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MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
ED TEAGUE ARENA
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
August 6, 2020

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
at Large, at the Ed Teague Arena, Montgomery,
Alabama, on Thursday, August 6, 2020, commencing at
approximately 10:03 a.m.

* * * * *

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 Commissioner Christopher M. Blankenship, Chairman
3 Mr. Rick Oates
4 Mr. Horace H. Horn, Jr.
5 Mr. David Wright
6 Mr. Raymond B. Jones, Jr.
7 Mr. William "Bill" Satterfield
8 Dr. Lori Tolley-Jordan
9 Dr. Sean Powers
10 Mr. Reginald Holloway
11 Dr. James McClintock

12 * * * * *

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Good morning. Welcome
14 to the Forever Wild Board Meeting for
15 August. We're waiting on a couple of
16 board members to make it in. So before
17 I call the roll to make sure we have a
18 quorum, I'll give them just a second.

19 But I would like to thank
20 Commissioner Rick Pate and the
21 Department of Agriculture for allowing
22 us to use this facility here and making
23 this available for us as we sat around
and tried to find a place that is, one,
convenient for as many people as
possible, two, that would allow us some

1 area to have social distancing and,
2 three, was air-conditioned. All of
3 those things together are difficult to
4 come up with. And I appreciate the
5 Department of Agriculture -- and we
6 called and talked with Former
7 Commissioner Gunter Guy about using
8 Garrett Coliseum, and they said that we
9 were welcome to use that, but it's not
10 air-conditioned, it'd be hot in there,
11 that this might be a good alternative.

12 And so I think this has turned out
13 to be a really good place for us to meet
14 and appreciate everybody making the time
15 to come down so that we can have our
16 August board meeting.

17 So I'll go ahead now and call the
18 roll to make sure we have a quorum. As
19 I call your name, please indicate if
20 you're present.

21 Chris Blankenship is here.

22 Reginald Holloway?

23 MR. HOLLOWAY: Here.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Horace Horn?

2 MR. HORN: Here.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Raymond Jones?

4 MR. JONES: Here.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock?

6 DR. McCLINTOCK: Here.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Rick Oates?

8 MR. OATES: Here.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sean Powers?

10 DR. POWERS: Here.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Russ Runyan?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield?

14 MR. SATTERFIELD: Here.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

16 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Here.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright?

18 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And Dr. Sims?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So with that, we do
3 have a quorum and we can conduct
4 business.

5 I don't see anybody from the
6 Department of Agriculture here to thank
7 them personally. And I figured that we
8 would probably have a slim crowd today,
9 and so far I only have one speaker. Is
10 there anybody else that would like to
11 speak?

12 I think I see -- everybody else I
13 see works with us on a regular basis.

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So seeing no other
16 hands, I'll go ahead and move into the
17 public comment period. Our speaker is
18 A.L. Johnson.

19 And if you'll just come to the
20 podium here.

21 And he wants to speak on Dallas
22 County SOA usage, no particular tract.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Am I distancing well enough to

1 take my mask off while I talk?

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: That's fine. I think
3 that will be okay, and I think the court
4 reporter can hear you better without
5 that.

6 MR. JOHNSON: First of all, I commend you for
7 having this meeting today. We have to
8 move forward in this time in whatever
9 safe way we can. So I appreciate you
10 letting me speak.

11 I'm from Camden, Alabama. I grew up
12 there, and I work at a small bank there.
13 I'm an avid outdoorsman. I enjoy
14 camping, hunting, fishing, anything you
15 can think of, backpacking,
16 mountain-biking. And the properties
17 that we have there and all over our
18 state that Forever Wild has provided are
19 amazing.

20 I've enjoyed properties all over the
21 state, and I'm so excited about the
22 properties in Monroe County with the Red
23 Hills tracts and getting to utilize

1 those. The properties there in Dallas
2 County are unbelievable properties. I
3 just cannot -- I'm totally amazed by the
4 diversity on those properties. And I
5 think it's a unique idea to our part of
6 the country to have a special hunting
7 opportunity, and those are the type
8 properties that can be -- have some
9 wonderful hunting.

10 And so I do want to ask you today to
11 consider reviewing the management plan
12 that you had in place for those
13 properties. I hope that more people can
14 utilize the properties, and I think it
15 can be done without damaging the plan
16 for the hunting.

17 The signs don't say anything about
18 no hiking or no biking or no horses.
19 And so, frankly, I hope I don't go to
20 jail. My son and I have ridden those
21 properties on a bicycle outside of
22 hunting times, and it's a wonderful
23 place to do it. And I think people

1 would come from all over other states to
2 come to those properties and to our area
3 where we need any visitor that we can
4 get to bring any dollar to Wilcox and
5 Dallas Counties.

6 And so in the management plans,
7 which is the only place that I found any
8 information saying what purposes or
9 other uses we can have for those
10 properties, it mentioned that the
11 number-one goal is to provide as many
12 immediate consumptive and nonconsumptive
13 recreational opportunities to the public
14 as the tract will accommodate.

15 It's 15,000 acres when you put it
16 together. I'd appreciate you
17 considering it. There may already be
18 things in the works. There may be
19 trails -- the road systems are perfect.
20 Nothing needs to be done in my opinion
21 to the road systems. They're beautiful.
22 They're small, well made, well drained.
23 I don't think any money would need to be

1 put into it.

2 I think all we need are some signs
3 like across the river at the Cahawba
4 Prairie Tract. We've ridden horses and
5 bicycles and hiked on the Cahawba Tract.
6 And I think if we duplicated the plan
7 that we put in place there -- all we
8 need is signs and put some information
9 on the website. Those tracts aren't
10 even listed on the website yet and --
11 for whatever reason. You may have just
12 not gotten to it.

13 So there may already be quite a few
14 things already in place. And I
15 appreciate you listening to me and
16 considering that. And I'll pay
17 attention to how it goes and hopefully
18 come back and give you an update at some
19 point. So thank you for letting me
20 speak today. I appreciate y'all's time
21 on the Board and what you do for our
22 state.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

1 Any questions?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you,
4 sir.

5 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Anybody else that
7 wanted to make a public comment that
8 didn't have the opportunity?

9 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Commissioner?

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. Wright.

11 MS. McCURDY: Speak into the microphone.

12 MR. WRIGHT: (Inaudible.)

13 MS. McCURDY: I can't hear you.

14 MR. WRIGHT: Patti, I remember a discussion
15 from back earlier about the portions
16 that DCNR was deeded and the portions
17 that Forever Wild was (inaudible) --
18 (Brief interruption by the court
19 reporter.)

20 MS. McCURDY: Tracye can't hear you. Move
21 your microphone a little closer.

22 MR. WRIGHT: -- on the previous -- on the last
23 purchases we made. Then there is some

1 access to Forever Wild property from the
2 public access route. I heard talk about
3 maybe putting some of these trails or
4 some type of recreation in the off
5 season from hunting season for use. Is
6 that correct or incorrect?

7 MS. McCURDY: I'm going to let the -- because
8 of their proximity to the SOA extension
9 let Chuck -- and it may be somewhat of a
10 tract-by-tract answer.

11 But, Chuck, do you want to -- wrong
12 side.

13 Let me let Chuck discuss his
14 experiences on the tract and their
15 intended uses with the PR funds.

16 MR. SYKES: Well, when we first bought those
17 tracts, this was an experiment. So we
18 wanted to just concentrate on hunting to
19 see how it was going to work.

20 If Forever Wild wants to have
21 recreation outside of hunting season on
22 a Forever Wild tract, that -- that's up
23 to the Board. We just can't have it on

1 the properties that's deeded to Wildlife
2 and Freshwater Fisheries because of the
3 hunting license dollars.

4 So if Forever Wild wants to have a
5 recreational trail on a piece of
6 property that they own, that's fine as
7 long as we can coordinate around hunting
8 season trying to lessen any impact on
9 one user group to the other.

10 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Patti, do you think that
11 is something that the Board can look at?

12 MS. McCURDY: Yes, absolutely. And I think --
13 you know, I think you would be looking
14 at each tract and that acreage. And,
15 now, I don't know that you would have --
16 immediately have dollars, you know, to
17 implement trails on every portion. But
18 I think what Chuck is saying as to the
19 acreage deeded to Forever Wild and
20 recreation not during hunting season,
21 then we could look at that. So if you
22 would like for us to, you know, gather
23 some of that information, you know, we

1 can do that.

2 MR. WRIGHT: I think it would be worthwhile
3 because like the gentleman says, you
4 know, it could be used -- some of it
5 could be used. Some of it could not.
6 But I think it's worth looking into it.
7 It's a nice place.

8 MS. McCURDY: Well, why don't we -- what we'll
9 do, if the Board thinks this is an okay
10 plan -- and I'm open to a different
11 idea -- but we'll just give the Board
12 maps again to remind the Board of, you
13 know, where the boundary lines are and
14 then I'll ask staff to look a little bit
15 at the -- you know, because each site is
16 going to be a little different -- look
17 at the terrain, as to what it offers,
18 and give you some information. And then
19 we'll, you know, have some more
20 discussion on what you might like to see
21 where and possibly in what priority.

