1	THE FOREVER WILD
2	LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING
3	TROY UNIVERSITY OF MONTGOMERY
4	MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
5	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025
6	10:00 a.m.
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11	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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17	PROCEEDINGS TAKEN BEFORE: JAMIE MCCRACKEN
18	Certified Court Reporter
19	State of Alabama
20	ACCR #451
21	
22	
23	
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1	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
2	COMMISSIONER CHRIS BLANKENSHIP
3	MR. JAMES "MICKEY" CHILDERS
4	MR. ZACH CONLON
5	MR. THOMAS HARRIS
6	MR. JAKE HARPER
7	DR. HEATHER HOWELL
8	DR. BRIAN KEENER
9	DR. JAMES B. MCCLINTOCK
10	DR. A. M. "JAY" NEUMANN, JR.
11	MR. RICK OATES
12	MR. JIMMY PARNELL
13	DR. SEAN POWERS
14	MS. KAREN STANLEY
15	MR. MARK M. TUGGLE
16	DR. JOHN VALENTINE
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1	(WHEREUPON, the Board meeting
2	was called to order and
3	proceedings commenced at
4	10:00 a.m.)
5	
6	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Good
7	morning and welcome to the February 6th
8	Forever Wild Land Trust Board meeting.
9	I'm glad to be here on the campus of
10	Troy University Montgomery. Let me
11	call the role, make sure we have a
12	quorum, and then we'll continue with
13	the meeting. When I say your name, if
14	you're here, please indicate that.
15	Chris Blankenship is here.
16	Mr. Childers.
17	MR. CHILDERS: Here.
18	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
19	Conlon.
20	MR. CONLON: Here.
21	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
22	Harris.
23	MR. HARRIS: Here.
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1	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.	
2	Howell.	
3	DR. HOWELL: Here.	
4	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.	
5	Keener.	
6	DR. KEENER: Here.	
7	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.	
8	McClintock.	
9	DR. MCCLINTOCK: Here.	
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.	
11	Neumann.	
12	DR. NEUMANN: Here.	
13	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.	
14	Oates.	
15	MR. OATES: Here.	
16	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.	
17	Parnell.	
18	MR. PARNELL: Here.	
19	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.	
20	Powers.	
21	DR. POWERS: Here.	
22	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.	
23	Valentine.	
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1	DR. VALENTINE: Here.
2	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
3	Harper.
4	MR. HARPER: Here.
5	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
6	Tuggle.
7	MR. TUGGLE: Here.
8	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Ms.
9	Stanley.
10	(No response).
11	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We
12	almost have 100 percent attendance
13	today. So glad to see everybody here
14	with us. We do have a quorum.
15	I'd like to express my
16	appreciation to Vice Chancellor William
17	Filmore. I was looking to see if
18	William happened to be here. I know
19	the Legislature is in session, and he
20	is probably at the State House. But
21	appreciate him helping line this up.
22	Is there anybody here from Troy
23	that wanted to welcome?
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1 All right. I'm excited to add 2 another campus to our meeting 3 locations. We're trying to see some 4 different areas of higher education 5 around the State and see the facilities 6 that they have to offer and appreciate 7 the chance to be here at Troy 8 Montgomery. 9 We do have three new Board 10 members: We have Zach Conlon from the 11 Athens area. Glad to have Zach with 12 He represents the Northern us. 13 District. We have Thomas Harris from 14 Hope Hull that is here representing the 15 Southern District. And then we have 16 Mark Tuggle from Alexander City, 17 representing the Central District. We will miss the work of the 18 19 other three Board members that rolled 20 off: Dr. Saloom, Raymond Jones, and 21 Jack Darnall. We appreciate their good 2.2. work on the Board. Looking forward to 23 working with the new Board members. Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

I don't think we have any other 1 2 special guests that are here that have 3 been indicated. 4 For the new Board members, we 5 will -- I will -- we'll have this time 6 of public comment and then we'll spend 7 some time, more than likely, in 8 Executive Session to discuss 9 appraisals. And then we'll come back 10 in the room. And I'll go -- try and go 11 slow this morning to make sure that 12 everybody has the opportunity to, as 13 public -- as the public speakers come 14 up, I'll indicate in the -- in your 15 packet what page the properties are 16 where they will be speaking on so you 17 can -- give you time to flip to those 18 so that you'll be able to follow along 19 with the speakers. And feel free to 20 ask any questions of the speakers after 21 they finish with their three minutes. 2.2. At this time, we will begin our 23 public comments. Reminder, it's a Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	three-minute time limit on that so that
2	we have everybody has an opportunity
3	to speak. And our first speaker will
4	be Regina Aycock with the Sugar Camp
5	Branch Addition, page tab 3-B, page
6	3; 3-B, page 3.
7	And if you will speak you've
8	been here before
9	MS. AYCOCK: I have.
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: if
11	you'll just speak into the microphone
12	so that the court reporter will be able
13	to capture
14	MS. AYCOCK: Okay.
15	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
16	all of the comments.
17	And the same thing with the
18	Board members, if you'll please use
19	your microphone so that the court
20	reporter can hear your comments.
21	MS. AYCOCK: Is it on now? Is
22	it on?
23	Good morning. Thank you for
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1 allowing me to be here. My name is 2 Regina Enlow Aycock. I'm from Muscle 3 Shoals, Alabama. I live in Colbert 4 County, and I'm here to represent the 5 240-acre tract in Cherokee; it's 6 referred to as the Sugar Camp Branch. 7 You should have a pretty comprehensive 8 packet on it. 9 Last Board meeting, I had 10 nominated this property for sale back 11 in the summer of 2024. And the Board 12 was good enough to approve the first 13 appraisal on it at the last meeting. Ι 14 don't know if you've had the 15 opportunity to review that appraisal. 16 But the reason I'm here today is to ask 17 the Board for your consideration in a 18 second appraisal and, hopefully, we can 19 proceed with State of Alabama making a 20 purchase. 21 So, I'm here with Mr. Mark 2.2. Pruitt. If you've got any questions, 23 I'm available, he's available. And I'd Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	like to thank you for any
2	consideration.
3	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
4	you, ma'am.
5	MS. AYCOCK: You're welcome.
6	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Our
7	next speaker is Ms. Leslie Gahagan,
8	good friend from South Alabama here
9	today to talk about the Graham Creek
10	Tract; that is tab 4-B, page 17.
11	MR. PARNELL: Commissioner,
12	before they start, I'm not sure the mic
13	is on.
14	MR. CHILDERS: Yeah, I can't
15	hear either.
16	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Okay.
17	Thank you.
18	MS. MCCURDY: I think it got
19	Can y'all hear me? Okay. Well, the
20	green light is on so we've got a mic
21	problem.
22	MS. AYCOCK: I cut it off when I
23	when I stepped away, I cut it off.
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1	MS. MCCURDY: Okay. But they're
2	telling me they can't hear me still.
3	Are y'all still having trouble or y'all
4	can hear?
5	BOARD MEMBER: We can hear the
6	Commissioner on the mic but
7	MS. MCCURDY: But not me. Okay.
8	So, we've got a mic problem, so
9	Actually, I know Leslie well enough to
10	know she can speak loud but give us a
11	minute.
12	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: While
13	they're getting that fixed, this is the
14	Graham Bayou Tract, tab 4-B, page 17;
15	4-B, page 17.
16	(Off the record briefly.)
17	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: If
18	you'll just speak directly into it, I
19	think that'll be fine.
20	MS. GAHAGAN: Is this okay? Can
21	you hear me? Good morning. I'm Leslie
22	Gahagan. I'm the Natural Resources
23	Director from the City of Foley. The
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1	City owns the adjacent parcel to the
2	Graham Bayou Tract, we manage it as the
3	Graham Creek Nature Preserve. The City
4	wanted to share its support for Forever
5	Wild acquisition of this property.
6	Basically, we've been managing Graham
7	Creek for 18 years where we do
8	everything from prescribed fire to
9	invasive control to restoration work.
10	We've been working with the
11	Forestry Commission, as well as the
12	Department of Conservation to also have
13	a lot of public access. We have public
14	education programs events and
15	recreation, including tournaments that
16	bring in very large economic dollars to
17	the State of Alabama. Currently we're
18	preparing for about 2,200 archers from
19	around the world to descend upon Foley
20	in two weeks where they're there for a
21	week spending lots of funds and
22	enjoying that partnership of recreation
23	and conservation.
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1 So, the City just wanted you to 2 be aware that we would be welcome to 3 manage that property in conjunction 4 with our existing preserve. And if you 5 have any questions, I'm here to answer 6 them. 7 Yes, sir? DR. MCCLINTOCK: One of the 8 9 issues that was brought up is access to 10 the property. 11 MS. GAHAGAN: So, the north half 12 of the property is off of Wolf Bay 13 Drive, which is a publicly maintained 14 The southern tract has no road. 15 It is connected to our access. 16 preserve but it has no other access, 17 other than that. 18 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Thank you. 19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 20 you, Leslie. 21 The next speaker is Chandlar 2.2 Graham on the Davidson Creek 23 nomination; that's tab 3-B, page 2; Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 3-B, page 2. 2 MS. MCCURDY: There's also a tab 3 5-C memo, I don't know if you'll need it but tab 5-C in addition to that. 4 5 Thank y'all. Good MR. GRAHAM: 6 morning. I'm Chandlar Graham. Ι 7 represent the landowners here in this 8 transaction. I just want to thank the 9 Board for their patience with this 10 process, as it has been long and a 11 little bit drawn out due to the 12 sellers. But where we are today, the 13 sellers are willing to move forward 14 with the initial offer that was made. 15 There was some talk about a timber 16 reservation on this tract, that has 17 been removed from the table. They're 18 excited about the possibility of 19 completing this with y'all as it was 20 originally structured. 21 So, if there are any questions, I'm happy to answer them. You know, 2.2. 23 this is a fantastic property for the Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 program. And nothing on the property 2 has changed, just -- you know, it's all 3 been internal. So, thank you. 4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 5 you, sir. 6 The next speaker is Chad Hoffman 7 on the same property, the Davidson 8 Creek Tract. 9 MR. HOFFMAN: What's being 10 passed around is just some information 11 that I hope will be helpful during the 12 Executive Session for the Davidson 13 Creek Tract. 14 So, I've spoken about the 15 Davidson Creek Tract before. I've had 16 the excellent opportunity to visit the 17 tract with Chandlar and with Dr. 18 McClintock. I have paddled through 19 that section of Hatchet Creek, which at 20 that -- at that section at Hatchet 21 Creek, you get a unique area where 2.2. Socapatoy Creek is draining in, as well 23 as Davidson Creek, as well as Jacks Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 So, what I've provided on this 2 paper is not just my thoughts or 3 feelings about this property. But I've 4 tried to share some input from what I 5 think we would consider some of the 6 brightest scientists that are employed 7 by the Federal Government and the State 8 of Alabama. 9 So, Hatchet Creek, the entire 10 watershed, which includes this tract of 11 property, has been designated as a 12 strategic habitat unit by the Alabama 13 Rivers and Streams Network. That's a 14 coalition made up of folks from Alabama 15 Department of Conservation and Natural 16 Resources, US Fish and Wildlife, and 17 USGS. 18 So, they've designated this as a 19 strategic habitat unit, meaning that 20 there are species that are endemic to 21 just the Coosa River Watershed or just 2.2. to the Southeast. And -- And they've 23 selected it as a priority watershed to Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	focus activities for management,
2	recovery, restoration, and populations
3	of rare fishes, muscles, snails, and
4	cray and crawfishes.
5	So, I would like for all of
6	y'all to consider that when you're
7	making your decision on whether or not
8	this property should make into the
9	Forever Wild Program because I think
10	it's one that would be very special and
11	one that the rest of Alabama would be
12	thankful for to have it as part of the
13	Forever Wild portfolio.
14	So, thank you for your time.
15	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
16	you, Chad.
17	The next speaker is Doug
18	Morrison, it's, really, just a general
19	update on the Big Canoe Creek Nature
20	Preserve that is one of our Forever
21	Wild properties and is managed, a lot,
22	with the help of the City of
23	Springville.
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1	Go ahead, Doug. Good to see you
2	again.
3	MR. MORRISON: Good to see you
4	again. Thanks for having me. I'm Doug
5	Morrison, manager of Big Canoe Creek
6	Nature Preserve. I just wanted to give
7	you guys an update. We just celebrated
8	our one-year anniversary on February
9	3rd. We're going to have a get-
10	together on February 22nd at the
11	preserve to celebrate that.
12	I wanted to bring you up-to-date
13	on an ADECA grant we had applied for,
14	for the Recreational Trails Program to
15	build an open-air pavilion for
16	educational classes to use. This
17	application has been approved by ADECA
18	and then forwarded to the Federal
19	Highway Administration for their
20	approval, so we're just waiting on
21	that. I just wanted to bring you guys
22	up-to-date on that.
23	Also, I want to introduce you to
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1	Mayor Thomas for the City of
2	Springville.
3	MAYOR THOMAS: Good morning.
4	I'm here this morning just express
5	appreciation for what this Board, this
6	group, has done for the City of
7	Springville. I know that we all
8	consider our communities to be special
9	and Springville's no different. But
10	what we've done partnering together has
11	made Springville even more special.
12	It's become a regional attraction
13	already. It's only going to grow from
14	here. As Doug pointed out, we're only
15	one year in to opening.
16	I should also express, I guess,
17	an apology on behalf of Springville
18	that it took so long to get this going.
19	Y'all made the decision, I think, what,
20	back in 2009? But it wasn't until 2020
21	that we actually got the effort and
22	momentum going to make the improvements
23	to get it done.
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1 I'll leave you with this, I just 2 want to plant a seed. This is not 3 really expected to be anybody's radar; 4 however, I've already spoken some 5 representatives from the Power Company 6 who own quite a bit of -- well, some of 7 the most beautiful property around 8 Springville. 9 So, far their answer is no. But 10 I told them it's not their last no 11 because it's not my last ask. But 12 adjoining the nature preserve is a 13 couple of thousand acres of beautiful 14 property through Washington Valley. 15 So, if you have any influence 16 with the Power Company, Public Service 17 Commission, whatever the local 18 pressures can be brought to bear, 19 that's just something that I've got in 20 the back of mind that I'm trying to 21 bring to the forefront of others minds 2.2. about the future, what we might be able 23 to do. Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	So, again, I just wanted to be
2	here to say thank you, appreciate it
3	very much. I look forward to even
4	greater opportunities for growing
5	conservation at the Big Canoe Creek
6	Nature Preserve. Thank y'all.
7	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
8	you, Mayor. I enjoyed the attending
9	the ribbon cutting up there last year,
10	that was a wildly successful attendance
11	at that event. There were people,
12	filled up the whole entire parking
13	area, the side streets, out on the main
14	highway. It was unbelievable the
15	amount of people that cared about the
16	preserve and that attended that,
17	including former Commissioner that many
18	of you know, Barnett Lawley.
19	Commissioner Lawley was in attendance,
20	it was good to see him.
21	MAYOR THOMAS: It exceeded
22	everyone's expectations. It was
23	fantastic. And we're already, you
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1	know, filling up the parking lot on
2	beautiful days.
3	So, it's only going to grow
4	more.
5	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
6	Wonderful. Thank you for the
7	partnership.
8	The next speaker is Mr. Jerry
9	Joe Ingram on the Cooper Branch, tab
10	4-B, page 9; 4-B, page 9, Cooper
11	Branch.
12	Morning, Jerry Joe.
13	MR. INGRAM: Morning,
14	Commissioner Blankenship and Board
15	members. Thank y'all giving the
16	opportunity. You know, on the Cooper
17	Branch Tract, we do have a
18	representative today from the City of
19	Pelham. I was hoping he would go
20	first. But he made the trip up here
21	and we've had Dr. Howell and Dr.
22	McClintock look at the property.
23	There's There's obviously, you know,
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1 from an ecological and, I guess, 2 preservation standpoint, these mountain 3 hilltops on these tracts do have some 4 endangered plants, some rare plants and 5 stuff. And it's a pretty delicate 6 ecosystem. Dr. Howell was pointing out 7 that some of these spots, you know, 8 these mountain rock-top deals, if they 9 ever -- that ever gets disturbed, a lot 10 of that habitat would be gone forever. 11 So, it kind of meets, you know, 12 some preservation goals, I think, that 13 this Board is -- is -- you know, is 14 part of y'all's, you know -- I quess 15 y'all's job description. 16 The other thing, you know, the 17 City of Pelham, they think enough about 18 projects like this as economic 19 development that they're willing to 20 take, you know, 900 acres out of the City of Pelham that they -- you know, 21 2.2. they could one day, probably, be 23 developed into houses all that; they Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 could bring, you know, a lot of money 2 in ad valorem taxes back. 3 And they see this, you know, as 4 -- you know, as with the Oak Mountain 5 State Park being in their, you know, 6 deal too, that they really see this as 7 economic development. So, they're 8 willing to take, you know, 900 acres of 9 their city limits and -- and, you know, 10 put it into something that -- you know, 11 it's not going to generate any, you 12 know, property tax but they see it as 13 bringing in economic development. And 14 -- you know, and also a service to the 15 community. 16 A lot of us, you know, grew up 17 on farms and have had the -- you know, 18 a lot of opportunities to enjoy the 19 outdoors. But a lot of people that 20 live in these big urban areas, this is 21 a big outlet for them to get out into 2.2. nature. 23 So, you know, that's the only Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

