may need board feedback
13 on or we may need a board motion on or
14 just something we want to report on.
15 But we separate it out from the general
16 discussion to give the board time to get
17 through whatever the board members know
18 they want to bring up. Our reports may
19 prompt additional questions or
20 additional motions, and we will detail
21 whether we need a motion or not.
22 Sometimes, actually, we may technically,
23 procedurally not need a motion, but the

1 staff feels better getting further
2 direction from the board before
3 proceeding on something.

4 So I'm going to sit back down and
5 let Doug come up. And I'll take a break
6 and you don't have to listen to me.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Creep on back up later.

8 MS. POWELL: Well, you know I will, whether
9 I'm invited or not.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Deaton.

11 MR. DEATON: All right. The first item you'll
12 find in your packet under Tab 5-A. I'll
13 give everybody a moment to turn there.

14 Under Tab 5-A, there's a memo there
15 regarding the Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows
16 Phase III Addition. We've kind of
17 discussed it throughout the meeting
18 today. Yael brought that up. But I'm
19 going to review that for you guys.

20 At the last meeting the board
21 motioned for a first appraisal on the
22 Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows Phase III
23 Tract. Since that time, two of the five

1 sellers have requested to be removed
2 from the nomination. That's reducing
3 the acreage -- the original nomination
4 was 124 acres -- reducing it down to
5 79.7 acres, which if you look on your
6 map, you'll see what the original was
7 and what the current nomination is.

8 We re-evaluated the score with the
9 reduced acreage, and it still has the
10 same score. We feel like it still fits
11 with the management down there. So
12 considering the acreage reduction of
13 approximately 44 acres, we're seeking
14 approval from the board to proceed with
15 a first appraisal. So at this time I
16 would need a motion to that effect.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: And the motion is
18 actually -- a proposed motion is set out
19 on Tab 5-A if anybody wants to make that
20 motion.

21 MR. CAUTHEN: I'll do it. I make the motion
22 just like it's written in this.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: So the motion that

1 Mr. Cauthen is proposing is the board
2 requests that staff proceed with the
3 first appraisal of the WBR-Meadows
4 Phase III Additions nomination with the
5 reduction in acreage.

6 Do I have a second?

7 DR. VALENTINE: I'll second.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second. Dr. Valentine.

9 Any discussion on the motion?

10 (No response.)

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

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

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

18 Thank you, Doug.

19 MR. DEATON: Yes, sir.

20 The next item is Tab 5-B, just one
21 tab over. What we're covering here is
22 management plans. We're mandated to put
23 a management plan -- within one year of

1 purchase we have to have a management
2 plan adopted. So you have a memo in
3 your packet that kind of outlines what
4 we're requesting, and I'll go through
5 that for you real quick.

6 We have five tracts that we would
7 need approval to be added to existing
8 management plans, and then there's two
9 management plans that would need board
10 approval that you will find in your
11 packet that we sent out to you.

12 The first two tracts are the Post
13 Oak Flat-Shiflett Addition and Skyline
14 WMA-Threwer Point Addition in Jackson
15 County. These tracts are adjacent to
16 the Walls of Jericho Complex and Skyline
17 WMA. And we're seeking approval to fold
18 these tracts into the Walls of Jericho
19 Complex management plan.

20 The next tracts are the Old Cahawba
21 Prairie Addition -- or the next tract
22 rather -- in Dallas County. It serves
23 in addition to what we currently have at

1 the Old Cahawba Prairie Tract. We're
2 asking to fold this one into the Old
3 Cahawba Prairie management plan.

4 The next ones are the Autauga County
5 WMA Joffre Addition and the Phase II
6 Addition, which are in Autauga County.
7 We already have a management plan
8 approved, and we're asking to have that
9 one added to the Autauga County WMA
10 plan.

11 And as I said in your packet, there
12 are two new tracts that have to have
13 management plans set up separately, and
14 those are the Dallas County WMA
15 management plan and, also, the Hinds
16 Road Outcrop management plan.

17 So if the board agrees with our
18 recommendation as outlined in this memo,
19 we would need a motion for your
20 approval, and there's a motion for your
21 consideration.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: There's a motion on
23 Tab 5-B.

1 Are there any questions before we
2 consider a motion that you may have of
3 Doug about the management plans?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Do I have a
6 motion?

7 MR. HORN: I would move that we accept the
8 management plan as proposed on the five
9 properties.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do I need to read that,
11 Ms. Powell?

12 MS. POWELL: Yes, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So the motion
14 that is proposed by Mr. Horn is the
15 board --

16 MR. CAUTHEN: I second it.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Hold on just a second.
18 Hold on.

19 The board approves the State Lands
20 Division proceeding with the inclusion
21 of the tracts as set forth in this
22 memorandum dated April 21, 2017, to
23 existing management plans and to adopt

1 the two new tract management plans
2 attached to this memorandum.