22 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

23 MS. McCURDY: You're welcome.

1 favor say "aye" and those opposed say
2 "nay."

3 Chris Blankenship, aye.

4 Mr. Holloway?

5 MR. HOLLOWAY: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Horace Horn?

7 MR. HORN: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones?

9 MR. JONES: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock?

11 DR. McCLINTOCK: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Oates?

13 MR. OATES: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Powers?

15 DR. POWERS: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield?

17 MR. SATTERFIELD: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

19 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright?

21 MR. WRIGHT: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So we have
23 enough votes to pass that to go into

1 Executive Session.

2 It is now 10:14. We'll take
3 approximately a 20-minute recess and
4 then return. Thank you.

5 **(Recess for Executive Session was**
6 **taken at approximately 10:14 a.m.**
7 **and the meeting was called back to**
8 **order at approximately 10:27 a.m.)**

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We are now returning
10 from Executive Session. It is 10:27 and
11 we're back on the record.

12 The next course of business is the
13 program status report, financial data.

14 Ms. McCurdy.

15 MS. McCURDY: All right. Thank you,
16 Commissioner.

17 At this portion of the meeting I run
18 through and try to cover the financial
19 status of the fund but more to the point
20 of getting into helping you understand
21 how much money you have available to
22 take action on various potential
23 property acquisitions. And so I will

1 start with giving the fund balance and
2 run through what we reserve. As I
3 always say, it's just like your
4 checkbook with checks I know I'm writing
5 but haven't cashed yet to keep up with
6 the working amount for the Board.

7 So to run through the -- the initial
8 balance -- let me start there -- is just
9 over \$27 million. That would be the
10 cash balance. And I'm going to run
11 through the tracts that are in various
12 stages of closing that this Board has
13 motioned for staff to close and to keep
14 moving unless we hit a problem or a
15 glitch or a question that leads us back
16 to the Board for further action.

17 So the properties that are currently
18 in the closing process include: D'Olive
19 Bay, Baldwin County. Monte Sano State
20 Park-McCombs Addition, Madison.
21 Portland Landing SOA-Gilmore Addition,
22 Dallas. Red Hills-Brown Schutt Trust
23 Addition, Monroe. Red Hills-Flat Creek

1 III, Monroe. Red Hills-Parris Trust
2 Addition, Monroe. Thigpen Hill,
3 Option A, Phase 1, Butler County.

4 Cedar Creek SOA Addition, Dallas
5 County. Cedar Creek SOA-Elm Bluff
6 Addition, Dallas County. Little River
7 State Forest Addition, Escambia County.
8 Perdido WMA-McNeill Addition, Baldwin.
9 Weeks Bay Reserve-Snook Addition,
10 Baldwin.

11 If I adjust for all of those
12 closings that we have been instructed to
13 make happen, the available unencumbered
14 balance would be just -- would be over
15 \$10 million, almost 11, but when you
16 factor in the spending authority that
17 you have per state budget procedures --
18 your spending authority right now is the
19 amount you'll see in red -- but it's
20 about \$8.9 million. And that's what is
21 actually available in your authority to
22 spend.

23 Any questions on that amount or any

1 of those tracts?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. McCURDY: I also want to take a minute to
4 update you. We're not quite at the end
5 of our fiscal year. Our fiscal year
6 ends September 30th. But I wanted to
7 run through the tracts -- if you didn't
8 hear it mentioned just now -- the ones
9 that have already closed successfully
10 during this fiscal year.

11 And we've done really well this year
12 with the tracts. We've had no owners --
13 landowners decline. We've been able to
14 move through to closing. And so that's
15 been very exciting for us.

16 So the tracts that have closed from
17 October 1, 2019, till today are
18 Blackwater River South Tract, Blakeley
19 Land Swap, Beaverdam Swamp, Cahaba
20 River-Mohon Tract, Cahaba River-Savage
21 Creek Tract, Red Hills-Baucom Addition,
22 Red Hills-Flat Creek Phase I and
23 Phase II, Red Hills-Section 2, and

1 Skyline WMA-Crow Mountain Addition.

2 And we have several more that are
3 close to closing. So I hope to have a
4 good update on that next time.

5 But any questions on any of that?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. McCURDY: All right. If you'll move to
8 Tab 2-B.

9 Tab 2-B outlines the current -- the
10 remaining funds that you have authorized
11 us to spend from the stewardship
12 account. Our budgeted authority is
13 \$1.5 million for the fiscal year that
14 we're in. Currently we have an
15 available balance of \$775,000, a little
16 over that. I signed on some more
17 invoice payments just yesterday, so
18 that's going to be coming down.

19 But this is the time of year that we
20 are spending a lot on the tracts. We're
21 out doing a lot of work on the tracts.
22 And so we're in good shape. We
23 anticipate being fine for the rest of

1 the fiscal year as to remaining within
2 the budgeted authority but yet meeting
3 the needs that we currently have.

4 The net assets for the fund as of
5 September 30th of 2019, the beginning of
6 the fiscal year, was just over
7 \$36 million. The net assets as of June
8 30th is over \$40 million. So we've come
9 through some tough times as everybody
10 has.

11 Tab 2-C -- are there any questions
12 before I move to 2-C?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. McCURDY: Tab 2-C is what we have started
15 doing this year. It's actually a report
16 that the State Department -- the
17 Treasurer's office helps us with and
18 prepares each time and gives us the
19 market value of the stewardship fund.

20 As you will see, that is, again, over
21 \$40 million, but it is detailed a little
22 more specifically in Tab 2-C.

23 If there are no additional

1 questions, Commissioner, from any board
2 members on those financial reports,
3 we'll move on into the grant status
4 update that we do each time.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. McCURDY: Okay. If you'll turn to Tab 5
7 and go to Tab 5-A, that is just some
8 bullet-point information regarding our
9 ongoing efforts. Staff is continuing at
10 all times to look for opportunities to
11 manage and to leverage the Board's
12 acquisition funds. Sometimes it's
13 through partnerships. Sometimes it's
14 through federal grant opportunities.
15 And so at this meeting we try to
16 highlight the ones that are a little
17 more -- a little more specifically in
18 the works.

19 The first one -- and I'm going to --
20 Chuck, I'm going to run through them all
21 and then let you come back up.

22 MR. SYKES: That's fine.

23 MS. McCURDY: So we'll have Chuck come up

1 after I run through everything and give
2 some additional information on the first
3 one you see there.

4 The first tract you see in the memo
5 is Mill Creek Tract. And if you want to
6 pull the map on that and look at that
7 and read the description, it's Tab 4-B,
8 pages 17 and 18, if you want to be
9 looking at that. There's also a map
10 that is attached to your 5-A memo in the
11 back.

12 But this is another opportunity, as
13 ones we've had before, where Wildlife
14 and Freshwater Fisheries Division has
15 come forward with an offer to
16 partnership with Forever Wild using
17 their Pittman-Robertson funds. And so
18 this would be an approximate 75/25
19 partnership with Forever Wild providing
20 the 25 percent that is necessary for
21 Chuck to be able to access the PR funds.
22 Although the funds are allocated to the
23 State, Chuck must have State dollars to

1 match with it to actually utilize that
2 money.

3 And so this would also be a
4 property -- it's in Lee County -- that
5 Chuck will talk about also using for SOA
6 hunts and those opportunities, and he'll
7 give you a little bit of an update on
8 that.

9 This is a short-list nomination. So
10 if you wanted to take any action today,
11 it would be just your usual motion for a
12 first appraisal. But the map you see
13 attached -- it's the same map as in
14 Tab 4 -- shows what we currently think
15 would be an approximate split of the
16 acreage. Again, we won't know that for
17 sure until the appraisal is done and be
18 sure we're in the right -- in the right
19 ballpark on that. But we've tried to
20 look at various land characteristics as
21 well as potential ways to easily reflect
22 the boundaries. But Chuck will come up
23 and talk to you about that.

1 The second update is related to the
2 Little River State Forest Addition. The
3 Board will recall that you motioned at
4 our last meeting for staff to proceed
5 with an appraisal of that tract subject
6 to some contingencies before moving
7 forward and spending money on the
8 appraisal related to being sure that we
9 understood access, where that would be,
10 and if any adjustments to the appraisal
11 value would result from that.

12 And so we worked both with -- State
13 Lands worked with State Parks as well as
14 with the Forestry Commission to begin
15 looking at moving forward with this
16 appraisal. And we actually have some
17 good news even though it hasn't been
18 initiated. I think as we discussed at
19 the last meeting that there's an
20 opportunity to pursue some federal
21 Forest Legacy Program grant funds to
22 help leverage the Board's acquisition of
23 this tract.

1 So in talking more about that -- and
2 I want to thank Rick Oates and his
3 staff. And Will Brantley isn't here
4 today. But they were very helpful in
5 getting into the weeds and the details
6 of that, and the more we looked, we
7 really do believe this tract will score
8 very well and has a significant chance
9 of getting funded.

