

**FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING**  
**Transcript of Proceedings on 05/01/2025**

1           FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING  
2                   FULTONDALE EVENT CENTER  
3           FULTONDALE, ALABAMA 35068  
4                   MAY 1, 2025  
5                   10:00 a.m.

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10           TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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16   Proceedings taken before Lexi Snider

17           Certified Court Reporter

18                   State of Alabama

19                   ACCR #721

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 Commissioner Chris Blankenship, Chairman

4 Dr. Brian Keener

5 Mr. Jake Harper

6 Dr. Heather Howell

7 Mr. Zach Conlon

8 Mr. James "Mickey" Childers

9 Dr. James McClintock

10 Mr. Jimmy Parnell

11 Mr. Thomas Harris

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1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We'll go ahead  
2 and get started with the meeting. I will wait  
3 to call the roll and establish a quorum when our  
4 other -- other board members arrive. We've got  
5 a few things -- housekeeping-type things,  
6 announcements and things we can do before that,  
7 and go ahead and begin the public comment  
8 period.

9 As the commissioner of the Department  
10 of Conservation and Natural Resources and the  
11 chairman of the Forever Wild Land Trust Board,  
12 I'm excited to be here this morning in -- in  
13 Fultondale. I did not know this nice facility  
14 existed. I appreciate the City of Fultondale in  
15 allowing us to use this facility. And to meet  
16 here is extremely convenient, right off the  
17 interstate and easy to get to. Hopefully, it's  
18 not just for -- only for our board members but  
19 for the public as well. Appreciate the --  
20 appreciate the City of Fultondale and the event  
21 center for making this possible.

22 I do want to take just a second as we  
23 begin this meeting to recognize the work of Jo

1     Lewis. Jo retired yesterday from the Department  
2     of Conservation and Natural Resources. At the  
3     time, she worked out -- she was not able to be  
4     here today, but Jo did a good job for the time  
5     that I've been commissioner in helping with the  
6     Forever Wild program and managing all of the  
7     maps and the information that you get in your  
8     packets, working with that over the years, and I  
9     appreciate her service to the State Lands  
10    Division and to the Forever Wild Board.

11               Well, we'll hopefully get her at the --  
12    another -- a meeting in the future where she can  
13    attend, but I did want to publicly acknowledge  
14    her work and thank her for the -- for the job  
15    that she's done and look forward to the staff  
16    and everybody keeping all that going seamlessly.  
17    So thanks to all of the State Lands staff for  
18    the work that they do on the Forever Wild  
19    program.

20               Also, we'd like to recognize Wildlife  
21    and Freshwater Fisheries' Chuck Sykes who is  
22    moving to a new position June 1st to be the  
23    executive director of the counsel on hunting and

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1 shooting sports. Is that --

2 MR. SYKES: Close. July -- July 1.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: July 1 -- will  
4 be taking a position there doing a lot of good  
5 work that we've done in Alabama. He'll be  
6 translating that to some of the work nationally,  
7 and I appreciate Chuck's service.

8 During the time that Chuck has been the  
9 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries' director over  
10 the last 12 years -- which is hard to believe  
11 that it has been that long -- many of you on the  
12 Board were not here when Chuck started his  
13 tenure as the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries'  
14 director. Chuck came with a lot of new ideas  
15 and ways that we could partner the Forever Wild  
16 Board with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries  
17 and some of the federal funding that they get,  
18 and they've really done some things that I think  
19 are cutting-edge here in Alabama and things that  
20 are trying to be used now nationally. One of  
21 those is establishing the Special Opportunity  
22 Areas, the SOAs, for hunting, partnering with  
23 the Forever Wild Board on using the Forever Wild

1 as 25 percent match to access 75 percent federal  
2 funds, which has drastically increased the  
3 amount of acreage that we've been able to  
4 acquire through this program at a much lower  
5 cost to the Forever Wild program. That -- that  
6 has been fantastic.

7 And then most recently, Chuck and his  
8 staff explored the idea of using Forever Wild  
9 land that has already been purchased as match  
10 for additional property. And as you'll recall a  
11 few months ago, we did that at the Barbour  
12 Wildlife Management Area where we added property  
13 to the WMA through the Forever Wild program with  
14 no additional cost to Forever Wild. Paid for  
15 that 100 percent, didn't rob us of federal  
16 dollars. That is -- just been great.

17 Those are just a couple of examples of  
18 Chuck's work, and I will miss you. I appreciate  
19 what you've done, and you're going to have big  
20 shoes to fill in the Wildlife and Freshwater  
21 Fisheries Division. And I thank you for your  
22 thinking outside the box and bringing some  
23 private sector thought into government and

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1 asking some questions that nobody had asked  
2 before and -- why can't we do this, why can't we  
3 do it that way. And I think the answers to  
4 those questions have been very beneficial not  
5 only to the Forever Wild program but for the  
6 citizens of Alabama and the wildlife of Alabama.

7 So thank you very much for -- for your  
8 work, and I wish you the best in your next --  
9 next field of service, so thank you.

10 So at this time, we'll start with the  
11 regular meeting. I will call the roll, and if  
12 -- as you're here, please indicate so to make  
13 sure that we have a quorum. Chris Blankenship  
14 is here. Mr. Childers.

15 MR. CHILDERS: Here.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Zach Conlon.

17 MR. CONLON: Here.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harper.

19 MR. HARPER: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harris.

21 MR. HARRIS: Here.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Howell.

23 DR. HOWELL: Here.

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1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Keener.

2 DR. KEENER: Here.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock.

4 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Here.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Parnell.

6 MR. PARNELL: Here.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Ms. Stanley.

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Tuggle.

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Neumann.

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Oates.

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Powers.

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine.

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We do have nine.

20 We do have a quorum. Again, thank the City of

21 Fultondale for allowing us to use this facility.

22 This has been a -- except for a little bit of

23 traffic coming north and south through



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1     Birmingham, it sure is easy to get here off the  
2     interstate, so I appreciate their use of the  
3     facility as we are trying to -- to find  
4     different places to meet, but then to have it in  
5     -- in a place that is convenient for everyone.

6             I will go ahead and begin the -- a  
7     public comment period. As a reminder, you have  
8     three minutes to speak on these different  
9     things, and for the Board members, I will -- as  
10    we call the speaker to let you know what page  
11    that is in the book so you can find that as they  
12    speak and be able to look at those.

13            Our first speaker is Peggy Sanford  
14    Quinn on the Hales Spring Tract, Tab 4B, Page  
15    21, 4B, Page 21. And if you'll give everybody  
16    just a second to -- to find that.

17            MS. QUINN: Okay.

18            CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right,  
19    ma'am. Go ahead. Thank you.

20            MS. QUINN: Good morning.

21            CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Can -- can you  
22    -- it's a little hard to hear you with the tin  
23    roof and the rain, so if everybody can keep

1 close to the microphone and speak so the court  
2 reporter can hear, that'd be great. Thank you.

3 MS. QUINN: All right. Do -- do you  
4 hear me?

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: (Nods head.)

6 MS. QUINN: Okay. I am Peggy Sanford  
7 Quinn. I am a member of the Friends of Shades  
8 Mountain nonprofit organization. We nominated a  
9 year ago the Hales Spring Tract on the side of  
10 Shades Mountain, and I really just wanted to  
11 come today just to assure you that the Friends  
12 are still working diligently. We are very much  
13 still pursuing, you know, the possibility that  
14 the -- that Forever Wild would purchase this  
15 tract and preserve it.

16 We have tried to answer questions and  
17 accomplish some things that Forever Wild had  
18 told us, you know, were considerations that  
19 would need to be satisfied. We have had some  
20 strong progress we feel. We have met with  
21 engineering and planning staff of Hoover,  
22 Jefferson County, and Birmingham and have come  
23 away really sometimes surprised at the positive

1 response that we've gotten.

2 Of course, everything at this point is  
3 conceptual, but we have had those meetings and  
4 are waiting for Ken Grimes with the City of  
5 Hoover, the city plan -- administrator to  
6 organize a meeting of the three governments, and  
7 we expect that soon, hopefully -- maybe even  
8 this month.

9 Some of the positive things that have  
10 come out of those meetings are information from  
11 Jefferson County that the land that is adjacent  
12 to this mountainside tract down in Shades  
13 Valley -- which is several hundred acres -- it  
14 is undeveloped and the County currently has no  
15 plans, they said, of developing that, so it  
16 would be maintained as a green space, which  
17 would be wonderful because then, instead of just  
18 the 18 to 20 acres on the side of the mountain,  
19 you know, there would be a lot more green space  
20 in the valley.

21 The county people we talked to have no  
22 problems whatsoever permitting trails that, you  
23 know, would allow us to come from the crest to

1 the creek, you know, down the mountain by the  
2 historic springs. Parking, as we know, is a big  
3 issue in this -- the old landfill down there.  
4 They acknowledge that one of the accepted uses  
5 of an old landfill would be parking, so that  
6 opens the possibility that there could be  
7 parking at the bottom as well as at the top.