3 So we have a motion and we have a
4 second.

5 Any discussion on the motion?

6 (Brief interruption by the court
7 reporter.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any discussion?

9 (No response.)

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

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

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

17 Ms. Powell.

18 MS. POWELL: Okay. I wanted to move to
19 another miscellaneous report topic that
20 relates to item 5-C. And it's Tab 5,
21 5-C.

22 We come to the board each fiscal
23 year and make a request of the board

1 that does require a board motion to
2 authorize the request or whatever other
3 amount the board wishes to seek related
4 to administrative support. This is the
5 funding that is transferred from the
6 program to the State Lands Division that
7 relates to offsetting the State Lands
8 Division expenses related to staff that
9 contribute time to the program as well
10 as certain other operational expenses
11 that are administrative in nature tied
12 to the staff doing what we do in support
13 of the program.

14 The request this year is to
15 authorize \$600,000. This is level
16 funding from the amount of the
17 administrative support that was provided
18 in the previous fiscal year.

19 We are continuing -- I mentioned
20 this to the board previously -- work
21 through an attempt with the state's new
22 accounting system to begin producing a
23 more detailed report that itemizes the

1 expenses in a little more detail. But
2 what we have attached, to provide some
3 context, is for the last fiscal year the
4 expenses -- the staff-related expenses,
5 operational, administrative expenses
6 that were incurred.

7 Some of that was offset by grant
8 funding that we received. As an
9 example, we have detailed that various
10 funding that we could use to offset:
11 Coastal Impact Assistance Program, or
12 CIAP program, down on the coast to help
13 some. We receive a little bit of
14 support from a trust that was
15 established by Mr. Robert Wehle that
16 helps with the Wehle tract. You will
17 see that detailed on the second page.
18 It still does not -- even with the
19 \$600,000, State Lands does still absorb
20 some of those expenses.

21 But I wanted to present that --
22 again, 5-C -- if you have any questions
23 on that detail. But we would need

1 approval from the board to make the
2 funding -- authorize the transfer of
3 administrative funds to the State Lands
4 Division.

5 So I first wanted to take any
6 questions related to the funding request
7 for the \$600,000 -- again, the same as
8 last year -- but I want to be sure and
9 answer any questions that the board may
10 have on that. And then I'll have a
11 second request for different funding in
12 a second, but this is just related to
13 the administrative funding.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball.

15 MR. BALL: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, I would
16 like to move that the board approves the
17 State Lands Division staff to proceed
18 with the requested administrative
19 transfer in the amount of \$600,000 for
20 FY17 administrative support provided by
21 the State Lands Division.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion. Do I have a
23 second?

1 MR. HORN: Second.

2 (Multiple speakers.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So who --

4 MR. HORN: I did.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Mr. Horn.

6 MR. CAUTHEN: I want to ask a question.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. Discussion,
8 Mr. Cauthen.

9 MR. CAUTHEN: Isn't that property of
10 Wehle's -- isn't it very similar to the
11 White Oak facility?

12 MS. POWELL: It did have structures on it, but
13 that -- that acreage is actually a joint
14 effort between the Forever Wild program
15 and my State Lands Division.

16 The structures -- that was one of
17 the initial -- actually the donation by
18 Mr. Wehle -- but initial acquisitions of
19 the program. We had to -- our division
20 had to -- that was prior to Jim Griggs,
21 who was my predecessor -- had to take
22 title to and ownership and
23 responsibility for certain portions of

1 the acreage because of those structures.
2 And so it is really only by the joint
3 efforts of our division and the Forever
4 Wild program that that gets to operate
5 both as a nature center and the other
6 acreage there.

7 But, yes, in any -- any acquisition
8 that has structures on it does require
9 somewhat of an additional analysis by
10 staff as to whether -- on how that can
11 proceed.

12 But you're correct except that they
13 are not as extensive as the structures
14 on White Oak without the type of --
15 level of upkeep. And we did have some
16 funding for upkeep of those structures,
17 and we do get support from the trust.

18 So it's --

19 MR. CAUTHEN: I guess if those people -- I
20 guess if those owners want to donate it,
21 then we can take another look at it.

22 MS. POWELL: We can take a look at whatever,
23 but it will still require an analysis of

1 whether the structures are amenable
2 under the provisions of our program or
3 whether they would have to be postage --
4 cut out like a postage stamp, in which
5 case a division will have to take
6 responsibility for that and adds to the
7 burden to that division.

8 So that is why the interaction --
9 Chuck looking at it and trying to make
10 some of those determinations, without
11 getting into all of the weeds, is so
12 very vital. It's not just a question of
13 impact to this program and the
14 stewardship burden it presents, which
15 I'm about to get to, but it also often
16 translates into a burden -- direct
17 burden to a division. And so that's why
18 we have to work together on those. But
19 that's a very good question and a very
20 good point.