10 So we really began to look
11 strategically at how should we approach
12 the appraisal, and there's a very
13 specific -- frankly, unique might be a
14 nice word -- characteristics of that
15 appraisal process with the U.S. Forestry
16 Service. And we're going to --

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Patti, could you speak
18 a little -- could you get a little
19 closer to the microphone? I think --

20 MS. McCURDY: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes. I've never
21 been told that I'm too quiet, so I
22 apologize.

23 So, yeah, what we -- in looking at

1 the grant criteria and the scoring and
2 how we could enhance our grant
3 application's likelihood of getting
4 funded and consultation also with U.S.
5 Forestry -- Forest Service was that we
6 should go ahead at this application
7 stage and conduct the appraisal pursuant
8 to the very specific requirements that
9 Forest Service has once you are awarded
10 the funds. So we would be considered as
11 sort of having that work already done,
12 tied down and being very -- a very known
13 quantity for them.

14 So we have been working on gathering
15 that information. So that delayed
16 getting the appraisal initiated, but I
17 think within the next two weeks we
18 should be ready to move forward.

19 Some additional good news in the
20 interim that also may impact how we
21 approach that. The Great American
22 Outdoor Act was passed by Congress and
23 signed by President Trump, and that has

1 increased some of the funding that will
2 be -- land acquisition funding that will
3 be available for some programs including
4 Forest Legacy Program. And so, you
5 know, we're very excited about that.
6 That might also factor into a little of
7 how we structure that application and
8 how that factors into the appraisal.

9 So for all of those reasons -- all
10 upbeat reasons -- we have not yet
11 initiated that appraisal, but it's not
12 due to any problems with that tract or
13 problems with proceeding with the
14 appraisal.

15 Any update on that? Or, Rick, do
16 you have anything you want to add?

17 MR. OATES: I think you covered it pretty
18 well, Patti. I would say we're glad
19 about the passage of the Great American
20 Outdoor Act because it will, I think,
21 significantly increase the funding to
22 Legacy and give us some great new
23 opportunities.

1 MS. McCURDY: And if the Board -- another
2 program that we have also partnered with
3 for federal funding before is The Land
4 and Water Conservation Fund. That
5 program has received more funding. And
6 so we're also -- we'll look to see if we
7 can take advantage of any of those
8 dollars.

9 We are continuing to look at the
10 possibility of amending a prior grant we
11 had that helped us with the D'Olive Bay
12 acquisition that we're currently
13 closing. Due to some land that was
14 donated as part of that acquisition, we
15 have some remaining funds left in that
16 grant, and we are in discussions with
17 Fish and Wildlife about an amendment to
18 that grant that would allow us to
19 potentially apply funds to the D'Olive
20 Bay Addition nomination. So we continue
21 to work on that.

22 And then -- and when I said -- I
23 think I gave the Oak Mountain update

1 after saying Little River. Did I do
2 that?

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: You gave the Oak
4 Mountain.

5 MS. McCURDY: Yeah. But I think I may have
6 said Little River.

7 Anyway, regardless, a little bit of
8 an update on the Little River State
9 Forest Addition. If I said that wrong
10 before, I apologize. This is the Little
11 River update.

12 Everything is working on that. We
13 are still working toward closing after
14 that motion was made by the Board. And
15 so we were able to get a grant extension
16 to October 30th. And so we're still --
17 we're still going to have to move
18 quickly, but we are not as concerned
19 about meeting the required deadline for
20 closing of that tract.

21 Any questions on anything other than
22 Mill Creek? Because I'm going to get
23 Chuck to come up and I'll stay up.

1 Anything other than Mill Creek?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. McCURDY: All right. Well, Chuck, I'm
4 going to get you to come up.

5 MR. SYKES: That Mill Creek Tract is a tract
6 that I am intimately familiar with. I
7 actually ran a hunting operation on that
8 place from 1995 through 2002. When I
9 started, it was a private quail
10 plantation, and we started a commercial
11 deer and turkey hunting operation on it.

12 The site index on it is crazy. It's
13 loaded with timber. It's loaded with
14 wildlife. It is between Opelika and
15 Auburn and Phenix City. So it has a
16 huge population base nearby.

17 Several of my staff members and
18 myself went to Mississippi yesterday and
19 met with their Department of Wildlife,
20 Fisheries, and Parks looking at some of
21 their state-of-the-art shooting ranges.
22 We are planning on putting a shooting
23 range on this property.

1 The National Shooting Sports
2 Foundation has estimated approximately
3 4 million new gun owners in the second
4 quarter of this year. It is a huge
5 market that we need to start catering
6 to. And putting a state-of-the-art
7 shooting range on some of this public
8 land right next to our SOA will not only
9 give nonhunters a place to come
10 recreationally shoot, but it also
11 provides us with a great way to try to
12 bridge that gap between shooters and
13 hunters.

14 I'll be happy to answer any
15 questions, but as far as we're
16 concerned, it's a no-brainer where we're
17 wanting to spend our PR dollars.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Chuck.

19 MR. WRIGHT: Chuck?

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

21 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

22 MR. WRIGHT: Since we've got 4 million more
23 gun owners out there, can you tell us

1 how much PR money you've gotten this
2 year?

3 MR. SYKES: That money will be in two years.

4 We're spending money from two years ago
5 now. So I do not have an apportionment
6 guess of what -- I can guess -- it will
7 probably be another 16 to 18 million is
8 what I'm guessing right now, but I --
9 don't quote me on that in the newspaper
10 because until U.S. Fish and Wildlife
11 Service gives us our final
12 apportionment, that's just something
13 that we're looking at for budgeting.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sean.

15 DR. POWERS: So I'm 100 percent in favor of
16 the shooting range. I think that's a
17 wonderful idea. I belong to one. It's
18 not public. Having some public options
19 would be wonderful. I think there's a
20 huge community that needs to be served.
21 I agree with you on that.

22 I'm more interested in your decision
23 to make it an SOA as opposed -- tell me

1 what factors go into that as opposed to
2 just managing it as another public
3 hunting area as opposed to an SOA.

4 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir. We've got probably
5 750,000 acres of public hunting lands
6 throughout the state. Some of them are
7 come one, come all. Some of them have
8 certain restrictions. The SOAs are just
9 a higher-end opportunity giving our
10 users as much flexibility and as many
11 options as we can. If we was to just
12 open the gate and turn the public loose
13 on a 4,000-acre tract, it's not going to
14 be special very long in my opinion.

15 So all we're doing is providing our
16 current public land users with a
17 higher-end opportunity, and we're also
18 bridging the gap between private
19 landowners/private club members who have
20 a little hesitancy about going to public
21 lands. Our surveying that we did that I
22 provided to y'all showed that we were
23 reaching that group of constituents. So

1 the SOAs are just another avenue for
2 people to enjoy public hunting in the
3 state.

4 DR. POWERS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Chuck.

6 Anything else, Patti?

7 MS. McCURDY: Chuck, let me ask you: What is
8 your -- is there any deadline associated
9 with these funds?

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The question was, is
11 there any deadlines for these funds.

12 MR. SYKES: I'm going to turn it over to Chris
13 Smith. He handles the budget. You can
14 repeat the question. I don't think he
15 heard it.

16 MS. McCURDY: My question was just for the
17 Board. One thing I did not include was
18 if there -- we try to alert you as to
19 any deadlines. And so if we're in
20 danger of not hitting a deadline, I just
21 wanted to inquire about that.

22 MR. SMITH: In regards to this tract that
23 we're currently discussing, this would

1 be something that would be -- if you
2 went forward and purchased in our FY21
3 apportionment -- and so it would be --
4 you know, the deadline we would run into
5 would be around this time next year
6 about making decisions on getting that
7 money spent.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thanks, Chris.

9 All right. Then we'll move into
10 general discussion.

11 MS. McCURDY: If you want me to go over the
12 short list.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The short list. All
14 right.

15 MS. McCURDY: I missed it last time, so we're
16 even. Yeah. And I'll run through it
17 quickly. And I apologize. With the
18 lighting and the distancing, trying to
19 use a screen just wasn't working out.

20 So if you'll turn to Tab 4 in your
21 packet. And in Tab 4 you will see Tab
22 4-A is simply an alphabetical listing of
23 the short-list nominations. Again,

1 these are properties that would be
2 available for motion by the Board for a
3 first appraisal. Tab 4-B provides a
4 brief description and a map for each of
5 the short-list nominations that you see
6 reflected on 4-A.

7 So I will run through those. If you
8 will speak up as I go through and stop
9 me if you have a question. It's hard to
10 see everybody spread out, so just please
11 speak up.

12 Again, under Tab 4-B, the first
13 short-list nomination reflected is
14 Coldwater Mountain-Andrews Addition.
15 That is approximately 86 acres in
16 Calhoun County. The next is Coosa
17 WMA-Hatchet Creek Addition,
18 approximately 151 acres in Coosa County.
19 Cypress Creek Tract, 74 acres in
20 Lauderdale County. D'Olive Bay
21 Addition, 29 acres in Baldwin County.
22 Hobbs Island, 334 acres in Madison
23 County. Joe Wheeler State Park-Page

1 Branch Addition, 423 acres in Lauderdale
2 County. Lowndes WMA-Johnson Hill
3 Addition, 783 acres in Lowndes County.
4 Mill Creek Tract, 4,505 acres
5 approximately in Lee County. Minamac
6 Wildflower Bog, 19 acres, Baldwin
7 County. Mobile-Tensaw Delta, The Cutoff
8 Tract, 223 acres in Baldwin County.
9 Patsaliga Creek, 1800 acres in Crenshaw
10 and Pike Counties.