8 We were very fortunate to have a couple  
9 of licensed landscape architects, one of whom  
10 lives on Shades Crest Road on the crest of the  
11 mountain just a few miles west of this Hales  
12 Spring site -- have drawn up some lovely plans  
13 that -- for parking up on the crest side. There  
14 would be -- the proposal right now, there would  
15 be two small places for parking that would just  
16 be pull in, pull out kind of parking. One would  
17 be at the west corner of the property, which  
18 would be adjacent to the old hamburger  
19 restaurant that is still vacant and still serves  
20 as kind of the de facto lookout where people  
21 gather almost every night that there's a nice  
22 sunset to watch that.

23 The other few spaces would be on land

1 -- oh, I thought I was -- on land that -- that  
2 the Friends of Shades Mountain owns adjacent to  
3 the Hales Spring Tract, possibly a few spaces  
4 there. We talked to Jefferson County who, of  
5 course, controls access along Shades Crest Road.  
6 We've talked to them about everything from  
7 services to parking to needing a curb. In other  
8 words, we discussed a lot of things.

9 And since I'm out of time, I'll just  
10 say, you know, we -- we are very much pursuing  
11 it. I'm glad to answer any questions that you  
12 might have.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you,  
14 ma'am.

15 MS. QUINN: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I will say that  
17 I did meet with Mr. Grimes on Monday.

18 MS. QUINN: Oh, did you?

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We were actually  
20 at a -- a review for the new bass headquarters  
21 in Hoover and spoke about this for a few  
22 minutes, and we're going to follow up. Thank  
23 you very much.

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1 MS. QUINN: Oh, wonderful. Thank you.

2 That's information I did not have.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker  
4 is Leslie Gahagan on the Graham Bayou Tract, 3B  
5 Page 6, 3B, Page 6. Good to see you, Leslie. I  
6 didn't see you when I came in.

7 MS. GAHAGAN: Good morning.

8 MR. CHILDERS: Good morning.

9 MS. GAHAGAN: So I'm Leslie Gahagan  
10 with the City of Foley. I'm the natural  
11 resources director there, and I run Graham Creek  
12 Nature Preserve. We're a 650-acre nature  
13 preserve in Foley, and this tract is on the east  
14 side of our -- our nature preserve. It sits  
15 about 125 acres including Graham Creek that runs  
16 through it.

17 Our park currently brings in around  
18 100,000 visitors annually. We are continuing to  
19 grow. We draw them for the ecotourism with the  
20 pitcher plant bogs. Our educational programs  
21 are currently running about 5,000 people  
22 annually, and our sports tourism is drawing  
23 national and international crowds.

1           This tract would be a bonus for us to  
2   add to the preserve to -- under management.  
3   We've been managing Graham Creek for over 15  
4   years with fire. We've encouraged more plant  
5   growth as well as animal habitat, and we would  
6   love to get this tract to -- to add to that.

7           The city has committed to funding any  
8   management activities and public access points  
9   if it is acquired by Forever Wild. So with  
10   that, you know, I just wanted to show our  
11   support.

12           CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. Any  
13   questions?

14                           (No response.)

15           CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you,  
16   Leslie. The next speaker is Jerry Joe Ingram on  
17   the Cooper Branch Tract, 3B, Page 4, 3B, Page 4.

18           MS. MCCURDY: And, Commissioner, while  
19   Jerry's coming up from the Board, two things:  
20   One, you have a -- a green -- a green folder Tab  
21   5H that has a map. The map that Noah is passing  
22   out to you is just an additional map that Jerry  
23   brought today that shows some of the trails that

1 had been cut in just kind of for -- not personal  
2 use -- but cut in by the landowner. So  
3 that's -- that map you just got, simply, is an  
4 additional visual of the trails. So use the map  
5 in 5H for -- overall.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. All  
7 right, Jerry Joe. Good to see you this morning.

8 MR. INGRAM: Good morning, Commissioner  
9 and Board members. Thank y'all for letting me  
10 come this morning. I didn't realize that early  
11 on, but I knew the owner's son was a big bike  
12 enthusiast, and these trails are trails that he  
13 and some friends have developed on this place.  
14 You know, I -- you know, I've walked these  
15 trails. You can definitely tell they're -- you  
16 can tell where the trails are, but I'm not a  
17 bike enthusiast. I'm a little bit too fat to be  
18 riding a mountain bike around, but I know Chad  
19 and the development they've done, they were -- I  
20 mean, you know, these trails may not be  
21 suitable, you know, for -- you know -- use right  
22 now, but they are there. It does show that  
23 there is probably a potential use in that



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1 direction. I think the sons -- the owner's son,  
2 he had competitions out there. He had his  
3 friends that would come out there and they would  
4 compete and stuff like that, so they had -- I  
5 don't know if you call it a race or a meet. I  
6 don't know what they call it in bike racing, but  
7 something like that, but -- but I think that's  
8 another, you know, possible maybe use for the  
9 property, you know, for something like that.

10 I didn't know, you know, if y'all had  
11 any other questions on that property as well.

12 MR. CHILDERS: I've got a question.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Childers,  
14 yes, sir.

15 MR. INGRAM: Okay.

16 MR. CHILDERS: What about the water  
17 tank and the cabin on the property?

18 MR. INGRAM: Of course, the water tank  
19 is -- I believe, is the City of Pelham's.

20 MR. CHILDERS: Oh, is that --

21 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Is that allotted to  
22 the city?

23 MR. INGRAM: Yeah.

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1 MR. CHILDERS: It's there? It's there?

2 MR. INGRAM: Yeah. It's there, yeah.

3 And somebody probably goes up there at least  
4 once a week, I'm sure, to check samples of water  
5 --

6 MR. CHILDERS: What about the cabin?  
7 Is it livable or what?

8 MR. INGRAM: It's a very nice cabin,  
9 and I know with Forever Wild's kind of charter,  
10 really don't like buying, you know, maintaining  
11 properties. The owner is -- is agreeable to cut  
12 that parcel out. There's a way to -- to cut  
13 out, you know, even a 40-acre --

14 MS. MCCURDY: And -- and for the Board,  
15 that -- that is the map that -- not that you  
16 just got, but the map that was in your green  
17 folder, the 5H map. If you'll pull that out of  
18 your green folder, that will show -- and this  
19 just kind of came to light so I'm sorry you're  
20 just getting it, but we have had ongoing  
21 discussions with the owner who did have concern  
22 about the structure -- very nice actually -- but  
23 not something we could utilize and certainly did

1 not want the maintenance or a public safety  
2 aspect of that. But the owner -- landowner --  
3 and I'll let Jerry speak on behalf of the  
4 landowner but -- has offered to cut out along  
5 the edge while giving us fee simple ownership of  
6 the access road simply requesting an easement  
7 access back.

8 So, Jerry, did I say all that  
9 correctly?

10 MR. INGRAM: You said it better than I  
11 could, so...

12 Yeah, the owner -- you know, as I can  
13 see, it impacts, you know, it's not a big impact  
14 on the property. We think it's right around 40  
15 acres if you took that out. You know, we'd have  
16 minimal impact, I think, on the rest of the use  
17 of the property, so --

18 MS. MCCURDY: And -- and I'll go ahead  
19 and say this now so we don't have to cover it in  
20 miscellaneous and knock it out, but the staff  
21 has done an evaluation to confirm access is  
22 still what we expected, and we still do have the  
23 portion where we were looking at from a terrain

1 perspective of putting in some additional  
2 parking and so the access component -- so it's  
3 fine on that.

4 So I appreciate the landowner's  
5 willingness to work on that.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.  
7 Thank you. Thank you, Jerry. The next speaker  
8 is Michael Simon on the --

9 MR. INGRAM: Oh, one thing real quick  
10 with Jo retiring and Chuck over here,  
11 Commissioner. I know that's going to be a tough  
12 job to try to fill those boots. But both of  
13 these folks are very professional in what they  
14 do, and I know they'll be hard to replace, so I  
15 don't envy you a bit trying to find their  
16 replacement.

17 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. Thank you  
18 for saying so. The next speaker is Michael  
19 Simon on the same property.

20 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Board members.  
21 I'm Michael Simon. I'm a resident of the  
22 Oakland Hills neighborhood which happens to be  
23 adjacent to the Cooper Branch Tract. I was at

1 your meeting in Montgomery as the Economic  
2 Development Director for the City of Pelham and  
3 as a resident speaking on behalf of the City at  
4 that time. And today I'm here just as a  
5 resident wanting to just ask that you strongly  
6 consider this type of -- of a proposition. I  
7 think it's a -- will be a great asset within  
8 Shelby County and certainly within the City of  
9 Pelham's boundaries.