21 MR. CAUTHEN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I have a motion and a
23 second.

1 Any discussion? Any further
2 discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: If not, all in favor of the
5 motion say "aye."

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

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

11 Ms. Powell.

12 MS. POWELL: I'd then like to move to
13 discussion of another item in Tab 5-D.
14 You will also have in your green folder
15 another additional -- not a replacement
16 item, but an additional item that is
17 tabbed as 5-D. And I will give y'all a
18 second to find those.

19 This is also a request related to
20 funding and authorization for
21 expenditure of program funds. However,
22 this specifically relates to our
23 stewardship fund account. Again, that

1 is the account that -- the 15 percent
2 related to each acquisition rolls into
3 that account.

4 As I described earlier today, we try
5 very hard to only expend the interest
6 that is thrown off of that fund for the
7 stewardship, the physical caring for the
8 land, the actual land management.
9 This -- expenditure of any funds from
10 the corpus of the stewardship account as
11 opposed to those interest earnings that
12 I described requires a -- a special vote
13 of this board. It requires an
14 affirmative vote of nine members of this
15 board. So I'm going to describe that,
16 but I'll go ahead and highlight that.

17 Commissioner, if we get to the point
18 of a motion, we'll do that one by roll
19 call to demonstrate the numbers on that.
20 So that will be a little different. But
21 let me explain what we do each year.

22 Each year my State Lands Division
23 staff organizes a meeting with the other

1 divisions to jointly look toward the
2 anticipated -- to the extent we know --
3 stewardship needs, again, land
4 management costs for the tracts, the
5 acreage that we own. We actually do
6 that -- I'm sorry.

7 Let me also take a moment and say
8 what I'm describing here, this activity,
9 is separate from the state budgetary
10 process that you hear me speak about
11 sometimes. This is a procedure under
12 the actual Forever Wild constitutional
13 amendment.

14 So, anyway, we look at that each
15 year, get the staff together. We look
16 forward to an upcoming fiscal year. So
17 right now we are trying to project needs
18 for the next fiscal year. The reason
19 that we do that in advance is that
20 pursuant to the constitutional amendment
21 this program was formed under, if we are
22 concerned that the interest earnings for
23 a given year are not going to be

1 sufficient to care for the land, we have
2 to make that determination, alert the
3 Commissioner as chair, and discuss with
4 him bringing to this board potentially a
5 request for expenditure of corpus funds.
6 The Commissioner would make a
7 determination of insufficiency as to
8 interest earnings and alert the board,
9 if he does suggest so, expending dollars
10 from corpus of the funds.

11 We first did this -- had to do this
12 last prior fiscal year for the current
13 fiscal year that we're in. Again, due
14 to lower interest rates that have
15 existed now for several years, the
16 cushion in interest earnings that we had
17 built up -- again, we had always tried
18 to be conservative in our spending. We
19 never spent all the interest earnings
20 that we had available, and they carried
21 over year to year. But that cushion has
22 eroded to where we are again now --
23 well, not again -- beginning this year

1 in a position of having to look closely
2 at projected interest earnings. Again,
3 they're projected because we have to
4 look into the next fiscal year.

5 So the memo that you got in your
6 packet that is 5-D was a memo from staff
7 alerting the board to this possibility,
8 that we were crunching our numbers again
9 and would need to get with Commissioner.
10 We have done that. The Tab 5-D in your
11 green folder is the Commissioner's
12 formal determination of an
13 insufficiency. I want to walk you
14 through that a little bit.

15 In meeting with staff in projecting
16 needs, we divided those needs into two
17 categories. Routine land management
18 needs across our tracts -- they vary by
19 tract, but they are expected activities;
20 road repairs, road maintenance,
21 boundary-line maintenance, again, when
22 we can and do have money, enhancement of
23 recreational aspects or caring for

1 those. If you have a trail -- a
2 horseback-riding trail and you've got a
3 degraded bridge, obviously, you've got
4 to go in and take care of that. We look
5 at invasive species control, spraying,
6 burning, prescribed burning, various
7 things.

8 We also will have, that varies
9 greatly each year, tract-specific needs.
10 And, again, they can vary, but one
11 common one we have to look at is
12 reforestation needs. We purchase
13 certain tracts with timber reservations.
14 As that acreage is released, it presents
15 a need that we evaluate for
16 reforestation, and we have to bear those
17 expenses.

18 This year -- and, also, we would sit
19 down with our accounting section and try
20 to work to determine what we project as
21 to interest earnings. Obviously, we're
22 projecting way in advance. We are
23 projecting this year -- although there's

1 some signs it may be greater because the
2 rates are increasing -- about \$400,000
3 worth of interest earnings.

