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**MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE VISITOR CENTER
Decatur, Alabama
August 9, 2018**

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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 Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
Visitor Center, 3121 Visitor Center Road, Decatur,
Alabama, on Thursday, August 9, 2018, commencing at
approximately 10:00 a.m.

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1 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

2 Commissioner Christopher M. Blankenship, Chairman
3 Mr. Rick Oates
4 Mr. Russell Runyan
5 Mr. Horace H. Horn, Jr.
6 Dr. Michael Woods
7 Mr. David Wright
8 Mr. H. E. "Sonny" Cauthen
9 Dr. Patricia G. Sims
10 Dr. K. Douglas Watson
11 Dr. Lori R. Tolley-Jordan
12 Mr. Raymond B. Jones, Jr.

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17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Good morning. I'd like
18 to go ahead and call the Forever Wild
19 Board Meeting for August 9th to order.
20 Welcome to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge
21 and to the Visitor Center here.

22 Let me go ahead and call the roll to
23 make sure we have a quorum present. If
24 I say your name, please announce your
25 attendance.

26 Chris Blankenship is here.

27 David Wright?

28 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

29 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Michael Woods?

1 DR. WOODS: Here.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sonny Cauthen?

3 MR. CAUTHEN: Here.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Horace Horn?

5 MR. HORN: Here.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Raymond Jones?

7 MR. JONES: Here.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Rick Oates?

9 MR. OATES: Here.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Douglas Watson?

11 DR. WATSON: Here.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Lori Tolley-Jordan?

13 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Here.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims?

15 DR. SIMS: Here.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Butch Ellis?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Russ Runyan?

19 MR. RUNYAN: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Charles Ball?

23 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I see that we have a
4 quorum. A quorum is present.

5 Like I say, I appreciate y'all
6 coming up here to Decatur to the Wheeler
7 Refuge. I'd like to thank Teresa Adams,
8 the supervisory park ranger here at
9 Wheeler, for allowing us to use the
10 facility. And this is a beautiful
11 place. Hopefully you'll have a little
12 bit of time today to look around the
13 refuge, look around the Visitor Center
14 and enjoy some of the area up here.

15 A few months ago Chuck Sykes and I
16 came up and worked with one of the
17 rangers here and went around the park,
18 and I saw more ducks in that afternoon
19 than I think I saw all year elsewhere.
20 They were everywhere in the refuge. So
21 I hope you'll have an opportunity to
22 visit some of that while you're here.

23 Are there any other announcements?

1 Patti, anything before we get
2 started?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So we'll have the
5 public comment period. And as a
6 reminder, we started with a three-minute
7 time limit a couple of meetings ago. So
8 just try and keep your remarks to three
9 minutes. And we'll be a little bit
10 lenient, but we do want to give
11 everybody the opportunity to speak and
12 then still be able to have as many
13 people participate as possible and then
14 still get out of here at a good time.

15 So our first speaker will be Andrew
16 Schock. He's going to speak on the Red
17 Hills-Flat Creek Addition, Tab 4-B. And
18 it's page 16.

19 Give everybody just a second,
20 Andrew, to find that, please.

21 MR. SCHOCK: And the map is on page 30 under
22 Tab 4-B.

23 Now, does this count as part of my

1 three minutes?

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No, sir.

3 MR. SCHOCK: Hopefully I'll take about a
4 minute.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I'm sorry. It was
6 Tab 4, page 30. Not page 16. Page 30.
7 All right. Thank you, sir.

8 MR. SCHOCK: All right. My name is Andrew
9 Schock. I'm with The Conservation Fund.
10 I appreciate the opportunity to speak to
11 the board today. I'm speaking to the
12 Red Hills-Flat Creek Phase I property.
13 It's 1400 acres. And the DCNR Wildlife
14 and Freshwater Fisheries Division have
15 already received a Habitat Conservation
16 grant from the federal government for
17 \$2 million to purchase this property,
18 this 1400 acres, and they are looking
19 for from Forever Wild a \$668,000 match
20 component to that \$2 million grant.

21 And so the first step would be --
22 and this is -- as you've read, this is
23 to protect the Red Hills Salamander

1 site -- a portion of that site. Forever
2 Wild already owns land adjoining to the
3 north. And this property also has road
4 frontage and, therefore, access along
5 part of the southern boundary.

6 So in hand a \$2 million grant, HCP
7 grant. Asking for \$668,000 in matching
8 funds through Forever Wild.

9 And so the first step would be to
10 have an appraisal completed, as you
11 know. And a couple of years ago The
12 Nature Conservancy paid for a full
13 appraisal with Forever Wild named as an
14 intended user. And that was an
15 extensive appraisal, meaning it did the
16 full timber cruise, which -- I mean, at
17 that point the appraisal cost \$26,000
18 because it was appraising a larger
19 property of which this is part of but
20 did the timber cruise on all that
21 property.

22 And so what we'd like is to do a
23 first appraisal, but that would be

1 updating the appraisal that's already in
2 hand -- Forever Wild was named as an
3 intended user -- updating the appraisal
4 that's already in hand, therefore,
5 saving a significant amount of money
6 because all that timber cruising and
7 everything will not have to be redone.
8 It can be updated but not redone.

9 So the ask is for first appraisal,
10 which is an update of the current
11 appraisal in hand.

12 Any questions?

13 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

15 MR. JONES: Typically on an updated appraisal
16 like that it's significantly cheaper.

17 So do we have any idea what that would
18 be?

19 MR. SCHOCK: I don't know.

20 MR. JONES: Patti, do we have any experience
21 with that?

22 MS. McCURDY: And I'm sorry. Doug and I were
23 talking. So repeat your question.

1 MR. JONES: This would be an updated
2 appraisal, so it should be significantly
3 cheaper. So how much cheaper would
4 the --

5 MS. McCURDY: I don't know. It's going to
6 depend on that appraiser. And I don't
7 off the top of my head know the date.