10 It's a -- it's a beautiful tract. I've  
11 happened to have the opportunity to go with  
12 Jerry through it. The two ridges and the views  
13 are just amazing, and its proximity to Oak  
14 Mountain State Park, I think, is another -- and  
15 all the other stuff that the County has done  
16 with their park system. I think this makes  
17 another great asset for -- for that area, so  
18 thank you for your consideration. Thank you.

19 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. The  
20 next speaker is Mr. Brooks --

21 MR. HARPER: That cabin -- maybe you  
22 can answer -- the cabin, in reference, is it a  
23 full-time residence? They want to take that

1 cabin and 40 acres out as a full-time residence?

2 MS. MCCURDY: I'm going to let Jerry  
3 confirm for me, but I believe there is no longer  
4 anyone residing there. I think they moved.

5 Jerry, would you come help me?

6 MR. INGRAM: Yeah, yeah. Nobody -- the  
7 owner's son was living there. The owner bought  
8 that piece of property, so nobody lives there  
9 right now, and this is totally off the grid.  
10 He's got solar panels. He's got a cistern  
11 system where he gets the rain water off the  
12 house and all that. I think you can see like  
13 five counties from up there. It's a pretty  
14 phenomenal view. But, yeah, nobody -- nobody  
15 lives there right now.

16 MR. HARPER: So if they retained that,  
17 it wouldn't be a conflict if we purchased the  
18 place with them on -- interfering with any of  
19 our activities?

20 MR. INGRAM: I -- I don't -- I don't  
21 think it would.

22 MS. MCCURDY: No. And our main  
23 concern, again, was securing the access which

1 the landowner has agreed to. It's really no  
2 different than, you know, any other property  
3 where we happen to, you know -- obviously, we're  
4 always adjacent to somebody, so, no, we don't  
5 see it as any -- as any issue.

6 MR. INGRAM: And by cutting out that --  
7 that long skinny piece back to the road, you  
8 know, landowners -- and I do this every day --  
9 something about landowners, if you're going down  
10 the edge of the road, they're okay with it. But  
11 when you go through the middle of their place,  
12 that's when they just have a stigma that  
13 someone's riding through my place.

14 So this will actually be on the road  
15 that -- that Forever Wild would retain fee  
16 simple ownership, and they would just use that  
17 -- the edge of the property just to get access  
18 back -- that was the reason we cut that out so  
19 we wouldn't have anybody really driving through  
20 your land, you know, so to speak.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.  
22 Thank you. The next speaker's Mr. Brooks now on  
23 the Double Oak Tract, 4B, Page 11, 4B, Page 11.

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1 MS. MCCURDY: And sorry, me again. You  
2 also have a green folder tabbed 5K.

3 MR. KNAPP: And I'm Brooks Knapp. I'm  
4 with EBSCO Industries. We're the owner of the  
5 Double Oak Tract that's being nominated. I  
6 appreciate the commissioner and the Forever Wild  
7 Land Trust Board allowing us to nominate this  
8 tract -- okay. Allowing us -- yeah -- can y'all  
9 hear me now?

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

11 MR. KNAPP: Okay. And I appreciate  
12 every -- all of y'all allowing us to nominate  
13 this tract. As you have got on your stuff in  
14 front of you, the tract is located in North  
15 Shelby County. It's the foothills of the  
16 Appalachian Mountains, and it -- it's right next  
17 to the Shelby -- existing Shelby County park  
18 that's about 800 and -- I don't know -- 40 acres  
19 or so.

20 Your opportunities to the public is  
21 that the tract could immediately be open since  
22 it's right next to the park that exists right  
23 now with trails, restrooms, parking; so day 1,



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1 take the gate down and just start using it.

2 So that -- we appreciate y'all looking  
3 at it. I'm going to let Chad Scroggins speak  
4 more to the financial side of it so, Chad.

5 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. The  
6 next -- the next speaker on that same property  
7 is Chad Scroggins with the -- Shelby County.

8 MR. SCROGGINS: Thank you all for the  
9 opportunity to be here to speak on this  
10 property. The Double Oak Tract is a very  
11 important property to Shelby County. We have a  
12 long history working with Forever Wild Land  
13 Trust Board. And with our Cahaba River Park  
14 property, of which y'all own about 1,400 acres  
15 and we own 400 acres, this would be a  
16 similar-type situation. We have a little over  
17 800 acres right now that has about 20 miles of  
18 hiking and mountain bike trails on our Double  
19 Oak Park. This property is directly adjacent to  
20 that.

21 Literally, we have put up some yellow  
22 steel gates that separate some of the existing  
23 old logging road -- or, really, Jeep roads.

1 They weren't logging roads because all of the  
2 timber is really old growth timber. We would be  
3 able to actually start this day 1, just remove  
4 those gates and set up the new property  
5 boundaries.

6 We already have parking lots in place  
7 and restrooms in place, but the Shelby County  
8 Commission, while we have a lot of different  
9 properties in Shelby County that you're  
10 considering and have considered over time, this  
11 one is really one of the most important ones  
12 that we've ever really run up on. We would even  
13 say that the property next to it would likely be  
14 the next most important and then the next most  
15 important.

16 It -- there's a lot of available land  
17 here to preserve, but it's so important to the  
18 Shelby County Commission that on Monday night,  
19 the Shelby County Commission actually passed a  
20 resolution that they would pay 25 percent of the  
21 total purchase price. Should you elect to do  
22 so, they would pay the Forever Wild Land Trust  
23 Board 25 percent of the total purchase price to

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1 help facilitate the purchase and the growth of  
2 this particular area.

3 It is a unique property there at the  
4 end of the foothills of the Appalachian  
5 Mountains. We are extremely excited just about  
6 the opportunity to discuss it with you and,  
7 hopefully, your consideration on this. Thank  
8 you very much.

9 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Chad.  
12 That's very nice of Shelby County to offer that.

13 The next speaker is Chad Hoffman on the  
14 same property: Double Oak Tract.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Good morning. I'm just  
16 here to speak in support of the Double Oak  
17 Tract. My office is conveniently located just  
18 at the bottom of the valley just below this  
19 ridge top that's being proposed. I see the  
20 existing trails being used daily with mountain  
21 bikers, hikers, people walking their dogs,  
22 taking kids out to play.

23 The ridge top and the existing trails

1     that are up there are uniquely accessible from  
2     both sides of the valley, so you can access them  
3     from Highway 41 and from Highway 43.

4             It's -- one part that's always been  
5     interesting to me is that you can see the -- the  
6     economic -- or the development pressure coming  
7     from both sides of the valley. If you are on  
8     the ridge top, you can see developments and  
9     neighborhoods being built within the valley and  
10    so that only, you know, kind of bolsters even  
11    more the need to protect this ridge top and the  
12    valuable habitat that exists there.

13            More so, on both sides of the valley,  
14    on the Highway 41 side, you have the Cahaba  
15    Valley Creek. On the Highway 43 side, you have  
16    Bear Creek. Both are tributaries to Yellowleaf  
17    Creek which is a major tributary to the Coosa  
18    River, and is a strategic habitat unit.

19            So the entire Yellowleaf Creek  
20    watershed is known to be home to some rare and  
21    endangered species whether that be mussels or  
22    small fish. And so this -- this property, I  
23    think, would be a perfect opportunity to bolster

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1 the recreation that is already readily available  
2 in Shelby County as well as protects some --  
3 some vulnerable habitat. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.  
7 The next speaker is Steve Northcutt on the Red  
8 Hollow Road Addition to Turkey Creek Nature  
9 Preserve, 3B, Page 8, 3B, Page 8. Red Hollow  
10 Road.

11 MR. NORTHCUTT: Hey. Good morning.  
12 I'm Steve Northcutt with Nature Conservancy, and  
13 this tract is part of the -- potentially, part  
14 of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. I'll mention  
15 that a few years back the Forever Wild Board  
16 voted to acquire this property, made an offer,  
17 and the family was unhappy with the purchase  
18 price and unhappy when you have a lot of -- with  
19 the property. And so a few years went by, the  
20 family went to court, and they decided to have a  
21 judge decide what was a proper price and put it  
22 on the market, and a Realtor had it, and we were  
23 contacted by the Jefferson County Greenways

1 folks. They said, "Can you help buy this  
2 property before it gets purchased by a  
3 development or just gets purchased and is not  
4 potentially part of the Nature Creek -- the  
5 Turkey Creek Nature Preserve?" So we stepped  
6 in. We acquired the property in hopes that this  
7 would be part of the ownership of Forever Wild.