11 And that's our newest tongue
12 twister.

13 Penitentiary Mountain, 3,928 acres
14 approximately, Shelby County. Perdido
15 Headwaters-Brushy Creek, 408 acres
16 approximately, Baldwin County. Perdido
17 WMA-Nellums Addition, 112 acres, Baldwin
18 County. Saginaw Swamp, 160 acres in
19 Shelby County. Walls of
20 Jericho-Bradford Addition, 40 acres in
21 Jackson County. And, finally,
22 Yates-Porter Addition, 47 acres in
23 Elmore County.

1 Any questions for -- I'm going to
2 move into general discussion next, but
3 if there's anything specific as to the
4 4-B short-list information, I'll be
5 happy to try to address that.

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Okay. I see no
8 questions. Thank you.

9 All right. So we'll now move into
10 the -- now we'll move into general
11 discussion from the board members where
12 we generally receive motions for first
13 or second appraisals on any of the
14 tracts that are on the appraised list or
15 the short list.

16 Do I have any motions?

17 DR. McCLINTOCK: I have a motion.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock.

19 DR. McCLINTOCK: I'd like to make a motion for
20 a first appraisal on the Coosa
21 WMA-Hatchet Creek Addition. It's an
22 area that I'm intimately familiar with
23 over the past three decades of canoeing,

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. This is the
2 Hatchet Creek -- Coosa WMA-Hatchet Creek
3 Tract.

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: Under what tab?

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: This is --

6 DR. McCLINTOCK: It's Tab 4-B, page 5.

7 MR. SATTERFIELD: I'm still not hearing it.

8 MS. McCURDY: Tab 4-B, page 5. And that's no
9 problem. I know it's hard with the
10 echo.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions or
12 discussions?

13 Mr. Wright.

14 MR. SATTERFIELD: Okay. So it's the Coosa
15 WMA-Hatchet Creek Addition. That's what
16 we're dealing with?

17 MS. McCURDY: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: And you have a motion and a
20 second on that. Okay. That's all I
21 wanted to clarify.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

23 MR. WRIGHT: I don't really have a problem

1 with that, but for some of you board
2 members that might be new, we had a
3 little problem with Coosa County a few
4 years ago. They don't really like us
5 over there at all. So they don't want
6 to lose no more ad valorem tax. That's
7 all I'll say on that.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

9 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I do have a question
10 about -- because of the difficulties
11 that we had with Coosa County, would it
12 be worth approaching them in advance --
13 is that okay -- just to see if they
14 automatically resist our request to
15 evaluate that property?

16 My focus is since it's right there
17 on the creek and there's already all
18 this Forever Wild acreage surrounding
19 this that they're not going to get
20 excited about that like they were about
21 the other requests, but just to find out
22 if they're really adamantly opposed in
23 advance.

1 MS. McCURDY: Staff can absolutely make that
2 contact and inquire with the tract
3 information. We'll give them that and
4 see what the feedback is. Absolutely we
5 can do that.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield.

7 MR. SATTERFIELD: I'm sorry again. I can't
8 hear the discussion, and so if I repeat
9 something, it's just because I can't
10 hear.

11 But I noticed that in our notes that
12 in previous meetings and then according
13 to the notes that Wildlife and
14 Fisheries -- Freshwater Fisheries
15 Division was not really pursuing any
16 additional acreage for inclusion in the
17 Coosa WMA. And I also remember that we
18 had a problem a year or two ago with the
19 Coosa County political structure there,
20 that they were opposed to any further
21 Forever Wild acquisitions because of the
22 negative tax implications -- property
23 tax implications on the county. And so

1 I -- I don't -- I just want to see what
2 reactions they might have to those two
3 issues.

4 MS. McCURDY: And that was actually
5 Dr. Tolley-Jordan's suggestion or
6 inquiry, if staff could approach the
7 local government to, you know, get
8 feedback from them as to their position
9 on this acreage, and I told her that we
10 could.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I think Director Sykes
12 may have a comment he'd like to make on
13 this particular tract.

14 MR. SYKES: Mr. Satterfield, you're correct.
15 We did have in the package that Wildlife
16 and Freshwater Fisheries was not seeking
17 any more land in Coosa, but to go to
18 your statement, it makes perfect sense.
19 It's right there on the creek. It is a
20 good fit. The reason that we said we
21 weren't looking for any additional was
22 for the comments that you made about the
23 commission.

1 So that's the only reason. It
2 wasn't that it wasn't a good fit or
3 wouldn't provide access. It was
4 strictly based on what the commission
5 had said.

6 MS. McCURDY: So I will -- but we could
7 certainly do that, Commissioner.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. Okay. So I need
9 to follow up on the motion and either
10 vote it up or down or if there's any
11 amended motion or if you want to wait --
12 if there's a desire to wait until we get
13 feedback from the Coosa County
14 Commission. I just need some feedback
15 from the Board on -- if that's the case,
16 we'll just vote "yea" or "nay."

17 MS. McCURDY: And for the board members who
18 may wonder, that's just -- if you would
19 like for us to just do that -- that
20 inquiry doesn't require a Board motion.
21 It's just something that, you know --

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Even if this motion
23 passed, you could still do that and then

1 provide that information to the Board at
2 the next meeting?

3 MS. McCURDY: Yes. And I would just want
4 direction on whether to -- if it does
5 need to go ahead and proceed with the
6 appraisal if we are satisfied with the
7 feedback or if this Board would like to
8 see the feedback -- would like to know
9 the feedback from the local government
10 before we proceed with appraising it.

11 MR. JONES: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, we certainly
12 don't want to proceed to gain an
13 appraisal if we're going to have a
14 negative reaction.

15 MS. McCURDY: But for further clarification
16 just so y'all will know, we certainly
17 wouldn't move forward, but would this
18 Board like to hear what we -- what
19 feedback we got from the county before
20 you made a motion on the appraisal?

21 It doesn't matter to me. We can
22 structure it either way.

23 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Patti, I have thoughts

1 about that too. It would be great if --
2 either way that it's done, it would be
3 nice to see in writing that they are --
4 that they truly support this motion.
5 And if they were willing to come to a
6 meeting in the future so that it's on
7 record for the public to see as well, I
8 think that would be quite reassuring.
9 But, in particular, having a letter
10 specifically stating their opinion for
11 me would be even better than verbal
12 report because I'm concerned a little
13 about their negative intentions toward
14 us.

15 MS. McCURDY: And one thought that I have
16 would be that we could ask them for a
17 resolution. You know, there are often
18 resolutions passed at commission
19 meetings on various things. We could
20 ask for a resolution from the county
21 commission for support, which would be a
22 step below attending in person but a
23 step above a letter from a single

1 commissioner.

2 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: That would be great.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So is there a desire
4 from the motion maker to amend the
5 motion, or would you rather just go
6 ahead with a yes-or-no vote or --

7 DR. McCLINTOCK: I think we should go ahead
8 and amend the motion so that we have the
9 feedback from Coosa County Commission
10 before we get an appraisal.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I want to make sure I
12 hear you and everybody else understands.

13 So you're -- from what I heard,
14 you're interested in amending the motion
15 to move to get feedback in the form of
16 like a resolution or something in
17 writing from the Coosa County Commission
18 that they were not opposed to this
19 acquisition --

20 DR. McCLINTOCK: Correct.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- and before the staff
22 would proceed with spending money for an
23 appraisal. Is that --

1 DR. McCLINTOCK: Correct.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Does that capture it?

3 DR. McCLINTOCK: That's correct. I have a
4 question though. If we were to get this
5 permission within, say, the next month
6 or so, would the appraisal go forward or
7 would this be brought back to the next
8 quarterly meeting?

9 MS. McCURDY: And that's the finer point that
10 I have, also, was would the Board --
11 does the Board just want staff to
12 evaluate that and if we get a
13 resolution -- and I would say I would be
14 more comfortable if staff had a
15 resolution from the county commission,
16 passed by the county commission -- or
17 would this Board simply like for us --
18 like for me to come back and have
19 discussion, if needed, on what we got
20 from the county before I quoted out the
21 appraisal?

22 MR. HOLLOWAY: Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. Holloway.

1 MR. HOLLOWAY: If I could, I would prefer
2 staff to get the information and then
3 bring it back to the Board and we vote
4 so that we understand what the
5 commission wants first.

6 MS. McCURDY: So I think what -- if I could
7 maybe interject, I think that if we know
8 we're going to come back to the Board --
9 and I do think that's, you know, a good
10 idea based on past proceedings -- I
11 would not initiate the appraisal until
12 after we talk about it in November. So
13 I don't know that we would have to have
14 a motion for an appraisal now, but we
15 can just subject to discussion in
16 November.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Well, the motion on the
18 floor currently is that we move for a
19 first appraisal. If there's -- we can
20 amend that as we discussed or we can --
21 the motioner could table that for
22 further information or we can just -- or
23 we can just move forward and vote up or

1 down.