thing we're bringing up.

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2 The other -- The other thing, I 3 know y'all -- y'all have to -- you look 4 at all these -- this property in these 5 packets and you're -- you're listening 6 to us. So, we're getting a little 7 snapshot of what y'all are trying to 8 make decisions on whether to make the 9 decision to -- to do an appraisal or a 10 purchase. You know, with all 11 properties, this has got some little 12 out-parcels in it. 13 And so, my -- my thing would be, 14 you know, if -- if y'all were to make a 15 motion on something like this to -- to 16 have an appraisal done, you know, maybe 17 attached to that motion that you would 18 have a little due diligence period in 19 there. 20 We've got an updated abstract on 21 the property, it's only a year old. We 2.2. could get information like that to 23 Patti and her crew. And if there's any Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	other red flags that show up on there,
2	you know, you can always get out of a
3	deal like that but at least do some
4	kind of preliminary due diligence
5	before you go all in and have an
6	appraisal done.
7	So, that's That's about all I
8	got. Do y'all have any questions?
9	I'll be glad to answer.
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
11	you, Jerry Joe.
12	I think Mr. Michael Simon with
13	the City of Pelham on the same
14	property. Good to see you, sir.
15	MR. SIMON: Thank you. Thank
16	you for allowing the public to speak on
17	such an important subject. Michael
18	Simon, I'm the Economic Development
19	Director with the City of Pelham, and I
20	also happen to be a resident of Pelham
21	in a neighborhood adjacent to the
22	Cooper Branch property.
23	There is plenty of opportunity
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1	for development but this is something I
2	think that is very special to our
3	community and the area. It's in Shelby
4	County. Shelby County has been a great
5	and very progressive county upon
6	creating more trails and more nature
7	areas for its residents. This is no
8	exception. It's a It's a beautiful
9	piece of property.
10	I I had an opportunity to
11	ride through with Jerry just last week.
12	And between the ridges and the area
13	around it, it's is just it's just
14	fabulous: The views, the opportunity
15	to get into nature. Again, as Jerry
16	mentioned, Pelham has Oak Mountain
17	State Park. But in this particular
18	area of Pelham, we don't have
19	certainly not such a large tract to
20	to be engaged with. I would just
21	simply say that as an advocate both as
22	the economic director and as a
23	resident, I I would strongly suggest
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1	and certainly appreciate your
2	consideration for the property.
3	Thank you.
4	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
5	you, sir.
6	The next speaker is Mr. Keith
7	Tassin on the Dugdown Corridor,
8	Cleburne County Tract, 4-B, page 11;
9	4-B, page 11, Dugdown Corridor,
10	Cleburne County Tract.
11	MR. TASSIN: Morning. So, it's
12	my understanding these tracts came up
13	at the last meeting, there was a little
14	confusion. I think there is also a
15	in your packet, a Dugdown Corridor
16	overview map.
17	MS. MCCURDY: Yes, there is.
18	And that would be in your tab 5, and if
19	you'll go to tab 5-D, it's a little
20	it's shown on your shortlist nomination
21	but you have a broader view, if you
22	would like it, more pulled out in your
23	tab 5-D.
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1 MR. TASSIN: So, we have worked 2 -- we have worked with Weyerhaeuser 3 Corporation, which owns these parcels 4 to -- to nominate a subset of their 5 ownership in that area that fit like 6 perfect puzzle pieces; it's all that 7 other conservation work that is going 8 on at Dugdown. So, what -- I'm here 9 today to seek a motion for a first 10 appraisal to try to move that process 11 forwards -- forward with the other 12 conservation projects that are going on 13 in that area. 14 Some of you are familiar with 15 the Dugdown. It's been a real priority 16 for the Nature Conservancy and other 17 partners, primarily on the Georgia 18 side, for years. There's a real 19 opportunity to connect this corridor --20 forest of corridor from the northern 21 end of the Talladega National Forest, 2.2. all the way over to the Sheffield 23 Paulding WMA over in Georgia. The Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 Georgia DNR and other partners have 2 been really involved on the Georgia 3 side where they have been able to 4 conserve thousands of acres on that 5 side. 6 The recent tract that was 7 approved that Forestry Commission and 8 Forever Wild was purchasing on the 9 state line is continuous with protected 10 property on the Georgia side as well. 11 So, this -- these -- these 12 parcels, along with the other 13 conservancy work will create that 14 corridor from the Talladega, well into 15 Georgia. 16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: What 17 did you say, Weyerhaeuser is the --18 MR. TASSIN: Weyerhaeuser --19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: 20 the landowner? 21 MR. TASSIN: Weyerhaeuser is the 2.2. landowner. They own lots of other --23 They own -- They own a large acreage in Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	that area but we were able to work with
2	them to carve out these pieces that we
3	think are critical to this part of the
4	corridor.
5	MR. HARPER: You are speaking on
6	all three tracts?
7	MR. TASSIN: So, there's five
8	five tracts there within this
9	nomination.
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
11	just Let me help orient, especially
12	our new Board members because the
13	some of you are familiar with work
14	that's taking place here. And it is
15	confusing to have three different
16	nominations prior to this.
17	So, the area on if you're
18	looking at the map on 5-D, okay, the
19	map on 5-D, the hatched area that's
20	outlined in red with the red hatch,
21	that is property that the Board has
22	already motioned to acquire, in
23	conjunction with the Forestry
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1 Commission with a Forest Legacy Grant 2 that they've received. And that is in 3 the closing process. 4 The area in the yellow, kind of 5 a mustard yellow color, that is a 6 nomination that we have recently 7 received and that is for another Forest 8 Legacy Grant through the Forestry 9 Commission that will be forthcoming, I 10 quess, in the -- very soon in the -- on 11 the short list. 12 MS. MCCURDY: Yeah. We, on the 13 27th, received the willing seller 14 letter. 15 And so, we will now have it in 16 our process and would expect it to 17 appear on the short list in May, based 18 on the grant funding available, it 19 should short list. 20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All 21 right. Thank you. 2.2. So, that's the yellow area. The 23 area that Mr. Tassin is talking about Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	
1	is all is the other areas that are
2	outlined in red that don't have the
3	hatch; that is the property that he's
4	here to speak on.
5	MR. TASSIN: So, that those
6	tracts are going to close up the gaps
7	remaining if those other those other
8	tracts are purchased, along with some
9	conservation occurring in that area as
10	well.
11	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
12	want to make sure for the new Board
13	members that are there any questions
14	on that before I just want to make
15	sure everybody knows what he's speaking
16	on and what the
17	MR. CHILDERS: I've got a
18	question on that yellow area. There's
19	a lot of area there, does that come
20	under one grant, the whole area, the
21	yellow?
22	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I'll
23	let Mr. Oates speak on that.
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1 Mr. Oates. 2 MR. OATES: Yes. All of that is 3 spread out across that area but it's 4 all one -- one grant, I believe all 5 owned by one -- one person or one -one entity. It's a retirement fund, I 6 7 think, that owns it all and they --8 they have to sell it at some point in 9 the near future, and it's -- so, it is 10 all kind of scattered there. 11 But, yes, that's all one -- one 12 grant. 13 MR. HARPER: Is this 14 Weyerhaeuser too? 15 MR. OATES: No, it's -- it's a 16 retirement fund from the State of Maine I -- No? 17 18 MS. MCCURDY: And I will note 19 for the Board that my staff and Mr. 20 Oates' staff have been working together 21 on the up -- the one we just -- the 2.2. phase two that we just got the willing 23 seller letter on, to begin looking at Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	
1	what would be a proposed split map for
2	the Board so you would be able to see.
3	It would be similar to phase one,
4	approximate, probably 75/25; we're
5	working through all that.
6	So, Forever Wild would not be
7	titled to all the acreage, just,
8	roughly, 25 percent of the value but
9	we're working our staffs are working
10	together on that now.
11	MR. CHILDERS: I was just
12	comparing the yellow to some of this
13	other and thinking about the acreage
14	and the cost, and we may not have
15	enough money in our treasury to buy
16	that.
17	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: And
18	that'll be a good you know, when we
19	when it if it shows back up in
20	May as a short list item, I think we'll
21	have much more information, then, on
22	that.
23	Thank you, Keith.
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1	MR. TASSIN: Thank you.
2	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
3	next speaker is Brandon Grisaffi. Did
4	I do okay on that?
5	All right. Thank you.
6	Brandon Grisaffi on the Turkey
7	Creek Nature Preserve - Red Hollow Road
8	Tract, 4-B, page 23; 4-B, page 23.
9	Give everybody just a second to get
10	back to that one, 4-B, 23.
11	MR. GRISAFFI: Thank you,
12	Commissioner and Board members for
13	letting me speak today. My name is
14	Brandon Grisaffi and I'm the park
15	manager at Turkey Creek Nature
16	Preserve. We're up from Pinson, just
17	north of Birmingham, beautiful Forever
18	Wild tract. If you're not familiar
19	with it, it's 655 acres and we're
20	managed by the Jefferson County
21	Greenways. The Red Hollow Road Tract
22	is directly adjacent to the existing
23	preserve and would make for a seamless
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addition to our property.