8 Now, Turkey Creek is a really  
9 interesting, centrally-located property. Turkey  
10 Creek itself harbors, I think, at least three  
11 federally endangered species of darter. There's  
12 also intact natural forest that protect the  
13 watershed. There's plenty of hiking trails and  
14 mountain bike trails, but to have it expand to  
15 include these acres -- and I'll also mention I  
16 believe there's an 80-acre tract, the Bell  
17 Tract, that was -- had a first appraisal done.  
18 If you look at the connectivity of all these,  
19 you would have a really nice area of protected  
20 land and adjacent recreational opportunities for  
21 the citizens. People go there and hike and  
22 bike, and, actually, it's just a very scenic and  
23 quiet place for people to have picnics, so you

1 got anywhere from a family with kids where they  
2 can play in the creek and enjoy getting away  
3 from the hustle and bustle of central Alabama  
4 and Birmingham.

5 So we acquired the property. I believe  
6 a first appraisal has been received, and we're  
7 hoping today the Board will consider both this  
8 and the Bell Tract for second appraisal and  
9 purchase. And, you know, I'm glad to answer any  
10 questions, if anyone has any.

11 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I do. Is the  
14 Nature Conservancy involved in the Bell Tract or  
15 just in the --

16 MR. NORTHCUTT: No. I just didn't know  
17 if anyone in here was going to speak in favor of  
18 it because I -- I think it's a great addition,  
19 and I just thought I'd try to give that a thumbs  
20 up too.

21 MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank  
22 you, Steve. The next speaker's Mr. Pat Byington  
23 on the -- just speaking on the Forever Wild

1 program.

2 Pat, I appreciate the articles that  
3 you've written, positive articles about the  
4 program. It's always good when you have a  
5 positive -- positive articles that come out.  
6 Thank you for your work on highlighting the  
7 program and for your involvement in that. Go  
8 ahead, sir.

9 MR. BYINGTON: Yeah. I've got several  
10 hats. One -- one hat is I am a reporter. I  
11 write for Bham Now, which is a local publication  
12 here -- digital publication in Birmingham, and  
13 for The Bama Buzz, which is a statewide version.  
14 And -- but I'm here, actually, as an individual  
15 to talk about this -- even though I've got a lot  
16 to write about for this meeting especially for  
17 Birmingham.

18 I was one year -- I was -- I served on  
19 the Board of Forever Wild back in 1994, and for  
20 six years, and I was actually a part of creating  
21 Forever Wild. I was a part of that group, that  
22 incredible movement that happened before 1992  
23 when Governor Hunt brought us all together, and



1 we all worked on bringing Forever Wild to the  
2 ballot as a constitutional amendment.

3 And I can't tell you how important  
4 Forever Wild has been to this state, and that's  
5 why I wanted to talk to y'all today just to  
6 remind you of that, especially here in Jefferson  
7 County and in the Birmingham metro area. Just  
8 down the road you have Turkey Creek which is  
9 pretty much the most used nature preserve in  
10 this region. Over a hundred thousand people  
11 visit it a year, but it is also home to one of  
12 the rarest fish in the world.

13 We've also expanded -- Forever Wild has  
14 -- Ruffner Mountain, to make it larger than  
15 Central Park. We also did big creek -- Big  
16 Canoe Creek, another preserve out in Shelby  
17 County. All of these things: public, private  
18 partnerships, incredible things. Oak Mountain  
19 expansion, just -- y'all did a couple years ago,  
20 the Ireland Wildlife Management Area which is in  
21 Shelby and Bibb County, and, of course, what  
22 you've heard today is the Cahaba River, Shelby  
23 County Park. And when I talk about leveraging,

1     you just heard about it today -- working with  
2     the County Commission, working with private  
3     folks to make these wonderful projects happen.

4                 When I was a part of Forever Wild back  
5     in 1991, I could never have dreamed this is what  
6     we would've accomplished, and it's incredible.  
7     And so I just want you to know you've impacted  
8     so many lives and -- and just how important all  
9     of this is, and today I know you have several  
10    agenda items in which you're going to do more to  
11    help everyone here in our community, and I  
12    deeply appreciate it. As a former commissioner,  
13    I deeply appreciate the work you do. Thank you.

14                CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Pat.  
15    Very nice. Before I call up the next speaker,  
16    y'all may have gotten some correspondence over  
17    the last week or so about some reorganization  
18    that we've done within the Department of  
19    Conservation, so I'm going to put in context  
20    what we've done in the department.

21                We have a lot -- you know, over 1,100  
22    employees, and we're always looking to be as  
23    efficient as possible and to organize our

1 structure in the department in the best way that  
2 serves the citizens and the resources of  
3 Alabama. In an effort to further those -- those  
4 ideals, we recently reorganized our two  
5 different divisions and our department had  
6 overlapping responsibilities on the nongame-type  
7 work that we do in the department. You know,  
8 not deer, turkey, or fish or -- but on the --  
9 the nongame, so we have reorganized that into a  
10 nongame section of the Department of  
11 Conservation.

12 And to really make that a much more  
13 robust organization where we have biologists  
14 that do different things that over -- that can  
15 cross-train and overlap and really do a much  
16 better job, I think, providing for the resources  
17 of our state on the nongame side. That's, you  
18 know, things like bats, salamanders, turtles,  
19 birds, that aren't raptors -- you know, birds  
20 that aren't hunted, you know, not ducks and  
21 doves, but the other types of waterfowl or -- or  
22 the types of birds. And then, you know, plants,  
23 insects, many other species that fall under our

1 purview but that are not part of our general  
2 wildlife or fishing section.

3 And so we have this new group that --  
4 where we've combined these biologists, and so  
5 that is a reorganization that's recently been  
6 done. Those -- those changes will take place,  
7 you know, very -- very soon. Nobody's lost  
8 their job or been demoted or -- it's actually a  
9 very -- I think, a very good thing for the  
10 citizens and resources of Alabama that we  
11 efficiently operate our organization.

12 So, with that, the next speaker's  
13 Mr. Patrick Thompson, who is going to speak on  
14 ADCNR's reorganization. Mr. Thompson.

15 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you all for having  
16 me here today, and I'm here today as a concerned  
17 citizen and a small business owner and a  
18 long-time volunteer with state parks. But I'm  
19 -- I'm here to gain understanding on how the  
20 experts of the Natural Heritage Section  
21 biologists will be utilized in the  
22 reorganization of ADCNR.

23 And I worry about how the program

1 reorganization will affect Alabama's commitment  
2 to its natural resources. And my concern is  
3 that without trained biologists and field  
4 experts within the section, the scientific  
5 foundation that guides conservation decisions  
6 and aids numerous stakeholders could be lost.

7           Section 1A of Amendment 543 states that  
8 it's a policy of the state to "Protect, manage,  
9 and enhance certain lands and waters of Alabama  
10 with full recognition that this generation is a  
11 trustee of the environment for succeeding  
12 generations." And I recognize that it doesn't  
13 state dozens of different plant species and  
14 hundreds of plant species that have great  
15 conservation needs. It's a constant challenge  
16 to continue to achieve the constitutional and  
17 ecological intent behind the establishment of  
18 the Forever Wild Land Trust.

19           But the Natural Heritage Section is  
20 long served with the critical biological data  
21 repository and analytical engine behind Forever  
22 Wild's efforts supporting the land acquisitions,  
23 decisions, species monitoring, and conservation

1 planning. So to alleviate my concern, I am  
2 specifically seeking clarification on a few  
3 points.

4 First, how many trained botanists do  
5 you expect to employ in the reorganization? I'm  
6 pleased to hear that the reorganization will  
7 expand the passings for all the nongame species.  
8 And in a state with, you know, about 6,300  
9 species -- or 4,300 approximately of plants, you  
10 would expect a significant number of positions  
11 to be dedicated to that botanical inventory  
12 alone and in order to do the good work on the  
13 300,000 Forever Wild acres and more than 400,000  
14 additional acres.

15 So, second, I would like to know who we  
16 should contact for things that are currently  
17 being handled through the state botanists, like  
18 access to the state herbarium, plant project  
19 permitting on state lands, and inquiries about  
20 grant applications to access funds through the  
21 Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act after  
22 July 1st.

23 And I'm also curious how the

1 reorganization will affect the allocation of the  
2 funds currently paying the salaries of those  
3 Heritage Section Biologists. And so will they  
4 remain with Forever Wild or will they possibly  
5 be redirected as hard money to the Natural  
6 Heritage Program?

7           And thank you for your efforts and time  
8 spent on this Board. It's greatly appreciated.  
9 And if any of these decisions have not been  
10 finalized, then it's my strong suggestion that  
11 the expectation to know these 4,350 plant  
12 species not be placed under biologists and not  
13 be spread across large groups, but to put the  
14 burden of Alabama botany on designated botanists  
15 and make every effort to retain and utilize the  
16 existing expertise already within the Natural  
17 Heritage Section and the Natural Heritage  
18 Program. Thank you.

19           MR. BLANKENSHIP: To answer your  
20 question of who to talk to, you are welcome to  
21 make an appointment with me and come speak to me  
22 with your questions at any time. We can find a  
23 time that works for both of us. Thank you.