4 So that compared to -- from our
5 staff meeting, the needs that we
6 outlined, we have projected about
7 \$630,000 needed for more of those
8 routine tracts. Again, we're managing
9 over 250,000 acres, and we're looking at
10 routine needs there.

11 And then this year the
12 tract-specific costs seem to be mostly
13 related to expected reforestation costs
14 due to release of timber reserves. We
15 estimate that specific tract amount to
16 be \$350,000. We're also -- and we'll
17 talk more about this in a minute -- but
18 are recommending an additional \$100,000
19 as sort of an estimate that we'd like to
20 have in reserve in case we need to take
21 action related to the pine beetle
22 threat. Again, there will not be much
23 income coming off of that to support

1 anything else.

2 So all that taken together, we
3 estimate about a \$1,080,000 need for the
4 upcoming fiscal year. That obviously
5 exceeds the \$400,000 we're projecting
6 for interest earnings.

7 One other factor I'm going to throw
8 in -- back, again, talking state
9 process. This is all okay from a
10 spending authority. We have 1.5 million
11 in spending authority. That's not a
12 concern. But there is -- if we're going
13 to spend any additional funds other than
14 interest earnings, we need to make a
15 decision and have a motion for that at
16 this meeting or our next meeting. But I
17 wanted to address it today because of
18 the requirement of nine affirmative
19 votes. You certainly want to have
20 enough members to be able to accomplish
21 that. So the next meeting cuts it a
22 little close.

23 Let me stop there for a second and

1 see if there are any questions either as
2 to the underlying expenditures or the
3 calculations that I've run through.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Anybody have any questions?

5 MS. POWELL: Yes, sir, Mr. Satterfield.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Satterfield.

7 MR. SATTERFIELD: Tell me again. How much are
8 you estimating that this cost will be
9 involved in reforestation projects this
10 year?

11 MS. POWELL: Reforestation -- it will be not
12 this but the upcoming fiscal year.

13 We have \$350,000 -- if you will look
14 in the packet memo, your 5-D -- not your
15 green folder 5-D, but the 5-D that came
16 in your packet.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: The original packet.

18 MS. POWELL: We have -- you'll see a sheet
19 that has some blue highlighting and sort
20 of tan highlighting. We have run
21 through --

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's the last page of your
23 original packet. Here you go, Bill.

1 You got it?

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: Got it.

3 MS. POWELL: Now, what that sheet reflects
4 is --

5 MR. SATTERFIELD: 350,000; is that correct?

6 MS. POWELL: That's correct. The total
7 funding, the smaller blue line you see
8 coming across, is 350,000.

9 Sometimes we'll have activities
10 on -- forest activities on our Forever
11 Wild managed acres, but this year really
12 the reforestation cost is what we're
13 looking at for the next fiscal year.
14 And so that is from timber reservations
15 being released. You'll see sort of a
16 cost-per-acre table at the very bottom.
17 Table 1 also explains that. But that's
18 where the -- how that was calculated.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so I think you said --
20 you obviously say you're going to cut it
21 close. You're asking for a little
22 more --

23 MS. POWELL: Well, what we would present to

1 you as our best guesstimate at this
2 point of needed expenditures would be
3 \$1,080,000. However, what the board did
4 last year -- due to the restrictive
5 nature, we can't add to it later -- the
6 board made a motion last year to allow
7 for spending authority up to the
8 budgetary limit of \$1.5 million.

9 Now, obviously, we report to the
10 board each meeting what we've spent and
11 what we think our needs are. If we have
12 unexpected needs, we bring it forward.
13 But the motion last time to provide the
14 greatest possible flexibility was simply
15 to say that we were to expend interest
16 earnings first before we went to the
17 corpus, but if we needed, you went ahead
18 and gave authority up to \$1.5 million
19 being the budgetary limit. That is --
20 that is an option for this year.

21 Our greatest unknown right now
22 probably would be -- although we have
23 put 100,000 in that 1,080,000 number

1 related to the pine beetle -- I mean,
2 that is -- we really don't know how to
3 estimate that.

4 So what we have -- what
5 Commissioner's determination of
6 insufficiency, your green folder 5-D,
7 notes is both his determination and his
8 suggestion to follow the path that you
9 took last year of doing the -- a
10 flexible motion up to the budgetary
11 spending authority of 1.5 million.
12 Staff will continue to report
13 expenditures.

14 But that is simply the
15 recommendation from Commissioner's memo.
16 That amount can be set at what -- can be
17 part of a motion at whatever figure.
18 But anything over \$400,000 is going to
19 require an affirmative nine-member vote,
20 so whatever would happen.