2	At Turkey Creek, we offer the
3	community a beautiful and natural space
4	that's safe, clean, and and free to
5	the community around it. Last year we
6	had over 140,000 visitors come through
7	our gate. They come hike, swim, fish,
8	sometimes just hang out. We have 23
9	different schools and community groups
10	bringing over 720 people to the creek
11	for dynamic education programs.
12	Over the last year or so, we've
13	improved security and safety with an
14	increased staff presence at the
15	Preserve and new security cameras.
16	We've added a modern, functional office
17	space for our growing staff. We've
18	refinished park benches and tables
19	throughout; upgraded our greenhouse;
20	and, of course, we've done all this
21	while keeping the park and the trails
22	clean and safe.
23	This year we're going to be
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1 adding a new bioswale to improve water 2 runoff by the creek. We're going to be 3 installing new durable trash cans, 4 benches and tables throughout the whole 5 park, and adding hammock stands along 6 the creek. I say all this to say that 7 this is what we're doing with property 8 we have, and the Red Hollow Road Tract 9 would fall under the same management. 10 We're going to continue to be a 11 beloved green space for the community 12 and the State. And, with the addition 13 of this land tract, we're hoping to 14 make it even bigger and better. 15 Thank y'all. 16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 17 you, sir. 18 The next speaker is Mr. Charles 19 Yeager on the same tract. 20 Good morning, Charles. Good to 21 see you. 2.2. MR. YEAGER: Good morning. 23 Thank you, Commissioner. And thank Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	you, Board. Welcome, new Board
2	members. I appreciate you guys giving
3	me a little a moment here to speak.
4	So, my name's Charles Yeager. I
5	am the Director of Land and Water
6	Conservation for the Jefferson County
7	Greenways. And I want to thank
8	Brandon. Brandon is has taken over
9	my old role. I was the Preserve
10	manager at Turkey Creek for about
11	12-and-a-half years and used to come up
12	and and give updates, just like
13	Brandon just did.
14	I also want to introduce a few
15	other folks that that we have with
16	our group that are here today. We
17	have: Fran Marks, who's our
18	superintendent, he oversees our
19	maintenance and operations team; our
20	Director of External Affairs, Leah; and
21	our interim Executive Director, Janet
22	Simpson. We We have a really great
23	team.
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1 We are now managing Turkey Creek 2 Nature Preserve, Ruffner, and Red 3 Mountain. Over ten years, I -- I came 4 before this Board with a nomination 5 that -- for the Shepherd-Family Addition, it was a little over 240-acre 6 7 addition to the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. Really moved swiftly through 8 9 the process. And the Board did make an 10 offer to the family. There was 16 11 family members attached to the tract. 12 And some -- some disagreements between 13 those family members ended up leading 14 to the collapse of that project and, 15 unfortunately, it didn't move forward. 16 And, honestly, didn't really see 17 light at the end of the tunnel for it, 18 up until last year, when some situate 19 -- the situation with the family kind 20 of changed and they needed to sell the 21 property quickly. They reached out to 2.2. me and the Nature Conservancy of 23 Alabama saw this -- how important this Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	tract was as an addition to Turkey
2	Creek and they stepped up and and
3	they purchased the property.
4	And they they were able to
5	work through, kind of, those challenges
6	with the family to make it possible for
7	this situation to completely change.
8	And so, now it's it's it's
9	been nominated as the Turkey Creek
10	Nature Preserve, TCNP, Red Hollow Road
11	Addition. This is an incredible tract.
12	It's has big, open hardwood forest
13	in the valley and these these, kind
14	of, stunning ridge tops with with
15	longleaf pine, montane longleaf pine
16	and shortleaf pine with big, long
17	stretches of rock outcrops. It's big,
18	diverse, healthy forest. This has got
19	exactly what we want to see. And it is
20	it presents a really great
21	opportunity to protect the watershed,
22	as well, further protections for the
23	watershed that that includes over
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1 ten -- or has -- we have ten 2 threatened, endangered imperiled 3 species in the watershed. Turkey Creek is -- is one of the 4 most heavily used Forever Wild sites. 5 6 We have over 140,000 people that are 7 coming out every year. It's a fairly 8 small, condensed tract. And one of the 9 biggest things that we have people ask 10 for is more opportunities for 11 recreation, for trails. And this --12 this site will provide that. We --13 We've already looked at a conceptual 14 plan for over 12 miles of trail for the 15 site. We really see this as a pivotal 16 opportunity in a -- in a very highly 17 populated area to be able to expand the 18 preserve. 19 I really want to thank -- take a 20 moment and thank the -- the Nature 21 Conservancy, Steve and -- and Keith for 2.2. -- for -- for making this huge effort 23 to -- to work with the family and --Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	and and get this acquisition. And
2	to be able to nominate it to you guys
3	today as as what I think is going to
4	be an important tract in Turkey Creek.
5	I also want to mention that we
6	have made already made an investment
7	in this. We want to share that show
8	that investment, that we're going to be
9	invested in managing this property in
10	the future. We went on and did a first
11	appraisal or did an appraisal that I
12	think, hopefully, will work as a first
13	appraisal to save the costs for the
14	Forever Wild Board. And And that
15	was actually dated for April of last
16	year.
17	So, it's it's kind of a
18	timeline's a little short, but it's
19	there, and it's hopefully, will help
20	this process. I don't know if it will.
21	MS. MCCURDY: Yeah. There
22	You'll You have a memo in your
23	packet, tab 5, that references the
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1 appraisal that was provided. I think 2 our next speaker may be talking about 3 that. So... COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: 4 Thank 5 you. 6 MR. YEAGER: We're available for 7 questions if you guys have any 8 questions. 9 MR. HARPER: The family's out of 10 it now; the Nature Conservancy owns it 11 all? 12 MR. YEAGER: It's a complete 13 change of ownership. 14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 15 you, sir. 16 All right. Next speaker on the 17 same property is Steve Northcutt from 18 the Nature Conservancy. 19 Steve. 20 MR. NORTHCUTT: I'm Steve 21 Northcutt, I'm the Director of 2.2 Protection for the Nature Conservancy. 23 And I know you've heard from two Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	speakers, I'm not going to take a lot
2	of time on this property. But
3	Jefferson County Greenways came to us
4	and asked us if we can step up and
5	acquire this property. We knew that it
6	was a property that the Forever Wild
7	Board had tried to acquire. And we've
8	dealt with a lot of properties where
9	you had heirs that lived in different
10	parts of the State and they all had
11	different expectations of value of the
12	property and they just could not agree
13	on the appraised value that was offered
14	to them.
15	I've worked on a property before
16	where some of the heirs lived in Hawaii
17	and their expectation of property
18	values for Hawaii did not meet the
19	property around Little River Canyon.
20	So, anyway, they asked us if we
21	could step up and acquire the property.
22	It was listed by a realtor. We did
23	have to go through the courts because
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1	the family had to have the judge decide
2	how this property would be sold.
3	And so, it did make it a little
4	bit easier because, instead of having
5	16 family members all haggle over the
6	price, the judge made the decision on
7	this.
8	So, we've acquired the property.
9	We hope the Board considers this an
10	asset and would consider purchasing it.
11	And we're glad to be a party to this.
12	Any questions?
13	MR. HARPER: One question on the
14	access; can they access it from Highway
15	79?
16	MR. NORTHCUTT: The access is
17	from Red Hollow Road, which is just off
18	79. It's kind of confusing on the map.
19	Actually there's there's property
20	that's on both sides of Red Hollow
21	Road.
22	So, there's a there's a road
23	good access. And I'll just tell
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1 you, as you go up Red Hollow Road, you 2 see homes; you see cattle ranches. 3 This would be a real nice property not 4 to be developed and be part of the 5 preserve. So, I think it'd be a 6 property you'd be proud to have as part 7 of the preserve. 8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 9 you, sir. 10 I did fail to notice that Ms. 11 Stanley arrived. 12 MS. STANLEY: Good morning. 13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: T'm 14 glad to have you here, ma'am. 15 We do have 100 percent 16 attendance today for our Forever Wild 17 Board, glad to see all of our members 18 here today. Thank you very much. 19 The next speaker is Mr. Chad 20 Scroggins on -- it's actually tab 5-K, 21 it was in your green folder. It is a 2.2. potential tract in Shelby County. It 23 is not -- has not -- It was, I quess, Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	here to talk about today is there's
2	really the idea of doing phase one
3	as 789 acre purchase that would be
4	offered by EBSCO. It is directly
5	adjacent to Double Oak Park, which is a
6	Shelby County park.
7	So, it would be the give us
8	the opportunity to partner again.
9	Double Oak Park is a purchase and
10	investment of Shelby County to the tune
11	of about eight-and-a-half million
12	dollars that we've already used of our
13	own money. What we're looking at is
14	adding this 789 acres to the the 817
15	acres of Double Oak Park. It is ridge
16	top at the end of the Appalachian Trail
17	and it's also Appalachian Mountains.
18	It's also in a highly there's a lot
19	of development demand around it.
20	So, it gives the opportunity to
21	protect those ridge tops and kind of
22	protect some sedimentation flows that
23	are coming off the tops of the ridge.
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1 The one thing that's unique 2 about this is that we literally could 3 remove three gates, and it would open 4 up trails that are already existing, 5 double track trails, on the property to 6 the 29 miles of trails that we have on 7 our current 817 acres. 8 So, it -- it's -- the 9 opportunity to be ready for public use 10 would be almost immediate. We already 11 have restrooms and -- and pavilions and 12 parking lots on our property that's 13 directly adjacent. So, the access is 14 already there through trails up to this 15 particular piece. 16 The Shelby County Commission 17 would offer 25 percent of the purchase 18 price to partner with you all, which is 19 something unique we've not done before. 20 But it is that important to us that we 21 would partner with you and -- and --2.2. financially and then also take over 23 maintenance like we have done with Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 Cahaba River Parks. I appreciate the 2 opportunity. You'll see more about 3 this at the May meeting. COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: 4 Thank 5 you, Chad. I appreciate the 6 partnership that we have with Shelby 7 County on that. 8 Yes, sir, Mr. Childers. 9 MR. CHILDERS: We're looking at 10 a map and do I understand the green, 11 light green portion is what you're 12 addressing? 13 MR. SCROGGINS: Yes, sir. The 14 pink --15 MR. CHILDERS: And these --16 these other areas adjacent to that are 17 already under somebody's purview. 18 MR. SCROGGINS: The -- The pink 19 that's just to the left is the current 20 807 acres, plus the 10 of Dunnavant 21 Valley Park, this is the 817 that the 2.2. County owns. The greenish-gray color 23 is what we're talking about, the 789 Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 acres. 2 The blue that's come in there, 3 that would, maybe, be something that we 4 can look at years down the line. 5 And then the kind of 6 yellowish-brown color is owned by the 7 Freshwater Land Trust. 8 MR. CHILDERS: All right. What 9 about that phase two; who owns it? 10 MR. SCROGGINS: EBSCO, the same 11 owner. The same owner that we 12 purchased ours from as well. 13 Thank you. MR. CHILDERS: 14 MR. SCROGGINS: Yes, sir. Thank 15 you. 16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 17 you, Chad. 18 And our last speaker is Mr. 19 Brooks Knapp on the same potential 20 nomination. 21 Good to see you again this 2.2. morning, Brooks. 23 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 Commissioner. I'm Brooks Knapp, I'm 2 with EBSCO Industries. I just wanted 3 to let everyone know that we are on 4 board with Shelby County and Forever 5 Wild to do this project in phases or as 6 a whole. We're still talking about it. 7 We're looking to nominate it in -- for 8 the May meeting. 9 MR. CHILDERS: That's the 10 portion of the 1,500-acres-plus? 11 MR. KNAPP: Well, it's the -- we 12 own everything across the top, the 13 1,500 and the 789. In this phase, the 14 789 is what we're going to nominate or 15 something thereabouts, we're still 16 putting the final number on it. 17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 18 you, sir. 19 MR. KNAPP: Thank y'all. 20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: That 21 is the end of all of the green slips I 2.2. have. Is there anybody that wanted to 23 speak that didn't have a chance to Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	speak? Let me get somebody to get you
2	a green slip. So, we can get your name
3	on there for the record.
4	Thank you. Kyle Lybarger is
5	going to speak on the Morgan Hollow
6	Tract, that is 3-B; Morgan Hollow
7	Tract, 3-B, page 4; 3-B, page 4. All
8	right.
9	Thank you, sir. Go ahead.
10	MR. LYBARGER: So, last year
11	or, I guess, a year-and-a-half ago we
12	set out to start protecting some
13	federally endangered plant populations
14	in Alabama. And we wanted to start in
15	an area that is really
16	under-appreciated. And we started in
17	the Moulton Valley.
18	And so, this is an area
19	sandwiched between the Cumberland
20	Plateau and the Tennessee Valley.
21	So, you have tons of TVA
22	property in the Tennessee Valley and
23	you have Bankhead National Forest on
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1	the Cumberland Plateau. But there is,
2	out of 420,000 acres in the Moulton
3	Valley, there's 2 there's only 200
4	acres of grasslands preserved at
5	Prairie Grove Glades.
6	So, 200 acres of public land
7	across 420,000 acres. So, it's really
8	unrepresented habitat.
9	And so, we focused on federally
10	endangered leaf prairie clover and
11	we've acquired three of those
12	populations have protected, two or
13	three other populations, and there's
14	eight populations in the entire State.
15	Those eight populations were found on
16	only two properties, one of them having
17	seven of them. And it's this property
18	that we have presented to you today.
19	The largest population in the State is
20	in the middle of this property and it's
21	larger and has more plants than all the
22	other populations combined. It's a
23	really important area.
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1	Historically Oh. I should
2	also say, we met with TVA last week.
3	There are some power line corridors
4	through there.
5	And so, we're going to be
6	partnering with them to help manage
7	some of these populations that are on
8	some private properties surrounding it.
9	But this area has really great
10	historical significance. I found out a
11	few weeks ago there's petroglyphs on
12	this property on sandstone bluffs, up
13	closer to the Cumberland or on the
14	Cumberland Plateau. And there's a ton
15	of Indian or Native American traces,
16	you know, Buffalo Traces through this
17	property: The High Town Path; the
18	Warriors Path. And this also you
19	know, there's actually two or three
20	other ones I won't list. But this area
21	is actually the Tennessee Divide where
22	two watersheds separate.
23	So, at you know, the
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1	Cumberland Plateau all flows into Black
2	Warrior and everything below it flows
3	into the Tennessee River. But tons of
4	historical significance, lots of plant
5	diversity. Hundreds of species here
6	that are super important for our State,
7	not including Alabama larkspur, which
8	is almost endemic to Alabama, I
9	believe. And when you see this place,
10	if you got our brochure from a few
11	meetings ago, it look unlike anything
12	you you would see anywhere else in
13	Alabama, just tons of color and,
14	really, a real special property. But
15	that's all I've got. Thank y'all.
16	MR. CHILDERS: Question: There
17	is a blue line that indicates National
18	Forest Service. And part of that
19	parcel you're representing lays south
20	of that line; what significance is
21	that?
22	MR. LYBARGER: That's I think
23	that's just across the road.
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1	MS. MCCURDY: I think I can
2	That is That's the Federal
3	acquisition boundary. It just means
4	that, that could it could it
5	falls within an area that's been
6	approved Federally, you know, for the
7	Forest Service to acquire property;
8	that's all it means. But it is part of
9	their acquisition boundary.
10	MR. CHILDERS: But the Forest
11	Service already has significant
12	acquisition below that line.
13	MS. MCCURDY: Correct. Right.
14	MR. CHILDERS: Thank you.
15	MR. LYBARGER: I'd like to say,
16	though, that is a totally different
17	habitat from this area. This is all
18	Moulton Valley, which is there's
19	nothing like that within the National
20	Forest there. So, it's completely
21	different plant species.
22	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
23	you, sir.
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1 All right. Thank you for all 2 our public speakers this morning. 3 By regulation, appraisal values 4 are confidential during periods of 5 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to discuss the tract appraisal values, the 6 7 Board would need to go into recess for 8 an Executive session. 9 Is there a motion for the Board 10 to now recess to attend an Executive 11 session? 12 MR. CHILDERS: So moved. 13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr. 14 Childers I've heard as making the 15 motion. Is there a second? 16 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Second. 17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Tt's 18 seconded by Dr. McClintock. 19 As I call your name, please 20 state your position on the motion to 21 Those in favor, please say recess. 2.2. "yes" or "aye," and those opposed, 23 please say no. Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	Chris Blankenship, yes. Mr.
2	Childers.
3	MR. CHILDERS: Yes.
4	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
5	Conlon.
6	MR. CONLON: Yes.
7	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
8	Harris.
9	MR. HARRIS: Yes.
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
11	Howell.
12	DR. HOWELL: Yes.
13	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
14	Keener.
15	DR. KEENER: Yes.
16	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
17	McClintock.
18	DR. MCCLINTOCK: Yes.
19	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
20	Neumann.
21	DR. NEUMANN: Yes.
22	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
23	Oates.
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1 MR. OATES: Yes. 2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr. 3 Parnell. 4 MR. PARNELL: Yes. 5 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr. 6 Powers. 7 DR. POWERS: Yes. COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: 8 Dr. 9 Valentine. 10 DR. VALENTINE: Yes. 11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr. 12 Harper. 13 MR. HARPER: Yes. 14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Ms. 15 Stanley. 16 MS. STANLEY: Yes. 17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr. 18 Tuggle. 19 MR. TUGGLE: Aye. 20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All 21 are in favor. 2.2 We are now in recess for an 23 Executive Session. It is 10:46. We Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	hope to return in about 20 minutes.
2	Thank you.
3	MS. MCCURDY: And, so, would the
4	Board members just grab your packets
5	and then staff will direct you to the
6	room.
7	(The Board is in recess for
8	Executive session at 10:46
9	a.m.)
10	(Board meeting resumed at
11	11:15 a.m.)
12	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We
13	are back from Executive Session. It is
14	11:15. We'll pick back up with our
15	regular meeting.
16	We are now, for the new members,
17	it's tab the program status report
18	will be tabs 2 and tab 3, and some
19	grant status information from tab 5.
20	Ms. McCurdy will share all those.
21	MS. MCCURDY: Just get ready to
22	flip pages, your favorite. This is
23	like your workout part of the meeting.
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1	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
2	She'll tell you where to turn.
3	MS. MCCURDY: All right. And
4	also I'm looking down. So, if at any
5	point, you can't hear me or you have a
6	question and I didn't see you, please
7	speak up.
8	So, for the Board members, we're
9	going to start tab 2-A. This is would
10	be the one from your green folder, the
11	sort of yellow colored one. This has
12	somewhat updated information that we're
13	able to run based on having now passed
14	the end of the month.
15	So, this is the portion of the
16	meeting that, for the benefit of the
17	public and also the Board, I run
18	through our balance but also factor
19	into that, just like your checkbook,
20	the checks that you want me to write to
21	try to potentially purchase properties.
22	So, any one that you had
23	previously motioned for me to work on,
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1	is reflected, just to be sure that
2	we're conservatively figuring the money
3	you have available as an unencumbered
4	balance to work with.