2 I will say I understand wanting to
3 get the information from Coosa County
4 from things that happened before many of
5 us were on the Board and did not really
6 participate in that, and I know we would
7 like to get feedback from the county and
8 have their support. But I am worried
9 about, you know, the Board -- it's just
10 a personal observation, but I'm worried
11 about the Board having to have approval
12 from counties before we purchase
13 properties in their county. I don't
14 know that that is necessarily the right
15 way to move. And, now, we can -- that's
16 a longer discussion, I'm sure, but that
17 is a concern that I have, that the
18 program as set up by the Constitution
19 allows this Board to do the business and
20 not with veto power from any county or
21 other entity, even though we would like
22 to take their wishes into consideration,
23 I'm sure, as we factor in many decision

1 points before the Board would move for
2 purchase. That's just -- that's just a
3 comment from the Chairman for future
4 consideration.

5 So back to where we are. We have a
6 motion on the floor, and I need to
7 either act on it or table it or amend it
8 and --

9 MR. HORN: What is the motion on the floor?

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The motion on the floor
11 currently is that we have a first
12 appraisal on the Coosa WMA-Hatchet Creek
13 property. And that's a motion that has
14 been made and seconded. The motioner
15 offered an amendment, I think, that
16 would amend that motion for a first
17 appraisal if we receive a resolution of
18 support from Coosa County for the
19 purchase.

20 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: May I?

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: But that hasn't been
22 seconded. The amended motion hasn't
23 been seconded. So is there -- would

1 you, Dr. Powers, as the seconder prefer
2 to second that motion or somebody else?

3 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I second it. Was it time
4 to second it, or are we still on
5 negotiations?

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I think under the rules
7 of -- the Robert's Rule of Order, if
8 he's proposed an amended motion, I think
9 I need a second on that from somebody on
10 the Board before we can move forward.

11 MR. HORN: I would second that.

12 MR. HOLLOWAY: I second that.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So I will say that
14 Mr. Holloway -- I heard him first -- has
15 seconded the amended motion.

16 Yes, sir.

17 DR. POWERS: So I seconded the original
18 motion. And that's fine. I actually
19 share your concern. I really am
20 hesitant to put in a motion that we're
21 waiting on a county to tell us it's okay
22 to proceed or at least even give us
23 feedback. I know we're not -- we're not

1 bound by that.

2 You know, I think if we -- it would
3 be better to have informal discussions
4 with them and then come back and report
5 on the informal discussions as opposed
6 to clearly putting that in a motion that
7 we're waiting on a county to give us
8 their "okay." That's why I would object
9 to the amended -- amended motion.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Understood.

11 Mr. Satterfield.

12 MR. SATTERFIELD: To recount a little history
13 on this, the reason for this is
14 because -- it's really not asking
15 permission so much as it is seeing what
16 their new views are. Because when this
17 came up a couple of years ago, Coosa
18 County was very aggressive with all
19 their political structure, the county
20 commission, the school board, and other
21 elected officials who opposed any
22 further acquisitions of Forever Wild
23 land in Coosa County for any reason

1 because of the tax implications. And
2 that then led to them going to one of
3 their legislators in the House to
4 sponsor an amendment to the Forever
5 Wild -- an amendment that would have
6 affected how Forever Wild worked and
7 operated.

8 So it's really not -- it's really
9 not what it seems, and that's why
10 we're -- that's why we're raising the
11 issue. It's only explicit with Coosa
12 County because I would hate to see us in
13 a position of having to get back into
14 that fight again, particularly in the
15 legislature, particularly in an election
16 year.

17 So that's the only reason I brought
18 that up is because I know there's some
19 new board members who weren't here for
20 that pretty precipitous fight that we
21 had about that -- not fight, but a lot
22 of input. And that's the only reason
23 I raise the issue, to see if we have any

1 new information about how they feel now
2 about the Forever Wild program in Coosa
3 County which goes to more than just this
4 acquisition if we have other future
5 proposals in that county. So that was
6 the only reason I brought it up.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones.

8 MR. JONES: I agree with a lot of what's been
9 said, but it seems to me that we're
10 making a push to have this done now. If
11 we want to get -- ask for some guidance
12 from Coosa County, let's do that.

13 So I would recommend that we maybe
14 think about tabling this motion until
15 the next meeting and at that point --

16 DR. McCLINTOCK: Yeah. I was just about to
17 suggest that. This is new history to
18 me, so I wasn't completely aware of all
19 the politics. But I think it makes
20 sense, then, to table this particular
21 one because we need to find out more
22 about it. And then it would be a clean
23 new sort of motion for appraisal at the

1 next meeting. And maybe there won't be
2 one if we find out something we don't
3 like, but then we can move forward at
4 that point. So I think rather than to
5 have it on the record, let's table it.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So we have a motion to
7 table this motion on the Hatchet Creek
8 first appraisal. All those in favor say
9 "aye."

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

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
15 carries.

16 MS. McCURDY: Chuck and I -- I'll get with
17 Chuck, and we'll proceed with
18 discussions with Coosa County.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: To bring back some
20 information for the next meeting.

21 MS. McCURDY: Absolutely.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

23 All right. Dr. Powers.

1 DR. POWERS: I'd like to move to have a first
2 appraisal on the Mobile-Tensaw Cutoff
3 Tract. It's obviously in an area that's
4 amazing as far as diversity goes. And
5 it fronts Apalachee River, and it
6 borders a WMA already.

7 MS. McCURDY: And that's Tab 4-B, page 21.
8 Tab 4-B, page 21.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Do I have a second?

10 I'll second that motion.

11 Any discussion on that?

12 That is a property that is kind
13 of -- is an inholding amongst a lot of
14 other property that the Department or
15 Forever Wild owns in the Mobile-Tensaw
16 Delta. The Bartram Canoe Trail cuts
17 right through there, and the cutoff that
18 goes through the middle of the property
19 would close up a hole for us in our WMA
20 and in the properties for the Bartram
21 Canoe Trail and some other recreational
22 access sites there.

23 All right. All those in favor say

1 "aye."

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

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
7 carries.

8 MS. McCURDY: Well, I'm not sure everybody
9 responded.

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

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

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The
17 motion carries.

18 MS. McCURDY: I'm sorry, Commissioner.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I feel like that
20 we've -- looking at the room that we had
21 affirmative votes.

22 MS. McCURDY: You have to have a quorum for
23 the record.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Next. Anybody have --
2 Mr. Jones?

3 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move for
4 first appraisal for the Mill Creek Tract
5 in Lee County.

6 MR. SATTERFIELD: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So a motion by
8 Mr. Jones seconded by Mr. Satterfield
9 for a first appraisal on the Mill Creek
10 Tract in Lee County.

11 DR. POWERS: Question.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Dr. Powers.

13 DR. POWERS: So when we do this, is the 4500
14 acres the total tract we're talking
15 about purchasing and then leveraging
16 with Chuck?

17 MS. McCURDY: The appraisal will be conducted
18 on the whole, but according to the
19 split -- the resulting split in
20 acreage -- because we will have two
21 deeds. We will have one deed to Forever
22 Wild and the other deed to the
23 Department through Wildlife. So the

1 same appraiser will do both.

2 DR. POWERS: But we're going to get the
3 appraisal on the whole --

4 MS. McCURDY: Yes. We'll get the appraisal on
5 the -- it will be one appraiser, but the
6 values -- you'll see two values.

7 DR. POWERS: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Any other
9 discussion? Any other questions?

10 Mr. Wright.

11 MS. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
12 make a proposal for a second --

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Hold on. We've got to
14 finish the motion on the Mill Creek. We
15 haven't voted on that one yet.

16 Any other discussion on that motion?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. All those
19 in favor of a first appraisal for the
20 Mill Creek Tract in Lee County, please
21 say "aye."

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

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
4 carries.

5 All right. Mr. Wright.

6 MR. WRIGHT: I'm like Mr. Bill over here. I'm
7 having a hard time hearing.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

9 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to make a motion for
10 second appraisal and move to purchase on
11 the Coldwater-Young Addition Tract, 59
12 acres. That's in Tab 3, page 3.

13 This is for access. It already has
14 our deeded access in there, but now we
15 would own the property around there and
16 have actual road access to connect onto
17 properties that Forever Wild already
18 owns.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So it's a
20 motion for a second appraisal for the
21 Coldwater Mountain-Young Addition made
22 by Mr. Wright. Is there a second?

23 MR. HOLLOWAY: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by

2 Mr. Holloway.

3 Any other discussion?

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: I'm sorry. Which one?

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. This is a
6 motion for the second appraisal on the
7 Coldwater Mountain-Young Addition.

8 MS. McCURDY: Second appraisal and move to
9 purchase.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And move to purchase,
11 correct.

12 MR. SATTERFIELD: That's the Young Addition?

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Young Addition.