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1 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker  
3 is Mr. Bob Barsch -- Borsch -- on the Kimberly  
4 Tract. It's not -- it's a nomination that is  
5 not yet on the short list.

6 MS. MCCURDY: And I would just ask if  
7 you would spell your name so the court reporter  
8 can be sure she's got it right. And just talk  
9 into the microphone.

10 MR. BARSCH: Bob and Barsch -- Barsch  
11 is German for "perch." B-A-R-S-C-H.

12 Well, Mr. Chairman and members,  
13 basically, this is a Kimberly Tract, and it is  
14 Jefferson County land according to my map, and  
15 it is just north of Gardendale here between  
16 Highway 31 right here behind us and Highway 65.

17 And it's very available in that regard  
18 and access to many thousands of people, and the  
19 east boundary is Turkey Creek, and there's about  
20 two miles or more until it runs into the Locust  
21 Fork and then that's the northbound at the  
22 Locust Fork. The westbound would be Highway 65,  
23 so it's right here where we are and I would



1 suggest that a vision for this area would be of  
2 great educational value for schools in the local  
3 area and its access and its relative wildness.  
4 And there are all the animals that you would go  
5 up -- you have to travel many miles -- well, go  
6 up into the Bankhead Forest to find there: deer,  
7 turkey, a wide variety of fish in both streams.

8           Development might consider having a  
9 trail go in a circular fashion and then feeder  
10 trails going off to both streams. Also, it's  
11 possible to put a landing there, and then you  
12 could go up the Church Street at Williams and  
13 put in your kayak or your canoe, float, fish,  
14 camp, and then pull out right here just north of  
15 -- of where we are.

16           So there's tremendous access there.  
17 The wildlife is highly varied, and there are a  
18 great number of species of fish, and I go there  
19 and fish just to observe. And right now the  
20 azaleas are in bloom and the fish are biting and  
21 you can catch -- not big fish but you can catch,  
22 you know, spotted bass that approach a pound.  
23 Lots of sun fish of about four or five different

1 species, and I've seen beaver and otter there  
2 and pretty -- and had three gobblers come in,  
3 you know, while I was fishing and it was just  
4 beautiful, great experience. And I traveled  
5 20 minutes from Warrior.

6 I mean, think of all the school  
7 systems. I mean, you could monitor big games  
8 and as well as nongame plant life. A bunch of  
9 it's been cut over several times, owned by  
10 Jefferson County. They do have a shooting range  
11 there. There might have to be some improvements  
12 made in that. Maybe they'll give it to us.

13 Anyway, that's my idea.

14 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. Look  
15 forward to maybe that one being on our short  
16 list in the future. That's all the public  
17 comment. Now, we'll move into executive session  
18 to discuss the appraisal value. And by  
19 regulation, appraisal values are confidential  
20 during periods of negotiation.

21 Accordingly, in order to discuss tract  
22 appraisal values, the Board will need to go into  
23 recess for an executive session. Is there a

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1 motion for the Board to now go into executive  
2 session?

3 MR. CHILDERS: We'll move.

4 DR. HOWELL: We'll move.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Moved by  
6 Mr. Childers. Is there a second?

7 MR. HARPER: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by  
9 Mr. Harper. As I call your name, please state  
10 your position on the motion to recess. Those in  
11 favor, please say "yes" or "aye," and all  
12 opposed, say "no."

13 Chris Blankenship, yes.

14 Mr. Childers?

15 MR. CHILDERS: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Conlon?

17 MR. CONLON: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harper?

19 MR. HARPER: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harris?

21 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Howell?

23 DR. HOWELL: Yes.

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1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Keener?

2 DR. KEENER: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock?

4 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Parnell?

6 MR. PARNELL: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Nine

8 affirmative. We are now in executive session.

9 It is 10:46. We hope to return in approximately  
10 20 minutes.

11 MS. MCCURDY: We are back from  
12 executive session. It is 11:10. We are back in  
13 regular session. Let me find my agenda. Before  
14 we start the regular part of the meeting,  
15 Director Sykes wanted to take just a minute and  
16 speak with the Board. Go ahead, sir.

17 MR. SYKES: Thank you, Commissioner,  
18 and for the kind words starting the meeting. I  
19 just wanted to give a thank you to the Board for  
20 the work that y'all have done in my tenure.

21 As the commissioner said earlier, we  
22 tried some new things that hadn't been done. I  
23 think we -- we've worked out very well on all of

1     them, and I do want to thank Patti and her staff  
2     and the rest of the Wildlife and Freshwater  
3     Fisheries staff. Without their hard work and  
4     dedication to this, it wouldn't have been  
5     possible. You only come up with ideas, you've  
6     got to have people that put them into play.

7                 So it's been a pleasure and thank y'all  
8     for what you do. I think we looked the other  
9     day, we've added about 50,000 acres since I  
10    started working with the Forever Wild Board.  
11    That's something that we should all be proud of  
12    for the outdoor recreational users of the state:  
13    hunters, fishermen, trappers, hikers, bikers,  
14    you name it. It was for everybody, and that  
15    doesn't even take into account the natural  
16    resources that's -- that we help protect and  
17    preserve and -- and provide a good habitat for,  
18    so -- it's been something that I had no idea  
19    that I would be doing when I took this job, and  
20    it's been a pleasure over the years to see how  
21    much we've accomplished, so thank y'all very  
22    much.

23                MS. MCCURDY: All right. Well, while

1 we're talking about some transitions, I did want  
2 to also thank Chuck and how much I've enjoyed  
3 working with him, but, also, as we mentioned, Jo  
4 Lewis has retired. She will return for a  
5 meeting, but she has been so very helpful as all  
6 of you know, and I wanted to introduce Ashley  
7 Peters on my staff who has had the joy of  
8 finding out how much fun it is to work with  
9 Patti when the packet needs to be put together  
10 and get out. So I appreciate that Ashley's  
11 still -- still here. Thank you, Ashley.

12 So, anyway -- but thanks to all my  
13 staff and all our division staff. It really is  
14 a complete department effort, and, you know,  
15 Forever Wild doesn't really have any employees,  
16 so this is all of our staff that's doing the  
17 work, so thanks to everybody.

18 All right. So we're going to do our  
19 usual run through of financial information to  
20 start. For the Board, if you will turn to Tab  
21 2A, and that will be the one in your green  
22 folder. It's always slightly updated from when  
23 I'm able to initially send you the packet

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1 information. So what I'd like to do, as always,  
2 I'm going to run through the tracts that are  
3 currently in some phase of the closing process.  
4 And those tracts are West Fowl River, Mobile  
5 County; Davidson Creek Tract, Coosa County;  
6 Dugdown Mountain Corridor, Cleburne County --  
7 now, and, again, that's the tract that we're  
8 working with the Alabama Forestry Commission on,  
9 the federal US Forest Service grants that they  
10 had, and so we're working on that one at a 75/25  
11 split between AFC and Forever Wild.

12 We also have the Freedom Hills WMA,  
13 Sugar Camp Addition, Colbert County. Taking  
14 into account all of those tracts that we're  
15 working on getting across the finish line, the  
16 remaining -- sorry -- unencumbered balance is  
17 over \$34,000,000. That's how much you have  
18 available for action if you choose to take  
19 action.

20 I also want to take a minute to update  
21 you on some of the other tracts this fiscal year  
22 that either we have gotten closed or ended up  
23 being declined by the landowner. We tried --

1     you motioned for acquisition, but we were not  
2     able to close, so let me -- let me run through  
3     those for this fiscal year. We have the Bon  
4     Secour River Wetlands Addition, that one's  
5     closed; Freedom Hills WMA, Sutton Hill Addition  
6     has closed; Morgan Hollow ended up being  
7     declined by the landowner. Red Hills Section 23  
8     has closed, and the Upper Delta WMA Stiggins  
9     Lake Addition was, similarly, declined by the  
10    landowner. So that's progress on the tracts  
11    that you have asked us to close, and so I wanted  
12    just to provide that update. If there are no  
13    questions on that, I'm going to move on to Tab  
14    2B.

15               Each meeting we also review the  
16    available balance of the Stewardship Fund for  
17    each tract that's acquired. 15 percent of the  
18    appraised value -- even for a donated tract --  
19    moves into the Stewardship Fund. We are doing  
20    fine this year, which we have a lot of -- lot of  
21    work in process and a lot of things progressing  
22    at this time of year, so you will see that go  
23    down for our next meeting, but we are fine and



1 within the allocation that the Board authorized  
2 for expenditures from the Stewardship Fund for  
3 tract maintenance and various recreational  
4 improvements and just your general land  
5 management of those tracts. We currently still  
6 have about \$2.3 million available -- again,  
7 that's actually some purchases in the works, so  
8 it's a little less than that, but that's the  
9 current balance.