21 Yes, sir, Mr. Satterfield.

22 MR. SATTERFIELD: So to clarify, 350,000
23 restoration funds is for -- is to

1 restore --

2 MS. POWELL: Oh, I'm sorry. I had a door
3 close. What did you say? I'm sorry.

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: The \$350,000 is to do the
5 timber restoration projects on those
6 lands where people initially sold us --
7 sold Forever Wild the land but reserved
8 the timber on it and Forever Wild was
9 therefore able to purchase that land at
10 a lesser cost.

11 MS. POWELL: That's --

12 MR. SATTERFIELD: And now those folks are
13 coming back and timbering the property
14 and we -- and Forever Wild has
15 responsibility of reforestation; is that
16 correct?

17 MS. POWELL: That is correct.

18 MR. SATTERFIELD: On the lands that we bought
19 outright where DCNR or the state timbers
20 the land, who pays for the reforestation
21 on that?

22 MS. POWELL: Then the program would pay for
23 reforestation, but generally the -- the

1 management activities on our acreage is
2 addressed more for either habitat --
3 taking it back to a certain habitat, for
4 example, trying to go back to longleaf,
5 or working in conjunction, for example,
6 with Chuck's folks about optimal WMA
7 management and activities there. But
8 revenue that would be derived from those
9 activities -- the harvesting activities
10 actually goes to the general fund.

11 MR. SATTERFIELD: Right. So they don't come
12 back.

13 MS. POWELL: That's correct.

14 MR. SATTERFIELD: That was my clarification.
15 I wanted to clarify that. Those monies
16 don't come back to Forever Wild. They
17 go into the general fund. So we don't
18 have those available to do the
19 reforestation costs.

20 MS. POWELL: That's correct.

21 MR. SATTERFIELD: In a follow-up, looking
22 forward, do you have a projection on
23 when these costs will continue and then

1 a guesstimate on what years the new
2 reforestation costs will come in in the
3 future so we'll know how to anticipate
4 those in the next five to ten-year
5 period when these reserved forestlands
6 are likely to be timbered so we'll know
7 when those costs will be imposed on
8 Forever Wild?

9 MS. POWELL: And I'll look to Doug for some
10 help. But I know for at least -- is it
11 three more? How many more fiscal years?

12 MR. DEATON: Galen knows the deadlines on most
13 of our timber reservations.

14 MS. POWELL: Okay. But I think the question
15 he's asking is how -- to the extent that
16 those we think will impact the
17 stewardship needs and expenditures --

18 MR. SATTERFIELD: In looking toward the
19 future, do you have an idea -- you know,
20 you timber land -- well, as I understand
21 it. I'm not a timber guy. But you
22 timber land certain times during the
23 maturation of that timber, and you have

1 certain tracts that timber has been
2 reserved on by the owners who are going
3 to timber that land. Do you have a
4 projection forward, say, next year and
5 the year after and out, say, for the
6 next decade when it's likely that
7 that -- that those tracts will be
8 timbered so we'll know -- have some idea
9 when those reforestation costs will be
10 hitting our budget?

11 MS. POWELL: And we do, but we also -- some of
12 the releases of reservations we're
13 not -- we can't pinpoint to an exact
14 year, but --

15 MR. DEATON: The range is --

16 MR. SATTERFIELD: I mean, you understand what
17 I'm asking about as far as --

18 MR. OATES: Yeah.

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: Did I say that right?

20 You're the forester.

21 MR. OATES: He's a forester, too.

22 I believe you did, yes.

23 MS. POWELL: And, again, it is two types of

1 needs. We have one need that is not as
2 in our control, which is the release of
3 the timber reservations, the exact
4 timing of those.

5 What is more in our control but is
6 not a revenue generator -- if that's a
7 word -- is the timber that the program
8 owns. And we are in greater control of
9 that. However, we obviously have
10 needs -- the pine beetle may be one --
11 where you have to properly manage the
12 timber that you have and coming back
13 there -- when we first acquire a tract
14 and the desire to take it back to a
15 longleaf or a desire to enhance the
16 coverage on a WMA.

17 So there are two types of need, one
18 more in our control, one not as in our
19 control. But, yes, we do look at that.
20 Galen helps -- our forester helps us
21 with that. So I'm going to turn it to
22 Doug or Galen who might be able to
23 provide a little more information.

1 MR. DEATON: The reservations that we
2 currently have we estimate we have a
3 range of three to five years and they'll
4 be extinguished. So we anticipate --
5 depending on when the owner of the
6 timber decides to harvest, it's within
7 that three- to five-year range.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: Are those reservations
9 typically a one-shot deal, they're going
10 to harvest once, or do they have the
11 ability to replant and harvest again?

12 MR. DEATON: Once they harvest, they release
13 the property to us.

14 MR. SATTERFIELD: That's it.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: They're typically a
16 one-shot deal.