14 MS. McCURDY: Young Addition.

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: Yeah. I hate to disagree
16 with my friend David Wright, but --

17 MS. McCURDY: Please speak into the
18 microphone.

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: I hate to disagree with my
20 friend David Wright, but that -- that
21 piece of property is down in the
22 southwest corner. It's encumbered by a
23 road -- a road easement. And the

1 appraisal price is considerably more
2 expensive than the other property on
3 that -- on the list that we've been
4 looking at in the Oxanna Addition up in
5 the northeast corner.

6 And my own personal opinion is I
7 would rather see us acquire the Oxanna
8 Addition in the northeast corner than to
9 spend all that money -- the extra money
10 acquiring the southwest corner because I
11 don't understand why that's more unique.
12 And if we're filling in contiguous
13 property, I just have a preference.
14 I'm not necessarily saying I'm going to
15 vote against the motion, but I would
16 just like to express that preference.

17 MR. WRIGHT: I agree, Bill, wholeheartedly in
18 what you said because I see the
19 appraised value, also, but I reckon it
20 helps to own the beginning of the road
21 rather than the end of the road. I
22 assume that's the difference in the
23 appraisal. But I like them both.

1 Any other discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor of
4 moving for a second appraisal and moving
5 to purchase on the Coldwater
6 Mountain-Young Addition, please say
7 "aye."

8 (All board members present with the
9 exception of Mr. Satterfield
10 respond "aye.")

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

12 MR. SATTERFIELD: I would like to abstain,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So let me do this on
15 this particular property since it's very
16 close and Mr. Satterfield is going to
17 abstain.

18 If you're in favor of moving towards
19 a purchase and a second appraisal on the
20 Coldwater Mountain-Young Addition, will
21 you please raise your hand.

22 (Nine raised hands.)

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: One, two, three, four,

1 five, six, seven, eight --

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: I'm sorry. Are we voting
3 now?

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

5 MR. SATTERFIELD: On the Young Addition?

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

7 Okay. I couldn't -- I wanted to
8 make sure we had enough votes.

9 MR. SATTERFIELD: You had enough votes. If
10 you don't have enough votes, I will vote
11 for it, but --

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No. We have enough
13 votes. There are nine "yeas" and one
14 abstention. The motion carries.

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: Okay. You're okay with it?

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

17 MR. SATTERFIELD: Okay. Mr. Chairman --

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I just wanted to make
19 sure everybody else voted "yes."

20 MR. SATTERFIELD: Are you ready to move on?

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, move to the
22 next item.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: Under Tab 4, I would like to

1 propose a motion that we go to the first
2 appraisal on the Perdido WMA-Nellums
3 Addition.

4 DR. McCLINTOCK: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Who seconded that? I'm
6 sorry.

7 DR. McCLINTOCK: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
9 Dr. McClintock.

10 A motion by Mr. Satterfield for a
11 first appraisal on the Perdido
12 WMA-Nellums Addition.

13 Any discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
16 "aye."

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

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
22 carries.

23 Thank you, sir.

1 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Mr. Chairman?

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

3 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Yes. I would like to make
4 a motion for first appraisal for the Joe
5 Wheeler State Park-Page Branch Addition
6 in Lauderdale County, Tab 4-A.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: It's a motion for a
8 first appraisal for the Joe Wheeler
9 State Park-Page Branch Addition made by
10 Dr. Tolley-Jordan. Is there --

11 MS. McCURDY: And that's page --

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there a second?

13 MR. JONES: That's page what?

14 MS. McCURDY: It's in Tab 4-B, page 13.

15 DR. McCLINTOCK: I'll second that.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by --

17 MS. McCURDY: Hold on. Mr. Satterfield was
18 asking me for -- are you --

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: I can't hear you.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure.

21 MS. McCURDY: Okay. If y'all can take just a
22 second. Do you want to repeat it?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The motion for a first

1 appraisal for the Joe Wheeler State
2 Park-Page Branch Addition was made by
3 Dr. Tolley-Jordan and seconded by
4 Dr. McClintock.

5 MR. SATTERFIELD: I still don't under -- I'm
6 sorry. I still don't --

7 MS. McCURDY: No, no, no. It's hard to hear.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: It's the acoustics in here.

9 MS. McCURDY: I know.

10 It's the Joe Wheeler -- Tab 4, Joe
11 Wheeler State Park, the only Joe Wheeler
12 State Park.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones, do you have
14 a question?

15 MR. JONES: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, this tract
16 seems kind of disjointed. We only touch
17 in one small area.

18 And I notice Greg Lein -- you're in
19 the room. Would you mind speaking to
20 this as to how State Parks feels about
21 this particular tract as strategic to
22 what your mission is?

23 MR. LEIN: Good morning. Raymond, you're

1 correct because it does simply corner
2 our property there in the park, and the
3 scoring would reflect that. It
4 doesn't -- it doesn't prohibit it from
5 being an opportunity for us. It does
6 front one of the public roads. So even
7 though it doesn't connect to the main
8 area of the park as tightly as some
9 nominations might, there is public
10 access. And we have other parcels of
11 property within Joe Wheeler State Park
12 that, again, are accessed from other
13 public road systems, and that's not an
14 uncommon phenomenon within the Parks
15 system in our various parks.

16 So what I would say about this is
17 Joe Wheeler State Park is largely
18 comprised of frontage along the river
19 and the adjacent tributaries to the
20 river. And so we have a fair amount of
21 acreage, but much of it is very narrow
22 and is simply a border to the water.
23 What this provides is a big block of

1 land -- interior land adjacent to the
2 park which would provide other
3 recreational opportunities in the future
4 and as well as different habitat from
5 what we have on our existing acreage.
6 Again, the scoring -- the scoring would
7 reflect that.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

9 MR. WRIGHT: Is this a piece of property that
10 the State Parks system would like to
11 acquire?

12 MR. LEIN: We would support this nomination
13 and the potential purchase if it's in
14 the interest of the Board. This is --
15 again, there's not a lot of
16 opportunities to add land to the State
17 Parks system as the Board has probably
18 observed. This is the only short-listed
19 tract that is available to you to
20 consider to add land to the Parks
21 system.

22 And that's not an uncommon
23 phenomenon as you go from one board

1 meeting to another. They're always
2 going to score differently. And you can
3 simply look at this and compare it with
4 the Belcher Tract next to Oak Mountain
5 and see, you know, some of the physical
6 differences. And they'll be used
7 differently. Each park has its own
8 unique grouping of visitors and
9 visitation and the recreational
10 activities.

11 But there have never really been
12 many opportunities to add to Joe Wheeler
13 State Park. These kind of opportunities
14 are uncommon. And I think that it's
15 always pleasing to us to see the Board
16 take an interest in a short-listed tract
17 that is adjacent to one of our state
18 parks. Thank you.

19 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: May I also add that given
20 that the National Wildlife Refuge is
21 there and the interest in birding that
22 is really strong in this particular
23 area, having another tract with some

1 various habitat could really offer some
2 more access to people coming in for
3 birding. And given the growth and the
4 development happening in Lauderdale and
5 Madison Counties, perhaps that would
6 help to keep that area open for access
7 by birders and other wildlife
8 enthusiasts.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. Any other
10 discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I see no other hands.

13 So the motion is for a first
14 appraisal on the Joe Wheeler State
15 Park-Page Branch Addition. All those in
16 favor say "aye."

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

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The
22 motion carries.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman?

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield.

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: Under Tab 3, I'd like to
3 reference the Locust Fork-Palmer Tract.
4 We've had this tract -- we've been
5 dealing with this tract with the Board
6 now since May of 2015. It's the fifth
7 time that acreage has changed. The maps
8 have changed. There's still a problem
9 with the railroad right of way bisecting
10 the property. It's an isolated tract.

11 It would require yet another
12 reappraisal because of the changing of
13 the maps and acreages, and there's never
14 really seemed to be any great interest
15 in the Board moving beyond first
16 appraisal. And having said that, I
17 would like to make a motion for the
18 Board to consider that we reject this
19 purchase and remove it from the list.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Is there a
21 second?

22 MR. OATES: I'll second that.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Oates.

1 So the motion is to remove the
2 Locust Fork-Palmer Tract from the list
3 of nominated properties --

4 MR. SATTERFIELD: Correct.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- from Tab 3 for
6 nominated properties. Is that clear?

7 It's a little bit different motion
8 than we've had in the past. I want to
9 make sure everybody heard it okay.

10 Any discussion on that?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor of
13 removing the Locust Fork-Palmer Tract,
14 please say "aye."

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

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed to removing
18 it?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
21 carries.

22 Mr. Jones.

23 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, in light of that,

1 another tract that has been on our list
2 for a while which has seen -- it's
3 already protected -- is the Prairie
4 Grove Glades Tract. We've talked about
5 this tract a number of times and some of
6 the issues that relate to it about it
7 being kind of off by itself and also
8 currently being owned by The Nature
9 Conservancy therefore protected. I
10 would like to ask for removal of this
11 tract from our overall list of
12 nominations as well.

13 MR. WRIGHT: I second it.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Wright.

15 So the motion is to remove the
16 Prairie Grove Glades Tract from Tab 3 of
17 the appraised nominations for
18 consideration for purchase. Everybody
19 clear on the motion?