5	So, if you take into account the
6	following properties, which were at
7	some point motioned for us to proceed
8	toward purchase, if we could, those
9	properties include: Bon Secour River
10	Wetlands Addition; Freedom Hills
11	WMA-Sutton Hill Addition; West Fowl
12	River Tract; we had the Davidson Creek
13	Tract.
14	So, it's still reflected on
15	here; Dugdown Mountain Corridor, this
16	is the Dugdown with the grant funds
17	that AFC secured at 75/25 split; and
18	then the Red Hills Section 23. With
19	all of those properties, potential
20	properties, taken into account, you
21	have an unencumbered balance just over
22	\$31 million.
23	If there are no questions on
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1	that, I will note on the second page of
2	tab 2-A, we will run through any as
3	to any property that had been on two,
4	the front page, what happened to it,
5	whether we closed it; the offer ended
6	up being declined; or for some reason
7	we were not able to get it to purchase
8	and it is no longer in a process. As
9	we started a new fiscal year, right
10	now, all we've got is to update you
11	that the Upper Delta WMA-Stiggins Lake
12	Addition, which was a prior motion,
13	that offer was declined by the
14	landowner.
15	And, so, we have several of the
16	a couple of the properties that are
17	very close to closing. So, you will
18	see more properties on that when we are
19	back in May but, right now, that, for
20	this fiscal year, is all we have.
21	Tab 2-B reflects our running
22	count to the Board of the Stewardship
23	Fund. We had been authorized by the
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1	Board to spend up to an amount equal to
2	\$3 million through the Stewardship
3	Fund. And, for the benefit of the
4	public, each time the Board purchases a
5	property or even accepts a donation of
6	a property, that property, 15 percent
7	of the appraised value for that
8	property is transferred into our
9	Stewardship account to help that
10	property, sort of, carry its weight in
11	the long term maintenance of the
12	properties that the Program has.
13	And so, that means the Board, in
14	addition to actually paying for the
15	property, actually acquire a property,
16	has to have enough money to also
17	transfer that 15 percent.
18	So, as we stand, again, we're
19	kind of early in this fiscal year, we
20	still have, of that \$3 million now
21	this would be a little behind because
22	every day stuff is clearing but
23	still about \$2.6 million available for
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1 our use as needed for management of the 2 tracts. 3 Tab -- At the bottom of tab 2-B 4 and as you move to 2-C, as we've 5 discussed before, this fund is managed 6 for net asset value. You will see in 7 tab C a report that very much 8 appreciate that our State Treasurer 9 provides for you for each quarterly 10 meeting. It gives you some detailed 11 information as to the current 12 investments within that -- within our 13 Stewardship Fund dollars. And as of 14 December 30, the net value was just 15 over 49 -- \$49 million. 16 If there are no questions on 17 Stewardship report, I'm going to 18 continue on. We are now in tab 3. And 19 I would ask you to look at tab 3-A. 20 Again, pull the one you have in your 21 green folder, the yellow in color 2.2. pages, has some updated information. 23 So, in tab 3 we present and Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 remind the public of the properties 2 that have previously had a motion for 3 an appraisal that this Board has made. 4 And so, I report each time, either 5 they're back, they're not back; where 6 we are on them. 7 So, I'm going to run through 8 those now. 9 The properties that have 10 returned appraisals are: Davidson 11 Creek Tract, Coosa County; Freedom 12 Hills WMA-Sugar Camp Branch Addition, 13 Colbert; Morgan Hollow, Lawrence 14 County. Again, thinking of cash 15 available, we kind of run through that 16 because, also, you can keep that in 17 mind into any future motions you might 18 want to make. And then we have been 19 delivered, as we've discussed before, 20 not an appraisal that you motioned but 21 an appraisal that was provided on the 2.2. Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Red Hollow 23 Road Addition; that's not anything that Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	the staff does anything with other than
2	review, unless otherwise motioned by
3	this Board but it is something I have
4	in hand, so I mention that.
5	If there are no questions as to
6	the tracts that currently sit on our
7	appraised nominations list, we will
8	move into where we talk about grant
9	opportunities. But I'm going to pause
10	just a second to see if anybody had
11	anything or, Commissioner, you had
12	anything before I roll into grant
13	status.
14	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
15	Anybody?
16	DR. POWERS: One.
17	MS. MCCURDY: Yes, sir, Dr.
18	Powers.
19	DR. POWERS: So, just
20	clarification. So, the Davidson Creek
21	Tract is even though it's still
22	needs a motion, it's deducted already
23	from our balance?
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1 MS. MCCURDY: I did because that 2 was a prior property. So, you're 3 really seeing it in two places. Yes, 4 it's already taken into consideration. And tab 5-C is the memo that I did. 5 6 And, just to clarify on this one and 7 the motion that we would need in the 8 general discussion session -- section 9 of the agenda or agenda item, if you 10 want to proceed. But because that 11 offer was initially rejected, I would 12 not move forward without a brand new 13 motion now from the Board. We would 14 begin again. 15 DR. POWERS: But the balance is 16 calculated as if we've moved forward. 17 MS. MCCURDY: Yes, that is 18 correct, because of your prior motion. 19 All right. Any additional 20 questions before we move into grant 21 status? 2.2. All right. Then if you'll turn 23 to tab 5-A in your packet. This is the Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	portion of the meeting where each time
2	I just update the Board on where we
3	are, either as the grant opportunities
4	that we have secured; grant
5	opportunities connected with a
6	nomination, that if the Board is
7	interested in, I want you to know it
8	would go toward reducing the cost in
9	some instances of those transactions.
10	And so, I want to run through.
11	The staff is always looking for grant
12	opportunities, either in connection
13	with potential acquisition to give you
14	that option or in connection with, sort
15	of, mitigating the cost of managing the
16	tracts.
17	So, I'll run through those now,
18	again, tab 5-A. As you have heard
19	before, we have two tracts that are in
20	closing excuse me, three tracts now
21	that are in the closing process that
22	have benefited from grant funding: The
23	Bon Secour River Wetlands Addition, we
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1	had a National Coastal Wetlands
2	Conservation Grant Program award that
3	contributed to approximately 69 percent
4	of the acquisition cost but also gave
5	us some money for fire-lane
6	installation, some initial prescribed
7	burning, and some trail development
8	that would lessen the money that we
9	would pull from the Stewardship Fund.
10	And that property is just in the
11	closing process.
12	Similarly we have the Red
13	Hills-Section 23 Addition. That was an
14	opportunity that Chuck Sykes, through
15	his Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
16	Division offered to utilize their
17	Pittman-Robertson funding on a 75/25
18	split of that property; they used the
19	grant funding for the 75 percent. The
20	Board's expenditure for a 25 percent
21	value constitutes the required
22	State-base match that Chuck has to have
23	to access those Federal funds. Without
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1 Forever Wild's dollar, Chuck would not 2 be able utilize his Pittman-Robertson 3 funding. 4 Dugdown Mountain Corridor, 5 similarly, another grant opportunity 6 but this was an award secured by the 7 Alabama Forestry Commission. It 8 provided a similar 75/25 approximate 9 structure by which Forever Wild has 10 titled the 25 percent and the Forestry 11 Commission uses the grant funding to 12 acquire a title to approximately the 75 13 remaining percent. Again, without 14 Forever Wild's dollar as a State-base 15 match, Mr. Oates would not have been 16 able to accept that grant opportunity. 17 So, all those are in closing. 18 Of the -- the rest 19 opportunities, right now, are really 20 just an update on dollars related more 21 to management or additional 2.2. recreational opportunities. We 23 continue work on Little River Canyon. Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	That was the National Fish and Wildlife
2	Foundation, Cumberland Plateau I
3	never can say that Southern
4	Appalachian Fund Grant. We were not
5	able, due to weather, to conduct the
6	burn we had hoped to back right after
7	our last meeting but I think it will be
8	underway here shortly and I still think
9	we are on track for the planting work
10	to begin in March or April. We are
11	continuing work on the utilizing the
12	GOMESA, Gulf of Mexico Energy Security
13	Act funding that, Commissioner, working
14	with the Governor, was able to obtain
15	and to improve our access on the
16	Mobile-Tensaw Delta Bartram Canoe Trail
17	and also the Perdido River Canoe Trail.
18	And some of those structure
19	improvements, some new structure, some
20	enhancements of existing structures,
21	some of those do fall on Forever Wild
22	properties.
23	So, we're excited to get that
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1	moving. We are anticipating that we'll
2	be able to put bids go out for bids
3	for the construction contractor,
4	hopefully, in April.
5	So, hopefully, by May, I'll have
6	a further update on that. But those
7	are the current leveraging
8	opportunities or grant funding
9	opportunities that we're working on.
10	If there are any questions on that,
11	I'll take those now.
12	If not, we will move on to tab
13	4. Let me pause there for a second.
14	All right. So, if the Board
15	would now turn to tab 4 and turn to tab
16	4-A. This is the portion of the
17	meeting that I review for the public
18	and also be sure we are reviewing for
19	the Board the nominations that have
20	made it through our scoring process and
21	scored well enough to earn a spot on
22	what we call the shortlist; that is the
23	priority listing as it's referred to
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under Amendment 543. Each nomination 1 2 that we get in from the public, we 3 first get a willing seller letter to 4 confirm that landowner is okay with 5 their property being discussed in 6 public and being part of this process 7 and being scored. 8 Once we have that in hand, they 9 are scored in four categories: Nature 10 preserve; recreation, that could be 11 anything from hiking, biking, to 12 hunting or bird watching, basically any 13 form of recreation; then, as an 14 addition to or a new wildlife 15 management area or special opportunity 16 area that is specifically managed in 17 those two hunting programs; or an 18 addition to or a new State park. 19 So, those are the four 20 categories. The nominations, once 21 scored, then compete in our three 2.2. districts: The Northern, Central, and 23 Southern districts. And they have to Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	score in the top three ranking in at
2	least one of those categories to make
3	it onto our shortlist within their
4	district. Some tracts have attributes
5	that mean they score in more than one
6	category so we always have a varying
7	number of tracts on the shortlist. But
8	I want to run through those now.
9	As usual, kind of keep the
10	meeting moving, I am going to briefly
11	reference those tracts. And you just
12	flip with me tab in 4-B. And, again,
13	if you have a question, speak up, I may
14	not see your hand.
15	So, the tracts that have scored
16	and made it onto the shortlist include
17	the following: Beaverdam Swamp-Lowe
18	Addition. I will note on this one that
19	the landowner has offered this tract as
20	a donation to the Program and have also
21	offered to further contribute 15
22	percent of the appraised value to carry
23	on into the Stewardship Fund. I will
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1	say that we will have to the staff
2	will take its own appraisal action to
3	gain that valuation to get that 15
4	percent figure.
5	So, that would be off of our
6	work with the appraiser. But the land,
7	itself, would be donated and then 15
8	percent of the appraised value.
9	Next tract, Bennett Creek Tract.
10	MS. STANLEY: Excuse me, Ms.
11	Patti.
12	MS. MCCURDY: Yes, Ms. Stanley.
13	MS. STANLEY: This tract has
14	been on for four meetings; if we take
15	no action, it drops off. Can you tell
16	us what is taking so long with this
17	particular one?
18	MS. MCCURDY: Oh, I think it's
19	just the Board. The count, for the
20	benefit of the public, we do keep a
21	count because this is a living,
22	competitive list, and we want to be
23	sure properties have the opportunity to
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1	get on. We keep track of whether or
2	not there is Board action at a meeting.
3	So, if we go a certain number of
4	meetings without Board action, meaning
5	you have not motioned to move forward
6	with the property, maybe a first
7	appraisal, or maybe you have something
8	you want the staff to investigate, that
9	sort of that slows it down. This
10	tract has really not the Bennett
11	Creek Tract has not really experienced
12	any problems. I think it's really been
13	more the Board not making a motion and
14	the fact that we have not had
15	cooperation from the landowner where I
16	can give you a more clear answer on
17	this tract. We have an access concern.
18	The best we can determine, there's
19	about a 20-foot gap of us having actual
20	public access, again, not just for
21	staff to be able to get on it but
22	public access.
23	So, the delay on our end has
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1	really been from the landowner. And
2	then, obviously, the Board has been
3	hesitant to make a motion on this
4	because we have access concerns.
5	So, it's been a combination of
6	the two. We are continually assured by
7	the landowner that there is access and
8	they're going to give it to us; we have
9	not received it. So
10	MS. STANLEY: And I would point
11	out for the benefit of the public, it
12	was first brought up in 2017.
13	MS. MCCURDY: And what you'll
14	see on that, the reason you see that
15	the '17 date I'm sorry. Now I see
16	your the length of time question
17	better. Nominations, because this is a
18	competitive list, they can come on and
19	come off. If a landowner, by their own
20	accord, does not pull the nomination,
21	then it can pop back on. It doesn't
22	start anew. We keep the count going,
23	okay. It was a while before this one
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1	rolled on to begin with. We have kept
2	count. We do keep count. It doesn't
3	roll off and start over. But, yes, it
4	is possible if the landowner has not
5	pulled the nomination and, until it
6	runs its course, if it pops on and off
7	due to the lack of higher scoring
8	nominations, you would you could see
9	one last that long.
10	MS. STANLEY: Thank you.
11	MS. MCCURDY: After the Bennett
12	Creek Tract, we next have Coon
13	Gulf-Craze Bend Addition, that's in
14	Jackson County. I think I failed to
15	say the counties, I will pick up doing
16	that.
17	Next we have Cooper Branch
18	Tract, Shelby County; Dugdown Corridor,
19	Cleburne County Tract. And this is the
20	one that would be 100 percent Forever
21	Wild acquisition since there is no
22	grant funding on that; Dunnavant Valley
23	Oaks, crosses both Shelby County and
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1	Jefferson Counties; Freedom Hills
2	WMA-Heard Addition, Colbert County;
3	Graham Bayou Tract, Baldwin County;
4	this is a tract I always note if
5	we've had specific offer of more than
6	just support but actual assistance
7	and you heard the speaker earlier, the
8	City of Foley has the adjacent Graham
9	Creek Nature Preserve, has offered to
10	incorporate that into the overall
11	management of their tract; Mount Vernon
12	Tract, Mobile County; Turkey Creek
13	Nature Preserve-Bell Addition,
14	Jefferson County.
15	And I will say, if motions are
16	made, heads up, we do have two Turkey
17	Creek Nature Preserve nominations. So,
18	we'll be careful each time, if there is
19	a motion, which one we're speaking on.
20	Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Red Hollow
21	Road Addition; Weeks Bay Reserve-Holley
22	Addition in Baldwin County; and Weeks
23	Bay Reserve-White Addition in Baldwin
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1 County. Those had been -- Both of 2 those Weeks Bay Tracts had been tracts 3 we had -- sometimes we'll be able to 4 access some grant funding on through 5 NOAA, we have not been able to access 6 or secure any grant funding on either 7 one of those. Just for those who've 8 been on the Board, we have had, in the 9 past, some but we have not been able to 10 secure that on either of those. 11 So, Commissioner, that, unless 12 there are questions, runs through my 13 usual reports. And so, we would go to 14 general discussion, unless you have 15 something. 16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any 17 questions about that? 18 Dr. Powers. 19 DR. POWERS: So, you're not --20 for the Weeks Bay one, I think y'all 21 pretty much exhausted all of the -- I 2.2. mean, if ---23 MS. MCCURDY: We have. Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 DR. POWERS: if we want it, 2 it's going to be totally us; it's just 3 the Fed programs just aren't that 4 interested. 5 MS. MCCURDY: And it's, too, 6 sometimes a priority in how we you 7 know, what we access the funds for and 8 have the numbers on; sometimes, you 9 know, we've bought used some for, 10 like, facility upgrades for solar 11 panels and different things, HVC 12 repairs. 13 So, there just hasn't been 14 enough money in the Program for us to 15 be able to secure that. 16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All 17 right. Thank you. 18 So, this is the part of the 19 meeting, called general discussion. 20 This is where motions are generally 21 made for first or second appraisals on 22 property. For the benefit of the new 23 members, I will and the court		
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21 made for first or second appraisals on 22 property. For the benefit of the new 23 members, I will and the court	19	meeting, called general discussion.
22 property. For the benefit of the new 23 members, I will and the court	20	This is where motions are generally
23 members, I will and the court	21	made for first or second appraisals on
	22	property. For the benefit of the new
Boggs Reporting & Video LLC	23	members, I will and the court
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1 reporter -- I will try and go extremely 2 slow on that today to make everybody 3 feels comfortable and understands what 4 we're voting on. And if you're unsure 5 of something, since this is a long table and everybody's beside me, just 6 7 speak up if you have a question. Ι 8 want to make sure everybody is 9 comfortable in the actions that we take 10 of the Board. 11 So, at this point, I will 12 entertain any motions that people may 13 have on any of these. 14 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Commissioner 15 Blankenship. 16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr. 17 McClintock. 18 DR. MCCLINTOCK: I motion for 19 the Board to approve staff proceeding 20 with a second appraisal and purchase of 21 the original Davidson Creek Tract as 2.2. described in the memo dated February 6, 23 2025. Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
2	right. Is there a second?
3	DR. POWERS: Second.
4	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: It's
5	seconded by Dr. Powers.
6	So, this is a motion for a
7	second appraisal and move to purchase
8	on the original Davidson Creek
9	nomination.
10	Any questions or discussion on
11	that?
12	MS. STANLEY: Yes, sir, I have a
13	question.
14	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Yes,
15	ma'am.
16	MS. STANLEY: Just trying to get
17	an idea of context. I see that this is
18	Coosa County. I see this is Davidson
19	Creek Tract, it's 2,103 acres; what is
20	the other acreage that we have in Coosa
21	County? Is this really needed for
22	preservation or is there already a lot
23	of preservation there?
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1	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
2	think we have off the top of my
3	head, I can't tell you how many acres
4	we have there. I think it was
5	mentioned in the earlier, somewhere
6	between 10 and 11,000 acres that we
7	have in Coosa County, that is a part of
8	our wildlife management area there,
9	some of it is along Hatchet Creek.
10	Whether we need that or not, I guess,
11	is a decision for the Board.
12	MS. STANLEY: Gotcha.
13	MS. MCCURDY: Did you see part
14	of that, to the far left, in yellow.
15	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
16	Parnell.
17	MR. PARNELL: A lot of the
18	citizens of Coosa County would tell me
19	and have told me that Forever Wild owns
20	too much of Coosa County already.
21	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
22	other questions or discussion?
23	(No response).
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1	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
2	the motion is for a second appraisal
3	and move to purchase on the Davidson
4	Creek Tract. All those in favor,
5	please raise your hand.
6	MS. MCCURDY: If y'all would,
7	keep your hands up, Ashley's going to
8	help me since we're spread out.
9	So, I see, one, two, three,
10	four, five, six, seven, eight, nine.
11	But please keep your hands up.
12	Ashley, is that nine? Nine
13	affirmative, Commissioner.
14	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
15	those opposed?
16	MS. MCCURDY: Opposed: One,
17	two, three, four, five.
18	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
19	Motion carries. Thank you.
20	DR. KEENER: Are you ready for
21	another motion?
22	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Yes,
23	sir.
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I