10 Part of that that we also talk about is  
11 further detail from Tab 2B into Tab 2C. That is  
12 the quarterly report that we get from the state  
13 treasurer's office that details the current net  
14 market value of the Stewardship over all funds,  
15 and we reflect that on 2B and 2C, but the  
16 current report from the treasurer's office back  
17 through when they run those reports last is  
18 still over \$49 million, so we are still doing  
19 well with the Stewardship Fund. I want to thank  
20 the treasurer's office for the work they do on  
21 that but, also, gathering the report information  
22 for us for 2C for each meeting.

23 Any questions on that financial

1 information before I move into appraised  
2 nominations?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. MCCURDY: All right. So if the  
5 Board will also go to Tab 3A in, again, your  
6 sort of yellow Tab 3A's most updated. I will --  
7 the Board and the benefit of the public -- run  
8 through the tract that you have previously  
9 motioned for the staff to pursue appraisals for  
10 so I want to give you that status update.

11 Those tracts include Coon Gulf Craze  
12 Bend Addition, Cooper Branch Tract, Dugdown  
13 Corridor Cleburne County Tract, Graham Bayou  
14 Tract, Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Bell  
15 Addition, Red Hollow Road Addition. All of  
16 those appraisals have been completed. We also  
17 are working on the Beaverdam Swamp Lowe Addition  
18 that was motioned previously. We have -- did  
19 not get all the information we needed from the  
20 landowner in the time to get that appraisal  
21 completed, but I will have that for you at our  
22 next meeting.

23 So taking the ones that we do have into

1 account and the associated Stewardship Fund  
2 transfer that would be needed, that comes to,  
3 roughly, about, you know, just over \$13 million  
4 of appraised properties. Any question on  
5 appraise nominations.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. MCCURDY: All right. If you will  
8 turn in your packet, we're going to jump a  
9 little bit to Tab 5, if you'll pull out -- or go  
10 to Tab 5A. Each meeting we update the Board on  
11 various efforts that either we have benefitted  
12 from, from grant funding or leverage funding or  
13 opportunities that we have applied for or are  
14 working through, so I want to run through that.

15 Two nominations that have benefitted  
16 from grant funding that are currently in the  
17 closing process includes the Bon Secour River  
18 Wetlands Addition that benefitted from a  
19 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant  
20 Program that contributed approximately 69  
21 percent towards a land value acquisition. Also,  
22 we were able to get some additional funds for  
23 land management and that was through the US Fish

1 and Wildlife Service.

2 And then the Red Hills Section 23  
3 Addition, and, again, thank you, Chuck, and all  
4 those in Wildlife that help us identify  
5 opportunities. That tract, which is in closing,  
6 was a Pittman-Robertson partnership between  
7 Wildlife Section -- or division -- and Forever  
8 Wild. The Dugdown Mountain Corridor that also  
9 has grant funding at approximately a 75/25  
10 split, the Forestry Commission is the third one  
11 in closing that we have -- funds are helping us  
12 with.

13 I left -- I realized I left out a tract  
14 that is on the short list, and that's the  
15 Dugdown Phase 2. I wanted to note that another  
16 forestry -- a US Forest Service Grant that AFC  
17 has acquired, that appraisal work is underway  
18 because AFC has stepped in to cover those Yellow  
19 Book appraisal costs. So that is just on the  
20 short list. There's no action needed on that  
21 one, but I did want you to know that we actually  
22 have proceeded with the appraisal work with  
23 AFC's assistant on that funding.

1           Updates on some just various other  
2   funding -- grant funding opportunities we're --  
3   we're working through. We've partnered with the  
4   Alabama Forestry Foundation in an effort with  
5   them to secure grant funding through the  
6   National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, that's  
7   their Longleaf Landscape grant program. We're  
8   hoping to get grant funding that will match with  
9   Forever Wild's Stewardship Fund to do some work  
10   on the Coosa WMA, Autauga WMA, and Yates Lake  
11   WMA. So we will keep you up-to-date on that.

12           We are continuing finalizing work on  
13   the little -- previously awarded funds that  
14   benefitted Little River Canyon Addition that  
15   also came from the National Fish and Wildlife  
16   Foundation. That was their Cumberland  
17   Plateau-Southern Appalachian Fund. We are  
18   working through that and, actually, had the  
19   seedlings planted back in February after that  
20   meeting, and we are now working on getting some  
21   educational kiosks installed. We're also  
22   working through the -- architectural we're about  
23   to bid out finally, work on the Mobile Tensaw

1 Bartram and also the Perdido River Canoe Trails  
2 Improvement Project that benefitted from  
3 Governor Ivey awarding some GOMESA funds that --  
4 through -- through my division. The program  
5 would also administer along Mobile and Baldwin  
6 County, so continuing work on that.

7 Any questions on the grant efforts?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. MCCURDY: All right. Pushing on,  
10 we're going to roll back to Tab 4 and ask the  
11 Board to go to Tab 4B. This is the point of the  
12 meeting where I run through the current  
13 nominations that have made it onto our short  
14 list. As you know, the short list varies each  
15 meeting due to scoring and new tracts that may  
16 come in. A nomination is scored for nature  
17 preserve, recreation, wildlife, WMAs, additions  
18 or new WMAs, and then state parks, additions to  
19 those -- those areas.

20 So after they're scored, they compete  
21 amongst themselves in our northern, central, and  
22 southern districts. A tract has to achieve a  
23 first, second, or third rank in their district

1 and with at least one of the categories to go on  
2 the short list. Many of them actually qualify  
3 for several categories, so I'm going to run  
4 through the ones that made the short list and,  
5 therefore, would be available for first  
6 appraisals. As usual, I will go kind of quick  
7 through these. If you have a question, I may  
8 not see your hand, please speak up.

9 All right. So we have the Bay Log  
10 Creek Tract in Dale County. We have the Bennett  
11 Creek Tract at -- I'm just going to be honest.  
12 We really never have been able to resolve that  
13 small access issue. We don't really believe we  
14 have full access. That landowner hasn't been  
15 able to demonstrate and close that 20-foot gap.  
16 That tract will roll off after this meeting  
17 unless there's further action. We'll come back  
18 to that when I get into miscellaneous reports.

19 The Certain Tract Sunset Cove Addition  
20 in Madison County. That's adjacent to the  
21 acreage of the Blevins Gap Nature Preserve that  
22 is managed by the Land Trust of North Alabama.  
23 We have the DeSoto State Park, Oakhill Road

1 Northeast Addition. The Double Oak Tract and  
2 that is the tract where Shelby County has  
3 offered to contribute 25 percent to acquisition  
4 and to manage that acreage that was discussed  
5 earlier. Dugdown Corridor Phase II. This is  
6 the short list Dugdown tract that we do have  
7 some -- or AFC has acquired, as I mentioned,  
8 grant funding for, and they are working and are  
9 paying for the appraisal -- the Yellow Book  
10 appraisal cost. Dunnivant Valley Oaks, Fillmore  
11 Drive Tract, Freedom Hills WMA Heard Addition,  
12 and the Hales Spring Tract.

13 All right. Any questions from anyone  
14 on the short list nominations, anything about  
15 that list?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. MCCURDY: All right. I'm going to  
18 -- we can move on now to general discussion.

19 MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank  
20 you. And in the general discussion is where we  
21 generally receive motions for, you know, first  
22 or second appraisals on these properties as well  
23 as any other questions you might have. Is there



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1 any motions for first or second appraisals on  
2 properties?

3 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Yes, sir.

4 MS. MCCURDY: Oh, and if you would,  
5 speak up and be sure your microphone's on. We  
6 didn't -- just turn it on. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock.

8 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Yeah. I would like to  
9 recommend a first appraisal on Double Oak Tract.

10 DR. KEENER: I'll second that.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. The  
12 motion is for first appraisal on the Double Oak  
13 Tract. The motion was made by Dr. McClintock,  
14 seconded by Dr. Keener. That is --

15 MR. CHILDERS: What page is that on?

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. That  
17 is 4B --

18 MS. MCCURDY: Page 11.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- Page 11.  
20 Map's on 12. That's the motion for first  
21 appraisal on the Double Oak Tract in Shelby  
22 County. Any discussion?

23 (No response.)

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1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in  
2 favor, please raise your hand.

3 MS. MCCURDY: All right, Commissioner.  
4 We have eight.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.  
6 Motion -- motion fails. We have to have nine  
7 votes --

8 MS. MCCURDY: Oh, sorry. Yeah.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We have to have  
10 nine affirmative votes for any -- for any  
11 decisions that we make under the constitutional  
12 amendment. Any other nominees?

13 DR. KEENER: Mr. Commissioner, I would  
14 like to do a -- make a motion for a second  
15 appraisal and purchase for the Turkey Creek  
16 Nature Preserve Red Hollow Road Addition.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any second?