20 Any other discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor of
23 removing the Prairie Grove Glades,

1 please say "aye."

2 (All board members present with the
3 exception of Dr. Tolley-Jordan
4 respond "aye.")

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

6 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I would like to abstain.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan
8 abstained. So with that, I will ask for
9 a raise of hands on that since we are
10 right at the limit of our quorum.

11 So all those in favor of removing
12 the Prairie Grove Glades Tract, please
13 raise your hand.

14 (Nine raised hands.)

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We have nine "yeas" and
16 one abstention. The motion carries.

17 Any other business?

18 MR. HOLLOWAY: Mr. Chairman?

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. Holloway.

20 MR. HOLLOWAY: Tab 4-A --

21 MS. McCURDY: Speak up, Mr. Holloway. I'm
22 sorry.

23 MR. HOLLOWAY: In Tab 4-A, the Saginaw Swamp,

1 I would just like to see that stay on
2 the list.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: On the list. Okay.

4 So that's not -- I don't think
5 that's something that really takes a
6 motion by -- or approval by the Board.
7 We have one board member that would like
8 for the Saginaw Swamp to stay on the
9 short list and not be removed after the
10 fifth meeting. So as the Chairman, I
11 would just ask the staff to leave that
12 on there for consideration.

13 MS. McCURDY: And since we're on that topic,
14 so we don't have to go through it in a
15 second, if you'll turn to Tab 5-B.
16 Let's just take this opportunity to note
17 the ones that will roll off on both the
18 Tab 3-A listing and the Tab 4 short-list
19 nominations after this meeting. So if
20 anybody wants one to stay on in addition
21 to the Saginaw Swamp Tract -- I've noted
22 that.

23 The other tracts -- again,

1 Tab 5-B -- Coldwater Mountain-Young
2 Addition that we had a motion and
3 discussion on that one earlier and Hobbs
4 Island and Yates Lake-Porter Addition.
5 We would normally consider the
6 discussion we had earlier as an
7 indication to keep Coldwater
8 Mountain-Young Addition on the listing.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So just to
10 make sure everybody's clear -- it is a
11 little difficult to hear -- on Tab 5-B
12 where we remove certain tracts if they
13 have not had any action on them either
14 from the short list or from the
15 appraised nominations, the Coldwater
16 Mountain-Young Addition was moved on
17 today, and so that will be handled.

18 Saginaw Swamp, Mr. Holloway has
19 asked that it stay on the list. So the
20 two that would be removed from the short
21 list are the Hobbs Island and the Yates
22 Lake-Porter Addition.

23 Any comments on that or questions?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

3 MS. McCURDY: And I'm sorry. You can go back
4 to general discussion. I just thought
5 we'd knock that one out.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Any other
7 motions for general discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

10 We will now move to miscellaneous
11 reports.

12 MS. McCURDY: All right. We just covered the
13 first one, the first item, which is Tab
14 5-B.

15 The second item to come before the
16 Board would be Tab 5-C. And this is the
17 management -- another set of management
18 plan approvals.

19 We -- the Board is to adopt an
20 initial -- it's a living document -- but
21 an initial management plan on each tract
22 within one year of acquisition. We are
23 trying to come before the Board one

1 meeting in advance of the absolute
2 deadline in case there are questions or
3 in case we don't have a quorum in these
4 times of unusual circumstances.

5 So in, again, Tab 5-C you will see
6 proposals for the following as to tract
7 management plans: The Cahaba River
8 Shelby Park-Savage Creek Addition would
9 be added to and incorporated in the
10 existing Cahaba River Shelby County Park
11 Management Plan.

12 The three Red Hills Tracts that you
13 see, Flat Creek Phase I Addition, Flat
14 Creek Phase II Addition, and the
15 Section 2 Addition on the Red Hills, we
16 would incorporate those three new tracts
17 into the existing Red Hills Complex
18 Management Plan.

19 And then the Walls of Jericho-Crow
20 Mountain Addition would be added to the
21 existing Walls of Jericho Complex
22 Management Plan.

23 So you have those three additions.

1 The Beaverdam Swamp Tract really did
2 not fit into an existing management
3 plan. Due to its location it really
4 just didn't tie in. So we developed a
5 new management plan for the Beaverdam
6 Swamp Tract.

7 I'll be happy to answer any Board
8 questions on that. If there's no
9 discussion, we will need a motion and
10 Board vote to formally adopt. There is
11 a motion in the memo, but I want to
12 pause and be sure there's no questions
13 or discussion on that.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

15 MR. WRIGHT: Patti, I would just like to ask a
16 question about Beaverdam Swamp and the
17 ag acreage. Has there been a decision
18 on what's going to be done with that?

19 MS. McCURDY: Where we are -- the question was
20 on Beaverdam Swamp and the presence of
21 some ag acreage which had been present
22 there, which is unusual for our program
23 to acquire that.

1 As you may recall, the Beaverdam
2 Swamp acquisition, part of its value was
3 the pygmy sunfish and the protection of
4 that species. And so the first step on
5 this tract has been to go in and sort of
6 clean up the tract, you know, our usual
7 where we're going to put gates and how
8 we're going to just physically manage
9 it. But the acreage management will
10 really be primarily for sunfish
11 protection first.

12 We are looking at if there is the
13 possibility of incorporating some
14 recreation. But we have some tract --
15 the tract is going to have to be adapted
16 if we do that. We will do an ecological
17 assessment. We'll be careful not to
18 come near the species.

19 But the ag acreage would not be --
20 at this time there's no plan to continue
21 in ag production with that acreage.
22 There are certain deed restrictions that
23 were part of the transaction that would

1 prohibit that and also some other
2 restrictions, but we think we can manage
3 the property within them. But there's a
4 very specific restriction on ag
5 activity.

6 And there is a -- should be a copy
7 of the restrictive covenants on that
8 one. It's Exhibit B. It's the very
9 last few pages of that tab. But
10 Exhibit B to the Beaverdam Swamp
11 Management Plan. So they're actually
12 included.

13 Any other questions?

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones.

15 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move
16 that the Board approve the State Lands
17 Division proceeding with the inclusion
18 of the tracts into existing management
19 plans and the adoption of the new tract
20 management plan as set forth in the
21 memorandum dated August 6, 2020,
22 attached to this memorandum.

23 DR. McCLINTOCK: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by

2 Mr. Holloway, I think -- no.

3 Dr. McClintock. Sorry. Seconded by

4 Dr. McClintock.

5 Any questions or discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say

8 "aye."

9 (All board members present respond

10 "aye.")

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion

14 carries.

15 MS. McCURDY: All right. The next one is a

16 very easy one for you-all, Tab 5-D. If

17 you'll recall, I mentioned briefly at

18 the last meeting that Tallapoosa River

19 Electric had presented an easement

20 request. We have been diligently

21 pursuing and working on that, but they

22 informed us just this week that they are

23 withdrawing that request. They're

1 evaluating other potential actions. But
2 for right now that request has been
3 withdrawn. So we don't need to cover
4 Tab 5-D.

5 So I will next call your attention
6 to Tab 5-E. We traditionally at the
7 August meeting -- even though it's not
8 quite the end of the fiscal year, we
9 bring forward what we call staff
10 activity reports that detail the various
11 staff actions. The work that they do
12 are often very much behind the scenes
13 and so -- both on tracts physically and
14 on the program administratively
15 incorporating various research and data
16 collection that we then try to
17 incorporate and maintain not only for
18 that information itself and those
19 records of plants and animal species,
20 habitats, but also for the purposes of
21 performing our management on the tracts.

22 So there is a lot of work that goes
23 on, as well as our Enforcement section

1 that wears many hats. They're
2 physically on the tracts managing those
3 tracts often implementing some of the
4 biological forestry actions but also
5 obviously assisting with protection of
6 the public, education of the public, and
7 just general tract security.

8 And so it's broken down. I hate
9 that we break it down by sections
10 because -- but it's the easiest way to
11 do the report. But obviously all the
12 sections are working together. I also
13 want to be -- you know, tell you that
14 we're assisted very heavily by both
15 Chuck's division, Wildlife and
16 Freshwater Fisheries, and Greg's State
17 Parks Division. So it's also not that
18 we're the only ones working for you.
19 The entire Department is as well as our
20 legal section, our accounting staff.
21 Everybody is jumping in on this.

22 So I'm not going to take the time
23 today to really detail those reports,

1 but if you want to take some time, if
2 you would, and look at those reports in
3 5-E. They're just informational.
4 Nothing to vote on. Then I'll be happy
5 to address any questions.

6 Oh, and I will mention that you'll
7 see based on how we are organized a very
8 specific report as to the Field Trial
9 Area and as to the Wehle Nature Center.
10 And that's based on the partnership and
11 ownership of acreage between State Lands
12 and the Forever Wild program. And I'll
13 take any questions.

14 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I just wanted to make a
15 comment.