1	DR. KEENER: I would like to
2	make a motion for a second appraisal
3	and purchase for the Morgan Hollow
4	Tract.
5	MR. TUGGLE: Second.
6	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: It's
7	seconded by So, the motion was made
8	by Dr. Keener for a second appraisal
9	and move to purchase on the Morgan
10	Hollow Tract. Seconded by Mr. Tuggle,
11	one of our new Board members. I think
12	this may be Dr. Keener's first motion,
13	as well. So
14	Is there any question or
15	discussion on that tract?
16	(No response).
17	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
18	those in favor, please raise your hand.
19	MS. MCCURDY: Thirteen,
20	Commissioner.
21	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
22	those opposed?
23	(No response).
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1	MS. MCCURDY: No hands were
2	raised.
3	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
4	right. Motion carries.
5	MR. CONLON: Commissioner, I'd
6	like to make a motion on the Beaverdam
7	Creek, accepting the donation of
8	Beaverdam Swamp on the condition that
9	the landowner also contributes
10	approximately 15 percent of the
11	appraised value towards the stewardship
12	transfer.
13	MS. MCCURDY: And that's the
14	Beaverdam Swamp Lowe Addition, for all,
15	that's tab 4-B, page 3.
16	MR. HARPER: I second it.
17	BOARD MEMBER: And I'd like some
18	discussion on that. Can we put in that
19	motion that we will have another
20	appraisal; you know, we discussed that
21	earlier, not the fellow that already
22	appraised it.
23	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
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1	That's a different property. This one
2	does not have an appraisal already.
3	We'll have to have an have to do an
4	appraisal on this one to set the value
5	of the property so they can set the 15
6	percent for the Stewardship Fund.
7	MS. MCCURDY: Just in fairness
8	to the landowner, we were provided an
9	appraisal, but it was not one that we
10	could utilize.
11	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
12	you for that clarification.
13	So, the motion was made by Mr.
14	Conlon and seconded by Mr. Harper to
15	accept the donation of the Beaverdam
16	Swamp property with the understanding
17	that we would have an appraisal done
18	and the landowner would provide 15
19	percent of the appraised value into the
20	Stewardship Fund. Is that the Does
21	that sound Everybody clear on that?
22	That's the motion. All right. All
23	those in favor, please raise your hand.
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1	(Board members raising
2	hands).
3	MS. MCCURDY: That's unanimous,
4	Commissioner.
5	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
6	right. The motion carries. Thank you.
7	DR. KEENER: Commissioner.
8	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
9	Keener.
10	DR. KEENER: I would like to
11	make a motion for a first approval of
12	the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Red
13	Hollow Road Addition.
14	DR. MCCLINTOCK: I'll second
15	that.
16	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
17	right. So, the motion was made by Dr.
18	Keener, seconded by Dr. McClintock, for
19	a first appraisal on the Turkey Creek
20	Nature Preserve-Red Hollow Road
21	Addition. Any questions or discussion
22	on that motion for a first appraisal?
23	MS. STANLEY: Yes, sir. I
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1	wasn't quite sure why this one is
2	coming before us because it's already
3	under conservation. What do we add to
4	the picture if we purchase this
5	property?
6	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: That
7	is a valid point.
8	MS. STANLEY: For Board debate,
9	I'm, you know
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Yes,
11	ma'am. That is a valid point. It is
12	Whether the Board decides if they
13	want to own it or somebody else own it.
14	DR. KEENER: Can I speak to
15	that?
16	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Yes,
17	sir, Dr. Keener.
18	DR. KEENER: The Nature
19	Conservancy purchases land and they
20	have money tied up in this. I think
21	they would like to get their money out
22	so they can purchase another tract,
23	perhaps, for conservation.
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1	MS. STANLEY: So, was the point
2	to make this expedient for the family
3	and they really wanted us to buy it all
4	along; was that the point?
5	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
6	don't know if that was the point but
7	that has happened multiple times in the
8	past where a land trust or a group like
9	that will acquire the property and then
10	bring it to the Board for ultimate
11	ownership and long term protection.
12	Yes, ma'am.
13	MS. MCCURDY: And in this
14	situation, this had previously it
15	may predate everyone on this Board
16	but it was the Turkey Creek Nature
17	Preserve Shepherd Addition. It was
18	something the Board tried to get; could
19	not. I think the Nature Conservancy
20	stepped in to assist the family and
21	then get it to a point where they could
22	acquire it to make it a potential
23	addition to Turkey Creek Nature
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Preserve.