17 MS. POWELL: It's one shot, but it may be in
18 phases that the acreage comes -- that
19 the release occurs.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. They don't have to
21 take it all at one time.

22 MR. SATTERFIELD: I understand they wouldn't
23 have to necessarily take it all in the

1 same year.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. But it is a
3 one-shot deal.

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: Yeah. Okay.

5 Well, the reason I was asking these
6 questions, I was concerned about whether
7 we were heading down a long slippery
8 slope here since this was now occurring
9 two years in a row and possibly again
10 next year, a third year in a row. And
11 if we start down that slope, then we're
12 taking money out of the corpus of the
13 stewardship funds which then becomes a
14 self-fulfilling prophecy with less money
15 to make -- return interest. And I just
16 wondered where we're heading with that.
17 That's why I asked the question.

18 MS. POWELL: Yes, sir. And we had had a
19 little bit -- I'm glad you brought it
20 back up for the newer members.

21 We had some discussion of that.
22 Gosh, that would be, though, a year
23 ago. And you are correct. It is

1 something that we view -- we watch
2 differently now.

3 To give some history, earlier in the
4 program and at different times -- and
5 especially -- anyway, at different times
6 it was seen as favorable to reduce the
7 purchase price back when we were
8 receiving interest earnings on the
9 stewardship fund that, frankly, we did
10 not need in that year and were not
11 spending, and those interest earnings
12 were accumulating. There was a sense
13 that the better balance and use of the
14 funds -- as we were continuing to get
15 interest we were watching our
16 expenditures -- was to utilize the break
17 on the acquisition end because we had --
18 I hate to say it -- but so much extra in
19 the interest earnings on the stewardship
20 fund.

21 What we have seen over the years due
22 to the drop in the economy is we're not
23 seeing the interest earnings at such a

1 rate. Each acquisition now is very
2 closely looked at by Galen to anticipate
3 needs on reforestation costs as we are
4 trying to work us out of needing to rely
5 on the back end.

6 Now, it's always going to be
7 something you have to consider. There
8 are certain purchases that an owner will
9 not make available without reserving
10 timber. But there were some purchases
11 that could have gone either way in the
12 past that they were allowed, and we're
13 seeing -- we're in a different world
14 now.

15 So, yes, that is a different focus,
16 a different way of handling it, but it
17 was actually, you know, at one point a
18 good use of the balance of the funds
19 available to the program to enhance
20 acquisition but still taking care of all
21 your stewardship needs. It's just a
22 long period of economic downturn shifted
23 that.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so, Bill, let me just
2 add, too, since I've been on the board,
3 I think what we've looked at, aside from
4 those things that she just mentioned,
5 too, though, is there might be a tract
6 that is so, you know, valuable to the
7 program or could be very valuable to the
8 program that we may accept it with a
9 timber reservation just because, you
10 know, even with that, it's a purchase
11 that we didn't want to pass up. But
12 those have been, I think, less numerous
13 than they were earlier. But we have
14 done that, but we've looked at it on a
15 case-by-case basis and looked at it very
16 closely, I think.

17 MS. POWELL: And as history in the past, even
18 in the years where there were excess
19 earnings, we worked very hard to try to
20 keep the need for stewardship
21 expenditures at about the million-dollar
22 range. That has always been the target
23 even when we had far more available.

1 But that was just a policy, you know,
2 that we tried to stay within as history.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Are there any other
4 questions?

5 Yes, sir.

6 MR. RUNYAN: Patti, on the things that we were
7 looking at on the last part of our tab,
8 it's got the reservation expiration for
9 2021, 1400 acres. Is that -- so we
10 don't have anything expiring this year,
11 or is that just --

12 MS. POWELL: Hold on. Let me get Galen.

13 Just repeat -- I'm sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's on this page right
15 here.

16 MS. POWELL: Right. Okay. Under the
17 reservation expiration year up at the
18 top. And so I want you to repeat your
19 question and let me be sure I'm
20 answering it correctly.

21 MR. RUNYAN: Is the 1400 acres expiring in
22 2018, or is it expiring in 2021?

23 MR. GRIDER: The Freedom Hills reservation

1 expires in 2021.

2 MR. RUNYAN: And so the funding that we're
3 talking about approving, is that for the
4 2021?

5 MR. GRIDER: I'm sorry. That's -- the
6 reservation expires then, but that --
7 that acreage will be what we will be
8 reforesting in 2018.

9 MS. POWELL: It's a phased release; is that
10 correct?

11 MR. GRIDER: Yeah. That's --

12 MR. WRIGHT: They already cut it and released
13 it.

14 MR. GRIDER: Right. That's already -- that's
15 what we know we have available to
16 reforest next year, and then there will
17 be a smaller acreage after that. I
18 think the final -- the final cutting
19 they've got scheduled is actually 2019
20 even though the reservation doesn't end
21 till 2021.