16 Patti, in addition to public
17 education, we have had graduate students
18 that have worked at JSU --

19 MS. McCURDY: I'm sorry, Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

20 Speak up a little bit.

21 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: We've had graduate
22 students from JSU, which is Jacksonville
23 State University, who have worked on

1 natural history projects on several of
2 these tracts and the training of future
3 scientists that are particularly skilled
4 in being able to pragmatically ID the
5 resources that we have in the state. It
6 is just invaluable for us because of
7 these tracts and the fact that they have
8 such great diversity. So it's been a
9 real service for us in our education
10 facilities to be able to have these
11 tracts as well.

12 MS. McCURDY: And I appreciate you saying
13 that. The university has also been very
14 helpful to us in various things that
15 we've needed. And we're also proud
16 that -- the students that we host go all
17 the way down to third- and
18 fourth-graders at the Wehle Nature
19 Center. So we're very excited about the
20 range of -- the range and usage both by
21 the general public as well as current
22 researchers and maybe future
23 researchers.

1 Any questions?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. McCURDY: We'll now move to Tab 5-F. One
4 of the activity reports you will see
5 does relate to various forest-related
6 activities, timber management
7 activities, whether it be thinning,
8 reforestation, harvest, various
9 activities. And so you'll see that
10 report as one of your reports in the
11 annual activity reports.

12 But Tab 5-F is historically
13 something that we've done also this time
14 of year each meeting. We try to
15 forecast for the Board the various
16 forest management activities that we
17 anticipate taking place in the upcoming
18 fiscal year that begins October 1st.
19 Obviously that's sometimes a little hard
20 to completely predict. And, obviously,
21 if we need to react to any unknown
22 conditions, whether it be storm damage,
23 whether it be some type of infestation,

1 obviously, you know, we're looking for
2 that, checking for that, and actively
3 managing these tracts.

4 But what we've included in the
5 Tab 5-F memo is a breakdown of what we
6 think will be the range of activities
7 occurring in the next fiscal year. You
8 will see that they are divided up as to
9 reforestation activities of tracts that
10 we anticipate that type of work on
11 including the Autauga WMA Tract, the
12 Freedom Hills WMA Tract in Colbert
13 County, the Lauderdale WMA Tract, as
14 well as the Red Hills-Hancock Tract.

15 We anticipate thinning work
16 occurring on the Barbour WMA in Barbour
17 County, the Coosa WMA-Weogufka State
18 Forest Addition, Freedom Hills WMA, the
19 Old Cahawba Tract Addition in Dallas
20 County, the Red Hills -- another Red
21 Hills Tract in Monroe County, the
22 Skyline WMA-Post Oak Flat Patrick
23 Addition -- try saying that fast --

1 Jackson County.

2 And we anticipate final harvest on
3 the following tracts: Gothard-Yates
4 Lake WMA, Jacinto Port Tract, Little
5 River Canyon WMA Tract, and the Uchee
6 SOA Tract.

7 Again, we try to give a broad range
8 of activities but also anticipate,
9 again, unexpected conditions that can
10 develop. So we generally bring to this
11 Board and just ask for a motion from the
12 Board generally approving these
13 activities, although it is a broad
14 motion, again, as we never quite know
15 what to expect.

16 But before we would move to a motion
17 for approval for the memo in 5-F, I
18 wanted to address any questions that
19 anyone might have.

20 DR. McCLINTOCK: I have a question. I have a
21 question, Patti.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure.

23 DR. McCLINTOCK: Thinning. Are the trees that

1 are taken out when you thin -- are they
2 harvested in the sense that they're sold
3 or -- and that revenue goes back into
4 the coffers of Forever Wild, or how does
5 that work?

6 MS. McCURDY: Yes. Although our forest
7 activities are not -- we don't make our
8 plans based on revenue generation. It's
9 more habitat and health of the timber
10 itself as well as adjoining neighbors,
11 any issues there.

12 But, anyway, to answer your
13 question, they are -- if they can
14 produce revenue, we certainly have that
15 done. But the revenue generated from
16 timber harvested on Forever Wild tracts
17 does not come back to the program. By
18 amendment it is deposited to the general
19 fund. And so we really do not see --
20 the program does not see the revenue
21 generated, but that was how the
22 amendment forming the program was
23 drafted.

1 DR. McCLINTOCK: Okay. Thank you.

2 MS. McCURDY: Any other questions?

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So I know it's kind of
4 hard to hear. But are there any
5 questions about any of the timber --
6 proposed timber activities?

7 A lot of work that y'all have lined
8 up for the year. Appreciate that.

9 Is there a motion?

10 MR. OATES: Commissioner?

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Oates.

12 MR. OATES: I would move that the Board
13 authorize the State Lands Division to
14 implement or continue, as applicable,
15 forest management activities for the
16 FY21 fiscal year as described in the
17 memorandum dated 8-6-2020.

18 MR. HOLLOWAY: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
20 Mr. Holloway.

21 All of those in favor say "aye."

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

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
4 carries.

5 MS. McCURDY: All right. I think we have
6 covered -- I think we've covered in
7 other parts of the meeting everything
8 else that was in your Tab 5. But I
9 would -- and normally I don't do this,
10 but we've had a couple of specific
11 things come up.

12 I want to mention -- you'll see
13 some -- we always include correspondence
14 to the Board in Tab 8. I just wanted to
15 mention a couple of things.

16 You'll see a little bit of an update
17 as to a question we referenced that we
18 had received -- inquiry we received
19 regarding Perdido River WMA. We
20 discussed that at the last meeting. We
21 had an individual who had concern
22 that -- Ms. White believed that an
23 access point had been closed. It had

1 not been closed. It was not a public
2 access point.

3 But we had a little additional -- we
4 had an email that went back to her. I
5 want to thank our Wildlife and
6 Freshwater Fisheries Division for their
7 assistance with that inquiry. But I
8 wanted to mention that we did respond to
9 Ms. White in an email, and we have not
10 heard back from her. The response gave
11 some additional information on the
12 tract, provided information on alternate
13 access opportunity, and did provide
14 phone number and email for staff for
15 additional questions, but we haven't
16 heard anymore.

17 I wanted to also update the Board --
18 and I included in your packet a response
19 letter that we had prepared to a
20 Ms. Parker regarding some questions she
21 had and concerns regarding prescribed
22 burning at the Perdido WMA. That was
23 included in your folder -- excuse me --

1 in your packet under Tab 8.

2 I wanted to report that we responded
3 to Ms. Parker and explained a little bit
4 about our use of prescribed fire and the
5 importance for the habitat, not only
6 wildlife but the plant species including
7 some unique bog that's located there.

8 But we just yesterday received a
9 letter back in the mail. Apparently the
10 address that she gave us -- something
11 was wrong with it. She didn't provide a
12 phone number or email. And Mr. Horn had
13 also individually mailed a response to
14 her, and his letter came back also. So
15 we'll keep an ear out for that, but
16 there's not much more we can do on that.

17 And then ...

18 I'm just doubling-check with staff
19 that that's all I needed to highlight in
20 correspondence because that is a little
21 unusual. Most of the time the
22 correspondence we receive we end up
23 addressing in some other aspect in the

1 meeting.

2 The only other thing I have,
3 Commissioner, the final thing, you will
4 have -- also in your green folder have a
5 travel reimbursement form. To try to be
6 contactless, we've started putting that
7 in your folder instead of you having to
8 go to the table. So if you'll fill that
9 out and leave that, we'll prepare your
10 travel reimbursement.

11 I think that's it.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We're at the end of our
13 fiscal year. So if you want to get
14 paid, you better get that on the table
15 today.

16 Thank you, Ms. McCurdy.

17 The next order of business is
18 approval of the minutes of the June 11th
19 meeting. Is there a motion to approve
20 those minutes?

21 MR. HORN: So moved.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Moved by Mr. Horn.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
2 Mr. Satterfield.

3 Any corrections, additions, changes
4 to the minutes?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor of
7 approving the minutes, please say "aye."

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

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The
13 minutes are approved.

14 The next meeting will be November
15 the 5th. As we're still unsure of the
16 circumstances surrounding COVID-19, we
17 haven't selected a location yet for
18 that. I do apologize for the acoustics
19 in here. As you're trying to find a
20 place that's big enough to social
21 distance that's air-conditioned and that
22 is in decent proximity for everybody to
23 get here for a day so they don't have to

1 spend the night in a hotel, acoustics is
2 one of those things that maybe we had to
3 compromise on a little bit for the
4 meeting. And we apologize for that.

5 Hopefully in November we can have a
6 location with heat and all of those
7 other things that make the meeting flow
8 well. I appreciate everybody's patience
9 as we try and continue to conduct the
10 people's business during such unusual
11 times.

12 Also, I would point out in Tab 8
13 that your -- or Tab 7 -- you have the
14 meeting dates for all of next year. If
15 you'll go ahead and just place those on
16 your calendar to make sure that we
17 are -- we're trying to keep the meetings
18 on those dates. But that way you can
19 plan around those for the next year.

20 And so with that, if there's no
21 other questions or discussion, I'd
22 entertain a motion to adjourn.

23 MR. JONES: So moved.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So moved. All those in
2 favor say "aye."

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

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We are adjourned.

6 Thank you all.

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(Meeting adjourned at

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approximately 11:52 a.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board Meeting on August 6, 2020.

The foregoing 101 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

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

This 21st day of October 2020.

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2021
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large