2	And I think the question to the
3	Nature Conservancy, I think they would
4	the reason they have nominated it,
5	is to benefit the Preserve but, also,
6	not to be the long term landowner and
7	manager there. But it's up to this
8	Board whether to then bring it into
9	Forever Wild.
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
11	Powers.
12	DR. POWERS: Yeah, just to kind
13	of echo what Chris said, I mean, our
14	experience with the Nature Conservancy
15	has been well, at least my opinion,
16	they're very good and they'll use those
17	funds when they're freed up to purchase
18	another acquisition.
19	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
20	other comments or questions?
21	Dr. Neumann.
22	DR. NEUMANN: Yeah. For the
23	Nature Conservancy, I think they try to
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1 protect these pieces --2 MS. MCCURDY: I'm sorry. Speak 3 into the microphone, Dr. Neumann. 4 DR. NEUMANN: Yeah. So, I think 5 the Nature Conservancy is doing it for 6 the right reasons to get it so we can 7 protect it forever. 8 MS. MCCURDY: Was there a 9 question on this end? 10 BOARD MEMBER: Can't hear. 11 MS. MCCURDY: Oh, I'm sorry. Ι 12 cannot hear. 13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: He 14 just said that the Nature Conservancy 15 has done that in the past and they were 16 trying to protect those type things for 17 the right reasons. 18 DR. NEUMANN: Yes, sir. 19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So, 20 the motion is for a first appraisal on 21 the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Red 2.2. Hollow Road Addition, first appraisal. 23 All those in favor, please raise your Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 hand. 2 MS. MCCURDY: If y'all could 3 keep them up just a minute. Commissioner, we have 13 4 5 affirmative. 6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any 7 "no"? MS. MCCURDY: We have two "nos." 8 9 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All 10 right. The motion carries. Thank you. 11 DR. HOWELL: Mr. Commissioner. 12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr. 13 Howell. 14 DR. HOWELL: I would like to 15 make a motion for a first appraisal for 16 the Cooper Branch Tract. 17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Howell has made a motion for a first 18 19 appraisal for the Cooper Branch Tract 20 in Shelby County; is there a second? 21 MS. MCCURDY: And that's tab 2.2 4-B, page 9. I see a couple of people 23 Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	MR. CONLON: I'll second.
2	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: It's
3	seconded by Mr. Conlon. Any
4	discussion, questions on that tract?
5	(No response).
6	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
7	those in favor of a first appraisal on
8	the Cooper Branch Tract, please raise
9	your hand.
10	MS. MCCURDY: Nine,
11	Commissioner.
12	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
13	opposed?
14	MS. MCCURDY: Three.
15	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
16	motion carries.
17	DR. MCCLINTOCK: Commissioner
18	Blankenship.
19	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
20	McClintock.
21	MS. MCCURDY: Speak into the
22	microphone if you could, Dr.
23	McClintock, thanks.
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1	DR. MCCLINTOCK: I'd like to do
2	the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve but
3	the smaller Bell Tract this time.
4	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
5	that's for a first appraisal on the
6	Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Bell
7	Tract?
8	DR. MCCLINTOCK: Correct.
9	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
10	80 acres?
11	DR. MCCLINTOCK: Correct.
12	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Is
13	there a second?
14	DR. NEUMANN: I'll second.
15	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
16	Neumann, thank you. So, this is for a
17	first appraisal on the Turkey Creek
18	Nature Preserve-Bell Tract, is there
19	any questions or discussion on that?
20	(No response).
21	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
22	those in favor, raise your hand.
23	MS. MCCURDY: Thirteen.
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1	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: And
2	any opposed?
3	MS. MCCURDY: We have one.
4	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
5	motion carries.
6	Dr. Neumann.
7	DR. NEUMANN: Yes, I'd like to
8	make a motion to the Board to proceed
9	with the first appraisal for the Graham
10	Bayou Tract.
11	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
12	that's a motion by Dr. Neumann for a
13	first appraisal on the Graham Bayou
14	Tract. Is there a second?
15	MR. TUGGLE: Second.
16	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: It's
17	seconded by Mr. Tuggle. Thank you.
18	Any discussion on that?
19	(No response).
20	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
21	those in favor for a first appraisal on
22	the Graham Bayou Tract, please raise
23	your hand.
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1	MS. MCCURDY: Thirteen.
2	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
3	those opposed?
4	(No response).
5	MS. MCCURDY: I don't see any
6	hands.
7	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
8	right. The motion carries.
9	MS. STANLEY: Commissioner.
10	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Yes,
11	ma'am, Ms. Stanley.
12	MS. STANLEY: I move to first
13	appraisal for Dugdown Corridor,
14	Cleburne County, noting the very high
15	scores, NP, recreation, and WMA.
16	DR. KEENER: I second that,
17	Commissioner.
18	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
19	Keener.
20	So, the motion was made by Ms.
21	Stanley and seconded by Dr. Keener for
22	a first appraisal on the Dugdown
23	Mountain, Cleburne County Addition.
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1	Any questions on that while we're
2	talking about it, since there were a
3	couple of those on that map, let me
4	make sure, any questions on that,
5	everybody?
6	All right. All those in favor
7	of a first appraisal on the Dugdown
8	Mountain, Cleburne County Addition,
9	please raise your hand.
10	(Board members raising
11	hands).
12	MS. MCCURDY: Fourteen,
13	Commissioner.
14	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
15	opposed?
16	(No response).
17	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
18	motion carries.
19	MR. CHILDERS: Mr. Chairman.
20	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
21	Childers.
22	MR. CHILDERS: I'd to make a
23	motion for first appraisal on the Coon
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1	Gulf-Craze Bend Addition, 80 acres.
2	DR. HOWELL: Second.
3	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
4	right. The motion was made by Mr.
5	Childers, seconded by Dr. Howell for a
6	first appraisal on the Coon Gulf-Craze
7	Bend Addition. Any discussion or
8	questions on that?
9	All those in favor for the first
10	appraisal on the Coon Gulf-Craze Bend
11	Addition, please raise your hand.
12	(Board members raising
13	hands).
14	MS. MCCURDY: Fourteen.
15	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
16	those opposed?
17	(No response).
18	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
19	motion carries. Anybody else? I
20	rarely make a motion, however
21	MS. MCCURDY: This is rare.
22	Wow. He caught the fever today.
23	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
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1 did. I did. So, I would like to make 2 a motion for a second appraisal and 3 move to purchase on the Freedom Hills 4 WMA Sugar Camp Branch Addition in 5 Colbert County. Is there a second? 6 DR. POWERS: Seconded by Dr. 7 Powers, motion made by Commissioner 8 Blankenship. Any discussion on that? 9 All those in favor, please raise 10 your hand. 11 (Board members raising 12 hands). 13 MS. MCCURDY: Thirteen, 14 Commissioner. 15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any 16 opposed? 17 MS. MCCURDY: No hands. 18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The 19 motion carries. That is a lot in one 20 day. 21 Appreciate everybody's interest 2.2 in that. I think that -- Any other 23 discussion before we move into the Boggs Reporting & Video LLC