18 MR. HARPER: I'll second.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by  
20 Mr. Harper, and it is for a second appraisal and  
21 move to purchase on the Turkey Creek Nature  
22 Preserve Red Hollow Road Addition that  
23 Mr. Northcutt spoke about. Any questions or

1 discussion on that?

2 MR. CHILDERS: What page is that?

3 MS. MCCURDY: It is Tab 3B, Page 8.

4 MR. CHILDERS: Okay. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. All  
6 those in favor of a second appraisal and move to  
7 purchase on the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Red  
8 Hollow Addition, please raise your hand.

9 MS. MCCURDY: Commissioner, we have  
10 eight.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.  
12 Eight votes. Motion fails.

13 MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Any other  
14 discussion or questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Okay.

17 MS. MCCURDY: All right. And if you  
18 would -- then we're going to move to the  
19 miscellaneous reports section. Some of -- some  
20 of the matters in your packet, we've actually  
21 already covered but -- so the first matter is  
22 Tab 5B. Each -- each meeting I report what will  
23 roll off either the appraise nomination list or

1 the short list nominations unless there's a  
2 request from a Board member to keep it on. That  
3 means you've had two -- you've hit the number of  
4 meetings where it will roll off as of the next  
5 meeting.

6 This time we only have one tract in  
7 that position, and that is, as I mentioned, the  
8 Bennett Creek Tract on the short list  
9 nominations. So hearing no requests to -- to  
10 keep it alive and on the list, it will -- it  
11 will roll off, and you will not see it next  
12 meeting.

13 If you will -- then I need you to pull  
14 to Tab 5 on those, hearing nothing on 5B. If  
15 you could pull Tab 5I -- excuse me -- 5C -- yes,  
16 and 5I, this is a management plan approval  
17 request that we present to the Board. The  
18 reason you have two memos -- and I apologize --  
19 we realized when we sent the packet, that the  
20 Sipsey Management Plan did not have the maps  
21 attached, so it's the same text you would've  
22 looked at, just complete with the -- the maps.  
23 That's the only difference. So we are required

1 to develop a management plan within a year of  
2 tract acquisition. Obviously, it's early in a  
3 tract's life and so it is somewhat broad, but it  
4 sets forth the goals of that tract.

5 We sometimes have tracts that are  
6 simply additions to existing properties when we  
7 acquire them, or they are close enough to  
8 existing properties that we include them simply  
9 by amending an existing management plan because  
10 there's really no reason to have duplicate  
11 plans.

12 So at this meeting, we -- and we also  
13 bring these to you of any -- in advance and then  
14 they really have to be passed, but that's in  
15 case you have a question. So on the -- the list  
16 of tracts that we need to -- will be  
17 incorporating into management plans, those  
18 include the Lillian Swamp Blackwater Addition in  
19 Baldwin County, and we would -- we propose  
20 simply amending and adding it to the existing  
21 Blackwater River South Lillian Swamp Complex  
22 Management Plan.

23 The second is Heron Bay Wetlands

1 Addition in Mobile County, and we would propose  
2 adding it to the existing Grand Bay Savanna  
3 Complex Management Plan. And then the Sipsey  
4 River Swamp Brownville Addition, that's  
5 Tuscaloosa County. Similarly, there's an  
6 existing plan that we would recommend amending  
7 and adding to the Sipsey River Swamp Complex  
8 Management Plan. So those are the three we have  
9 before us. If the Board is willing to -- to  
10 approve inclusion and the existing management  
11 plans, I will need a motion, and there's a  
12 sample motion on your memo.

13 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Is there anybody that  
14 -- you should make the motion on the management  
15 plan? Outline's in the memo on Tab 5C.

16 MR. PARNELL: Commissioner?

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir,  
18 Mr. Parnell.

19 MR. PARNELL: I'll make that motion.

20 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Okay. So the motion,  
21 if you don't mind, go ahead and read that so the  
22 court reporter can get that, please.

23 MR. PARNELL: Okay. The motion is to

1 proceed with the inclusion of the Lillian Swamp  
2 Blackwater Addition, Heron Bay Wetlands  
3 Addition, and Sipsy River Swamp-Brownville  
4 Addition into the existing management plans as  
5 set forth in the memorandum -- any way -- dated  
6 May the 1st, 2025.

7 MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Is there  
8 a second?

9 MR. CONLON: Second.

10 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by  
11 Mr. Conlon. So this is the -- a motion to  
12 approve the State Lands to be proceeding with  
13 the inclusion of Lillian Swamp Blackwater  
14 Addition, Heron Bay Wetlands Addition, and  
15 Sipsy River Swamp-Brownville Addition into  
16 existing management plans as set forth in the  
17 memorandum dated May 1st, 2025.

18 All those in favor, please raise your  
19 hand.

20 MS. MCCURDY: All right. Unanimous,  
21 Commissioner.

22 MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Nine  
23 votes, the motion carries. Thank you.

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1 MS. MCCURDY: All right. Thanks. And  
2 the May meeting, we also -- where we take care  
3 of some annual administrative matters. One is  
4 under Amendment 543, the Stewardship Fund that I  
5 mentioned earlier, the Board must approve in  
6 advance of an upcoming fiscal year to authorize  
7 expenditures from the Stewardship Fund. And so  
8 at this meeting, we traditionally present that  
9 to the Board and as in -- just like last year,  
10 two things: one under Amendment 543, the way  
11 interest income is defined and the way we are  
12 very -- with the help of the treasurer's  
13 department, very successfully managing that  
14 fund, it does not reduce the interest as defined  
15 in 543, so if we don't have enough interest,  
16 Commissioner has to make a determination that we  
17 will need additional funding from the corpus of  
18 the Stewardship Fund, and under Amendment 543,  
19 that has to be recommended by the Commissioner,  
20 which he has done.

21 We're now at the point where we need to  
22 be thinking about and planning for an  
23 authorization of expenditures in advance of the



1     upcoming fiscal year which starts October 1st.  
2     We -- when we start looking at the upcoming  
3     fiscal year, my division sits down with the  
4     other divisions to see what we anticipate the  
5     needs will be. For this year, we are --  
6     Commissioner has concurred and recommended to,  
7     one, be sure we have some flexibility for  
8     something that's unforeseen, but we do believe  
9     we can continue to operate within the three  
10    million authorization, and so that is the  
11    proposal and recommendation from staff through  
12    Commissioner. But to do that, we will need a  
13    motion by the Board, and I've provided one in  
14    your memo. You will also see in the memo we  
15    have detailed a little bit about how we view  
16    reaching that recommendation. We look at just  
17    -- what we call rough routine: working on our  
18    roads, maintaining our boundary lines, doing  
19    prescribed fire, controlling our bases, the  
20    feral hog work that we do.

21                 We also look forward to specific  
22    reforestation needs. Sometimes that's because  
23    of a release of acreage from a timber

1 reservation; sometimes it's just a habitat.  
2 We've had -- taken timber actions and we need to  
3 reforest. We do have some reforestation needs  
4 upcoming. We are seeking -- have and are  
5 seeking some grant funding, but that is  
6 reimbursement based, which means we have to  
7 expend the funds until we're able to secure the  
8 grant funds, we'll be on a reimbursement basis.

9           So, again, all that said, we are  
10 seeking and recommending authorization for 3  
11 million, but we'll need a -- a motion and you  
12 have a motion in your memo.

13           DR. MCCLINTOCK: I'll make the motion.

14           MR. CHILDERS: Second.

15           MR. BLANKENSHIP: Please read the  
16 motion, Doctor. Dr. McClintock said first.

17           DR. MCCLINTOCK: Okay.

18           MR. BLANKENSHIP: And Childers is the  
19 second. If you'll please read the motion.

20           DR. MCCLINTOCK: I make a motion for  
21 the Board to authorize ADCNR, after exhausting  
22 available interest income from the Stewardship  
23 account to expend funds from the corpus of the

1 Stewardship account up to an amount that, when  
2 added to the available interest income, does not  
3 exceed \$3 million for fiscal year '26.

4 MR. BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor,  
5 please raise your hand.

6 MS. MCCURDY: Unanimous, Commissioner.

7 MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Motion  
8 carries. Thank you.

9 MS. MCCURDY: All right. Continuing  
10 our administrative work, instead of looking  
11 forward in -- at the May meeting each year, we  
12 -- we look back and bring, also, our requests  
13 from the State Lands Division for the annual  
14 transfer of the administrative support funds to  
15 the State Lands Division. We, in doing that, do  
16 look back at expenditures in making our  
17 recommendations. We are asking for level  
18 funding, which would be a transfer of \$900,000.

19 That's been the amount that we have  
20 been -- been working with now for -- let's see  
21 -- I think it was from -- since -- yeah, FY 2020  
22 until now. We do actually expend over that  
23 amount of State Lands, but our request would be,

1 again, the level funding of the 900,000, but I  
2 will need a motion, and you have a motion in  
3 your packet.