22 MR. WRIGHT: What is the FHRL?

23 MR. GRIDER: It's Freedom Hills-Riverton,

1 Lauderdale. It's the constellation of
2 management areas up in the Shoals area,
3 Lauderdale and Colbert Counties.

4 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman?

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir, Mr. Ball.

6 MR. BALL: Would it be possible to take a
7 five-minute break and revisit this?

8 Because we're losing some of our --

9 MS. POWELL: I think for -- not a break to
10 discuss it because there's no executive
11 session related to this, but if we need
12 a restroom break with no discussion,
13 obviously -- is that what you're
14 suggesting?

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Short emergency break.

16 MS. POWELL: A short emergency, a new
17 category, yes. It's up to you.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: We can do that and maybe --
19 okay. So we could take --

20 MS. POWELL: Would you like to --

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: I know you'll probably take
22 up a motion on this. Are there more
23 questions?

1 Because we have lost two, and we do
2 need nine votes, so --

3 MS. POWELL: And, Commissioner, we could
4 just -- instead of formally breaking,
5 just pause, and those who need to take
6 action can do so, however you would like
7 to handle that.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: So the wording is "pause,"
9 then.

10 Okay. We will take a five-minute
11 pause. If y'all would return right
12 away, we'll get back to this and take a
13 vote.

14 (A pause in proceedings was taken.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So we're back
16 from our --

17 MS. POWELL: Unpaused.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: We're unpaused. Thank you,
19 Ms. Powell.

20 So were there any more questions of
21 Ms. Powell about this particular item?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: If not --

1 MS. POWELL: And, Commissioner, again,
2 let's --

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- then we need a motion.

4 MS. POWELL: Yeah. Let's review two things.
5 We'll need a motion. There is a
6 suggested motion that was within your
7 green folder 5-D, which is
8 Commissioner's insufficiency
9 determination. But in addition to the
10 usual motion, second, any discussion,
11 don't forget we need a roll call.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: We're going to do a roll
13 call. I got you.

14 MR. HORN: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that
15 the board authorize the Alabama
16 Department of Conservation and Natural
17 Resources, after exhausting available
18 interest earnings from the stewardship
19 account, to expend funds from the corpus
20 of the stewardship account up to an
21 amount that, when added to the available
22 interest earnings, does not exceed
23 \$1.5 million.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Horn.

2 Do we have a second?

3 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Tolley-Jordan I heard
5 first, so I'll give her the second on
6 that. Thank you.

7 Any discussion on the -- further
8 discussion on the motion?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. At this time I need
11 to do a roll call for your position on
12 the vote and, if you would, indicate by
13 "aye" or "nay" if you are against the
14 motion.

15 Mr. Oates?

16 MR. OATES: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

18 DR. VALENTINE: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

20 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

22 DR. HEPP: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

1 DR. WOODS: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball?

3 MR. BALL: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Runyan?

5 MR. RUNYAN: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Wright?

7 MR. WRIGHT: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Satterfield?

9 MR. SATTERFIELD: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Horn?

11 MR. HORN: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen left. And so
13 myself, aye. And that will be ten
14 votes, I believe.

15 MS. POWELL: 11 -- ten or 11.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ten or 11. So all are
17 unanimous, more than nine.

18 All right. Motion passes.

19 MS. POWELL: Okay. Thank you. I'm sorry for
20 that detail, but we needed to do that.

21 The final item that we wanted to
22 reference dates back to the beetle
23 discussion.

1 You have in your green folder
2 Tab 5-F, a memo -- Galen Grider, again,
3 our forester, has been serving as a
4 liaison on behalf of the department to
5 the Forestry Commission related to their
6 work -- which, again, I want to commend
7 them for their getting in front of the
8 issue, identifying it and really trying
9 to fight it -- but on the Forestry
10 Commission's efforts related both to the
11 Ips engraver beetle and the Southern
12 pine beetle.

13 Mostly I wanted to make the board
14 aware that we are actively monitoring
15 the threat. We are initially trying to
16 work off of some flights that the
17 Forestry Commission is conducting and an
18 application -- online application that
19 they have where we can access
20 information from those flights and map
21 those and try to tie any concerns
22 identified back to the Forever Wild
23 acreage.

1 Galen is also coordinating with
2 Chuck Sykes' staff and Greg Lein's
3 staff, Wildlife and State Parks, to try
4 to be sure that we are efficiently
5 coordinating those activities and that
6 we're staying on top of not just our own
7 acreage in State Lands but also the
8 department and also for the program.