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1 reports or anything else anybody wants 2 to bring up? 3 MS. MCCURDY: All right. 4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Ms. 5 McCurdy. 6 MS. MCCURDY: We'll move into 7 miscellaneous reports. I'm not sure 8 it's going to be as exciting as all 9 that, but we'll move there. 10 So, turn to tab 5. And we have 11 already discussed a few of the items 12 that were in tab 5. 13 So, I think that you can go to 14 -- I'm just going to go in order. 15 There's no magic to this order, it's 16 just what I was able to gather at the 17 mailing of the packet and then what had to follow. 18 19 So, let's go to tab 5-E. And I 20 will just note for the Board that this 21 is -- I'm sorry. I skipped over tab 2.2. 5-B. Y'all forgive me, I got carried 23 away. Start with tab 5-B. This is --Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 There is no news here, which is, I 2 think, why I forgot it. 3 But I do want to note that at 4 each meeting the No Board Action, or 5 NBA, count that Ms. Stanley had 6 referred to earlier, this is the point 7 in the meeting in which I let you know 8 if something is about to roll off and 9 if you -- if you don't take action. 10 This time we have a few that are going 11 to be on it next time, but right now we 12 don't have any, either on the shortlist 13 or appraised nominations. 14 So, nothing for you to do. But 15 I didn't want to totally skip over it. 16 So, now, if you'll go to tab 17 Tab 5-E is a report that we are 5-E. 18 doing on a quarterly basis for the 19 Board that provides some information on 20 the -- our efforts to mitigate feral 21 hogs on the Forever Wild acreage. 2.2. So, we are doing that both 23 through continuing and ongoing, but Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	with this Board's additional funding on
2	this, have purchased additional
3	equipment, cameras, et cetera, traps,
4	the things that we need that were
5	enhancing staff's ongoing efforts but
6	ramp them up.
7	And, then, also, we have secured
8	contractor services to also help us
9	with the trapping, elimination,
10	removal, et cetera.
11	So, this quarterly meeting I
12	just wanted to give our usual update.
13	You'll see attached the spreadsheet
14	that we are maintaining and to tell you
15	that the contractor services are going
16	well. We had focused on, since we had
17	not done this before, three tracts:
18	Little River SOA; Live Oak Landing; and
19	Grand Bay Savanna, that complex, those
20	three areas for our initial contractor
21	services to be sure how we're going to
22	handle that and be sure we were
23	utilizing the contractors and the
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1 contractor well. 2 And so, we are -- that's going 3 well and will be expanded onto some 4 other properties. If there are any 5 questions, I'll take those but that was 6 one of our standard items, sort of like 7 tab 5-B. 8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Т 9 will say that I had a positive 10 conversation with Senator David 11 Sessions about the work that's taking 12 place in the Grand Bay Swamp in his 13 district, he was very thankful for the 14 work of our staff and the contractor on 15 that property. 16 MS. MCCURDY: All right. Just very briefly I will let the Board know, 17 18 for those who may have wondered, one of the nominations that had been on the 19 20 shortlist but fell off due to some 21 other competition was the Hale Springs 2.2. Tract. There's no immediate update. 23 That's the one in Hoover, or near Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