4 And I'll take any questions on any of  
5 this. I'm sorry, I just -- I am trying to -- I  
6 know we're running long so --

7 MR. CHILDERS: I'll read the motion. I  
8 make a motion for the Board to approve the State  
9 Lands Division staff proceeding with the  
10 requested administrative transfer in the amount  
11 of \$900,000 for the fiscal year 2025  
12 administrative support provided by the State  
13 Lands Division.

14 MR. CONLON: I second that.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Probably -- I  
16 think we need to amend that motion. I think  
17 that's for fiscal year 2026. That begins --

18 MS. MCCURDY: We -- we go --

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- October 1st,  
20 2025, into 2026.

21 MS. MCCURDY: We -- we go back.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Back --

23 MS. MCCURDY: We do this on a

1 reimbursement background.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. MCCURDY: I'm sorry for the  
5 whiplash.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So  
7 that motion was made by Mr. Childers, and he was  
8 correct. I was wrong.

9 DR. MCCLINTOCK: And is there a second?

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by  
11 Mr. Harper. All right. Any other question on  
12 that?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: If I totally  
15 confused everybody, I apologize.

16 All right. All those in favor, please  
17 raise your hand.

18 MS. MCCURDY: All right. Unanimous,  
19 Commissioner.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.  
21 Nine, yes. Thank you.

22 MS. MCCURDY: All right. I'll keep --  
23 try to keep moving if you will -- we're now at

1 Tab 5F. This really is more of a -- I want to  
2 update the Board somewhat on the work we  
3 continue to do monitoring -- as all landowners  
4 are right now -- the Southern Pine Beetle  
5 situation, and so we have identified some  
6 additional tracts that will need -- need some  
7 work, so I'm looking forward and trying to be  
8 preemptive. But I want to run through that  
9 just, again, as an update to the Board, we're  
10 looking -- or not looking -- but planning to do  
11 a first thin at the Red Hills Complex -- final  
12 harvest of some acreage and I've detailed the  
13 specific areas of this tract. It's not the  
14 entire tract. The Autauga -- acreage on Autauga  
15 County WMA, acreage on Gothard-AWF Yates Lake  
16 WMA, and first, then, on the Autauga County and  
17 another on -- the second done on Autauga County.

18 These range from actions that we are  
19 either about to initiate or an update on actions  
20 I've mentioned previously but we now do have  
21 actively under contract for the harvest  
22 activities. Any questions from anyone?

23 (No response.)

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1                   MS. MCCURDY: All right. Thank you. I  
2   also want to thank AFC; they've helped us on  
3   some imagery and some things. And I also want  
4   to take just a minute to tell you -- and thank  
5   you -- how hard my staff is working on this.  
6   I've got three foresters -- well, more than that  
7   because -- I don't know how many I have now  
8   because of the -- our conservation enforcement  
9   officers both have degreed biologists and  
10  degreed foresters, some folks -- some of  
11  masters, so I've got some really great folks and  
12  certified foresters on the ground. I thank them  
13  for that work. It's -- it's been a lot.

14                 If there are no questions, I will also  
15  then direct you next to Tab 5G. Similarly, this  
16  contains the spreadsheet information that we are  
17  maintaining for the Board related to our feral  
18  swine mitigation efforts. We continue to  
19  utilize the funds approved by the Board for the  
20  purchase of the various equipment and systems,  
21  traps, cameras, whatever we need, so we  
22  appreciate that extra help.

23                 And then also the contractors continue

1 to work. That -- that is going well, so we will  
2 continue looking at where we might need to  
3 expand the contract efforts. Those are tracts  
4 that just build our capacity by use of those  
5 contractors, and that's been very helpful. Any  
6 questions on swine?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. MCCURDY: All right. Then we have  
9 already talked about 5H. And I will now direct  
10 you, just briefly, to 5J. At each meeting, you  
11 know, I've tried to give you a little bit of an  
12 update on what's going on with the Forever Wild  
13 Field Trial Area, and anything that might, in  
14 particular, be going on at our Wehle Nature  
15 Center.

16 We had a couple of Campus Conservation  
17 Program efforts scheduled. We've had to  
18 reschedule those, but I did want to, I guess,  
19 give a teaser that I hope at the next meeting I  
20 can publicly announce an additional -- what I  
21 call a first time national sporting dog event  
22 that we are -- believe we have secured for the  
23 Field Trial Area.



1                   We also had some great partnership and  
2   I've really been pleased the tract's been  
3   utilized by the Department of Corrections for  
4   some of their search dog team training. That  
5   went well. It's what they needed, and they'll  
6   be coming -- coming back again.

7                   And then just to thank my staff. We've  
8   been doing a lot of -- a lot of burning, not  
9   just there but elsewhere. But just there at the  
10   Field Trial Area just since March, we've had  
11   about 1,600 acres that we've burned and taken  
12   care of. We're also working actively on four  
13   ponds, getting those restructured to improve the  
14   duck habitat and we hope to add to our -- the  
15   number of youth duck hunting events that we've  
16   been able to offer, and then just various really  
17   -- work on the entrances that looks nice, and  
18   I'm really excited y'all get to be there next  
19   month, so I'm not going to go through all the  
20   improvements. That's been a long process, so  
21   I'm going to -- I'll just leave it at that and  
22   let you see it and we'll walk you through in the  
23   next meeting.

1                   And, Commissioner, that really --  
2   unless I have forgotten something -- I don't  
3   think -- or y'all have anything else you'd like  
4   the staff to be working on, I think that  
5   includes our miscellaneous reports, and we can  
6   move on to the next item on the agenda.

7                   CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.  
8   Thank you. The next item on the agenda will be  
9   the approval of the minutes from the  
10   February 6th meeting. Mr. Harper's moved to  
11   approve those minutes. Any -- is there a  
12   second?

13                  DR. MCCLINTOCK: Second.

14                  CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr.  
15   McClintock. Is there any corrections or changes  
16   or additions to the minutes?

17                               (No response.)

18                  CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in  
19   favor of approving minutes, please say "aye."

20                  DR. HOWELL: Aye.

21                  DR. MCCLINTOCK: Aye.

22                  MR. HARRIS: Aye.

23                  MR. CHILDERS: Aye.

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1 DR. KEENER: Aye.

2 MR. HARPER: Aye.

3 MR. CONLON: Aye.

4 MR. PARNELL: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Aye. All right.

6 And to the next meeting, barring any  
7 construction delays --

8 MS. MCCURDY: Don't even say it. Don't  
9 even say it.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- we will have  
11 that next meeting at the Forever Wild Field  
12 Trial Area, and I am very excited about the work  
13 taking place up there and looking forward to  
14 hosting the meeting at that facility.

15 DR. MCCLINTOCK: I think there's a --  
16 kind of a correction on the future meeting dates  
17 on the last two dates. I think it's 2026 --  
18 2025 in the text that the --

19 MS. MCCURDY: I'm sure that is correct.  
20 I haven't -- and I haven't pulled it out and  
21 looked, but I am sure you are correct.

22 MR. BLANKENSHIP: And we will have that  
23 May meeting -- will be in South Alabama next

1 year. There is always a big event with the  
2 Dauphin Island Sea Lab on the same day. It's  
3 always the first Thursday of May that we have  
4 this meeting for a couple of our members to be  
5 able to meet and be back where they need to be  
6 in Mobile on -- on that same day. So we'll have  
7 the meeting next year in May in the Mobile area  
8 to help with attendance.

9 So any other questions or comments? If  
10 not, I'll make a motion to adjourn.

11 MR. CHILDERS: So moved.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. All  
13 those in favor, say "aye."

14 MR. CHILDERS: Aye.

15 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Aye.

16 MR. HARRIS: Aye.

17 MR. CHILDERS: Aye.

18 DR. KEENER: Aye.

19 MR. HARPER: Aye.

20 MR. PARNELL: Aye.

21 MR. CONLON: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Aye. We are  
23 adjourned. Thank you all.

**FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING**  
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1     (The proceedings concluded at  
2     11:46 a.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 STATE OF ALABAMA )

4 BLOUNT COUNTY )

5

6 I hereby certify that the above and  
7 foregoing proceedings were taken down by me in  
8 stenotype and the questions and answers thereto  
9 were reduced to computer print under my  
10 supervision and that the foregoing represents a  
11 true and correct transcript of the proceedings  
12 given by said witness upon said hearing.

13 I further certify that I am neither  
14 of counsel nor of kin to the parties to the  
15 action, nor am I in anywise interested in the  
16 result of said cause.

17

18

19

20 *Lexi Thomas Snider*

21 /s/ Lexi Thomas Snider

Lexi Thomas Snider

22 ACCR #721 - Expires September 30th, 2025

23

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