9 Since we're running a little long, I
10 would -- I guess I want to see if there
11 are any questions. I know,
12 Commissioner, you had some comments
13 earlier. I didn't know -- I don't want
14 to belabor our discussion too much other
15 than I would ask you to look at the
16 material in your green holder, your 5-F,
17 and just know that we are watching it
18 and we are going to work with Forestry
19 Commission.

20 So if there's anything you want to
21 add ...

22 MR. OATES: I'll just say we've put a lot of
23 effort into monitoring, and we've got

1 flights going on of the forestland in
2 the state. And we're doing as best we
3 can with limited funds to keep track of
4 what's going on. When we find something
5 from the air, we send up folks to
6 ground-truth it and see if there's
7 actually something there and determine
8 what kind of beetle it is and then send
9 the landowner a letter. I know you --
10 have y'all gotten any from us, Patti?

11 MR. GRIDER: We're using the electronic
12 system.

13 MR. OATES: Okay. We do send out letters to
14 the landowners, and we've gotten some
15 from some other state agencies that
16 called us and said what's this letter.

17 So we're -- we're monitoring it and
18 watching it. We expect it to be a big
19 problem later on this fall -- or summer
20 and fall.

21 MS. POWELL: And, Commissioner, there have
22 been letters trying to -- of support
23 trying to obtain some additional funding

1 to help with the effort by the Forestry
2 Commission. So we're -- again, we will
3 keep everyone informed. It hopefully
4 will not need to be an ongoing topic,
5 but I wanted to alert everyone because
6 it might be an ongoing topic for a
7 while.

8 Okay. So that's it.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. And then the last
10 thing -- well, Greg had to leave. So I
11 can just mention it if you want me to,
12 or do you --

13 MR. POWE: Absolutely.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- want to mention it?

15 So you'll see in your package --
16 Greg Lein had to leave. The Parks
17 director had to leave. But Forrest
18 Bailey, as many of you know, has been
19 with the department for over 33 years --
20 excuse me -- a total of 38 in the
21 conservation world. And Forrest did
22 send a memo to all of the board members
23 expressing his thanks for the

1 coordinated effort of the board with
2 what he did. And so if you would just
3 take a minute to look at that.

4 Forrest is a very valuable member of
5 our Parks team and has worked with the
6 department for a long, long time, and he
7 will be -- he will be sorely missed.
8 So I think he just wanted to -- Greg
9 just wanted to make you aware of that
10 and sorry he wasn't here.

11 So anything else, Ms. Powell, before
12 I move on to approval of the minutes?

13 MS. POWELL: I'm good.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: You're good. All right.
15 Very good.

16 So the next item on the agenda is
17 approval of minutes of February 9, 2017.
18 That's Tab 6.

19 Does anybody have any additions,
20 corrections, or modifications to those
21 minutes before I ask for a motion?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Hearing none, can I have a

1 motion to approve the minutes of
2 February 9, 2017?

3 MR. HORN: I make a motion that we approve
4 the minutes of February 9th, 2017, as
5 presented.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Have a motion. Do I have a
7 second?

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: Second.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Mr. Satterfield.
10 Any discussion?

11 (No response.)

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

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

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

19 The next item is tentative dates --
20 it says tentative dates. Actually, I
21 think the date is set for August 10,
22 2017. That will be our next meeting. I
23 cannot remember as we sit here whether

1 we promised somebody else a place. So
2 if anybody has a suggestion or wants to
3 suggest a place we meet, then please
4 call Patti or Doug or Jo or any of our
5 staff -- or me for that matter -- or
6 send us an e-mail, and we will certainly
7 try to see if your suggested location
8 would work and try to make that happen
9 for August.

10 And then the last thing I'm going to
11 say real quick is, number one --
12 sometimes I don't say this. But I just
13 want to thank the board for the way, you
14 know, each one of you conducts yourself
15 in such a professional manner every
16 time, how we carry out the business of
17 this program in a way that nobody can
18 really question. And I just want to
19 thank y'all for the way you go about
20 that each and every time.

21 And then, lastly, behind the scenes,
22 I know y'all know our staff does an
23 incredible job pulling all this together

1 every board meeting. And I just want to
2 thank them again, I think, on behalf of
3 all the board members for the way you
4 get our packages together and keep us
5 informed. So thank y'all for that.

6 And if there's no other comments, I
7 want to say meeting adjourned.

8
9 (Meeting adjourned at approximately
10 1:36 p.m.)

11
12 * * * * *

13 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

14 * * * * *

15 STATE OF ALABAMA:

16 MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

17
18 I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified
19 Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of
20 Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported
21 the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board
22 Meeting on May 11, 2017.

23 The foregoing 183 computer-printed pages

1 contain a true and correct transcript of the
2 proceedings held.

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

6 This 29th day of June 2017.

7

8

9

10

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2017
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large

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