Hoover, that the Friends of Shades Creek have spoken about. They're still talking to the various jurisdictions on that property. There's no real update on that but I did want -- I didn't want you to think they had pulled it or given up by the fact you did not see it on the shortlist.

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9 The next item will be tab 5-G. 10 We have now rolled into your green 11 folder, so if you haven't moved your 12 This is also standard, items over. 13 once a year, that we give to the Board 14 a copy of the Forever Wild Land Trust 15 annual report that is required under 16 Amendment 543. The amendment that 17 formed the Program requires that an 18 annual report be given to the Governor 19 and Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker 20 that tracks the activities of the Board 21 over the last fiscal year period. 2.2. So, this report would have been 23 -- would have ended -- it's October to Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 September and would have ended 2 September 30, 2024. 3 So, it tracks on the fiscal year 4 basis. It discusses the properties 5 we've acquired. It reviews what 6 whoever may have been on the Board 7 during that period. 8 So, we were pleased to deliver 9 the report and note the acquisitions 10 across five counties in the State; it's 11 approximately 6,381 acres that were 12 brought into the program and a very 13 good representative bunch of properties 14 touching all four of our categories: 15 Recreation opportunities, hunting 16 opportunities, important habitats, as 17 well as just State park additions, Lake 18 Guntersville and Oak Mountain. 19 We were able to leverage over \$5 20 million in grant funding related to 21 those acquisitions. Our percentage of 2.2. categories, how they're managed, remain 23 very similar, but to repeat those, we Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	have 93 percent of the Forever Wild
2	acreage is huntable in some form; there
3	is hunting taking place on 93 percent
4	of the acreage. Eighty-four percent of
5	the acreage is actively managed through
6	Chuck Sykes, Wildlife and Freshwater
7	Fisheries Division, specifically a
8	designated wildlife management areas or
9	special opportunity areas.
10	And then, we say 99 percent is
11	publically accessible; really, it I
12	think it all is. We say 99 percent
13	but, you know, we acquire these tracts
14	with the goal of also getting the
15	public on them. If there's a sensitive
16	habitat, we try to route them around it
17	and still use and many of those uses
18	coexist, as we have seen.
19	I won't go through the entire
20	report. I will note that the report
21	does also include a section on just an
22	overview of some of the activities that
23	have taken place on the properties.
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1 So, I will have the Board -- and 2 this is also posted on our website so 3 the public can view this too. 4 But I want the Board, you know 5 -- I won't hit them all but, you know, 6 we have a lot of numbers related to our 7 Forever Wild Field Trial Area. We had 8 3,850 visitors for one use or another, 9 be that the dog sporting events; the 10 youth hunts; the physically disabled 11 hunting; our field trips; our Audubon 12 tours just being managed for multiple 13 uses, in addition to the habitat work 14 that we are doing on that property. We 15 have two National AKC Sporting Dog 16 Events coming, crossing over, beginning 17 the -- it's already under way, one of 18 them, but one in March. 19 So, we have two events that are 20 national caliber coming. 21 At our Wehle Nature Center in 2.2. Bullock County, we had over 2,300 23 visitors there. We have a special Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

project for students in fourth through eight grade that we partner with Auburn University's Museum of Natural History and some offerings that they try to get into the classroom and then use our

7 That same theme is used in our 8 Campus Conservation Program. And I 9 want to thank Chuck Sykes again and his 10 staff's work connecting with various 11 colleges and universities and trying to 12 get their biology and wildlife programs 13 on our properties. A lot of these 14 institutions have very solid programs 15 but do not have the acreage associated 16 with sort of the on-site learning. And 17 our biologists spend a lot of time with 18 those students.

property as an outdoor classroom.

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19It also details our timber20management activities, both in21harvesting and clear-cuts. And we22began and continue monitoring the pine23beetle situation that we're all dealingBoggs Reporting & Video LLC

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1	with. We were active and burned about			
2	17,000 acres of Forever Wild			
3	properties.			
4	We also had our hog numbers in			
5	here. Again, over the fiscal year, 684			
6	that were removed. But I encourage the			
7	public and the Board to look through			
8	that. Again, I don't want list all of			
9	them but I also sure appreciate the			
10	work of my staff. I stand up and talk			
11	about it but my staff, both			
12	administratively and land management			
13	wise and public relation wise, are the			
14	ones that are out there doing the hard			
15	work. So, I want to thank them.			
16	We'll keep moving. Let's see			
17	which ones we haven't covered, I don't			
18	want to repeat. Okay. Just continue			
19	on to 5-H. Speaking of timber, at our			
20	last meeting we are we brought up			
21	some specific actions that we're			
22	talking due to the Southern pine beetle			
23	outbreak. And I want to take this			
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1	opportunity to thank Mr. Oates and the			
2	Alabama Forestry Commission and their			
3	staff, the data and information and			
4	just the cooperation there, we sure			
5	appreciate it.			
6	We are monitoring all the			
7	tracts. We are going on the tracts			
8	doing site assessment. Some of the			
9	work we can handle ourselves in			
10	creating buffer zones, as we've talked			
11	about in the past. But we do have a			
12	few very specific actions that I wanted			
13	to bring up that we will be taking on			
14	Autauga County WMA, just to make the			
15	Board aware of because this was fairly			
16	significant action that my foresters			
17	determined that we should proceed with.			
18	And so, we're going to have a			
19	final harvest on one of the tracts that			
20	relates to about 180 acres; a first			
21	thinning on another area in Autauga of			
22	250 acres; and proceeding with a second			
23	thinning by the different area of 125			
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1	acres. We will, as we have been doing,		
2	will keep the Board informed of the		
3	more significant actions that we're		
4	taking very specifically; otherwise,		
5	just know that we are out there, as		
6	everybody else is, keeping an eye on		
7	the situation.		
8	Any questions on those efforts?		
9	(No response).		
10	MS. MCCURDY: So, let's now go		
11	to tab 5-J. This, very similarly, is		
12	no really no Board action that's		
13	required. But I have included a copy		
14	of an article that David Rainer on our		
15	staff wrote that you may have seen in		
16	the newspaper or, if you get e-mails		
17	through our Outdoor Alabama website,		
18	you would have already seen, but it's		
19	really highlighting some activities I		
20	just talked about at the Forever Wild		
21	Field Trial Area in Hale County.		
22	And, again, just a real exciting		
23	example of how the multiple uses that		
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1 we manage for are being incorporated on 2 that tract. 3 So, you'll see a copy of that 4 article. 5 I also note in there, and I'll 6 make a pitch, if any of the Board 7 members did not get this, it's because 8 you're not signed up for e-mails 9 through Outdoor Alabama. I will be 10 happy to help you with that, I gave you 11 some instructions in the memo. And you 12 can pick your categories so you'll only 13 get what you want to hear. And that's 14 also a plug for the public, anybody 15 here who may not be signed up. 16 I think, Commissioner, we 17 covered everything else, one way or 18 another, already during the meeting. 19 Let me look at staff. Commissioner, 20 unless you've got something or a Board 21 member has something additional, I 2.2. think we can move out of miscellaneous 23 reports and into approval of the Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1 minutes. 2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So, 3 the next order of business is the 4 approval of the minutes from the 5 November 7th meeting, that's tab 6. 6 MR. HARPER: Motion to approve. 7 MR. OATES: Second. 8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr. 9 Harper has moved to approve the meeting 10 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Oates. 11 Are there any corrections, 12 additions, changes to the minutes? 13 (No response). 14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All 15 those in favor of approving those 16 minutes, please say aye. 17 (Board members saying "aye"). 18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any 19 opposed? 20 (No response). 21 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: None 2.2. The motion carries. opposed. 23 The next meeting will be May Boggs Reporting & Video LLC 334.264.6227 - BoggsReporters.com

1	1st, 10:00 a.m., in the Birmingham			
2	area. And we are working on a location			
3	on that now. We'll be back in touch			
4	but just plan for that meeting to be in			
5	the Birmingham area.			
6	And then the meeting in August,			
7	we definitely hope to have at the			
8	Forever Wild Field Trial Area when the			
9	new events center and the other			
10	improvements there are completed; if			
11	it's not done, somebody's in some			
12	contractor is in trouble.			
13	So, you can plan to see the			
14	facility and, hopefully, we can set up			
15	some tours and see all that there is to			
16	offer on that property. I think that			
17	you'll be very impressed with the work			
18	our staff does and how diverse the			
19	property is and how diversely we use			
20	that property for multiple objectives			
21	for the public.			
22	So, dog trials are great, we do			
23	a lot of other stuff there as well.			
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1	Anybody else got anything? Do I			
2	have a motion to adjourn?			
3	MR. HARPER: So moved.			
4	MR. PARNELL: Second.			
5	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All			
6	those in favor say "aye."			
7	(Board members saying "aye").			
8	COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We			
9	are adjourned.			
10	Thank you.			
11				
12				
13	(WHEREUPON, the Forever Wild			
14	Land Trust Board meeting held			
15	on Thursday, February 6,			
16	2025, was adjourned at 12:07			
17	p.m.)			
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE		
2	STATE OF ALABAMA		
3	TALLADEGA COUNTY		
4	I, Jamie McCracken, Certified Court		
5	Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of		
6	Alabama at Large, certify on Thursday, February		
7	6th, 2025, that I reported the proceedings in the		
8	matter of:		
9	THE FOREVER WILD		
10	LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING		
11	TROY UNIVERSITY OF MONTGOMERY		
12	MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA		
13	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 10:00 a.m.		
14			
15	That the foregoing 121 computer-printed		
16	pages contain a true and correct transcript of the		
17	hearing set out herein.		
18	I further certify that I am neither a		
19	relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of		
20	the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of		
21	such attorney or counsel, nor am I financially		
22	interested in the results thereof. All rates		
23	charged are usual and customary.		
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1	I further certify that I am duly licensed		
2	by the Alabama Board of Court Reporting as a		
3	Certified Court Reporter as evidenced by the ACCR		
4	number following my name found below.		
5	This 4th day of April in the year of our		
6	Lord, 2024.		
7			
8			
9			
10	S/Jamie McCracken		
11	Jamie McCracken, CCR ACCR NO. 451 Exp. 9/30/25 Cortified Court Percenter and		
12	Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public		
13	Commission Expires 10/23/28		
14			
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16	be reproduced without written consent of Boggs Reporting & Video.		
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