8 We use the term "updated," and
9 usually it does assist them. But
10 sometimes they will want to perform a
11 full appraisal. So we would have to
12 double-check that with the appraiser
13 unless Doug has already gotten the
14 quote.

15 MR. DEATON: The amount is 13,5.

16 MS. McCURDY: Sorry. 13,5. Should have asked
17 Doug, not Patti.

18 MR. SCHOCK: All right. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Next is Steve Northcutt
20 to talk about the Grand Bay-Little River
21 Addition, 4-B, page 23. Page 23.

22 MR. NORTHCUTT: So good morning. I'm not sure
23 if you have the same map -- it looks

1 like he's passing it out now -- that I'm
2 going to reference.

3 So while he's passing that out, I am
4 Steve Northcutt. I'm the Director of
5 Protection for The Nature Conservancy.

6 Grand Bay Savanna is an area that we
7 have been working with the state to do
8 land acquisition and restoration work.
9 And the map that I'm passing out has
10 parcels that I want to explain what they
11 mean.

12 The properties that are in the blue
13 outline -- and that goes all the way
14 over to Bayou La Batre, a small piece
15 all along the water. Those are
16 properties that were acquired using the
17 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's
18 Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. So
19 those grant funds are available to The
20 Nature Conservancy. They have to be
21 approved by the Department of
22 Conservation and Natural Resources and
23 all the way up to the governor.

1 So the properties that you see
2 outlined, which is about 2600 acres --
3 let me back up and say it's about 2500
4 acres -- those were all purchased
5 through that Gulf Environmental Benefit
6 Fund. The Forever Wild Board agreed to
7 accept those as a donation, but, of
8 course, any acquisition or any
9 acceptance of property as a donation,
10 you have to provide the 15-percent
11 stewardship endowment.

12 So the property that I'm speaking to
13 today is the property in the green
14 outline, and it's called the Little
15 River Addition. My map actually shows
16 the family's name that's under the
17 ownership.

18 So that's 377 acres. And what's
19 interesting about this property is it's
20 kind of the only -- it's the largest --
21 basically the only inholding --
22 privately owned inholding within Grand
23 Bay Savanna. So it would give you

1 complete ownership and management of the
2 Grand Bay Savanna by having that
3 property.

4 Also, Little River runs throughout
5 this property. So you can actually put
6 your boat in at Bayou La Batre. You can
7 even kayak all the way through this
8 property. It's extremely scenic.

9 I've got a couple of pictures on the
10 other page of my handout. One is a
11 mature live oak hammock. And those are
12 areas that are a little bit raised from
13 the lowlands. And you have oak
14 communities. And then I have a picture
15 of the river kind of looking from the
16 back of the property down into the
17 Mississippi Sound. So this is a real
18 extraordinary property.

19 So we negotiated a purchase of the
20 property. So we have a purchase
21 agreement. And I could mention that
22 yesterday the National Fish and Wildlife
23 Foundation's board formally approved

1 this purchase. So we have that.

2 And so today I will be asking the
3 board to consider a motion to accept the
4 property -- and I see my time is running
5 out -- to accept the property and
6 provide the stewardship endowment.

7 I'm sorry. Any questions about the
8 property?

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. HORN: You said that Forever Wild would
11 own the entire Grand Bay Savanna, but it
12 looks like there's a piece owned by
13 Mental Health Department.

14 MR. NORTHCUTT: I'm sorry. That's right. It
15 is. There's a Mental Health piece just
16 to the north, and I did want to point
17 that out. And I put it on the map, so
18 I'm sorry.

19 MR. HORN: Is that property -- could that be
20 purchased or any idea about --

21 MR. NORTHCUTT: Patti, I'm not sure of the
22 status of the management for that
23 property.

1 MS. McCURDY: The Mental Health property, that
2 would be up to the Department of Mental
3 Health. We do manage some of -- State
4 Lands Division does manage some of their
5 property. I don't think the current
6 existence of that piece would impact the
7 overall usage of the complex. We could
8 inquire of Mental Health if they would
9 like, you know, for the board to acquire
10 that.

11 MR. HORN: It looks like --

12 MS. McCURDY: But I don't think it creates any
13 concern as to management of the tract.

14 MR. HORN: It looks like a fairly small piece
15 of property, maybe 100 acres or
16 something.

17 MS. McCURDY: Yeah. And so we would be doing
18 most of the management -- State Lands
19 Division would be doing most of that
20 management anyway.

21 MR. HORN: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you,
23 sir.

1 Next is Larry Young to talk about
2 the Coldwater Mountain-Young Addition,
3 Tab 4-B, page 19. Page 19.

4 MR. YOUNG: Good morning.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Go ahead, Mr. Young,
6 whenever you're ready.

7 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Thank you for allowing me
8 to come up today.

9 My son and I purchased this land
10 back in 2015 with the intention of him
11 building a house there. It has ingress
12 from Cecile Drive, which is in the city
13 limits of Oxford. So there's around an
14 estimated 15 acres or so of land in the
15 city limits of Oxford, Alabama. The
16 rest of it is in Calhoun County,
17 Alabama.

18 After purchasing the land, he
19 cleared about an acre and a half near a
20 creek that runs through -- from the
21 mountain down to Coldwater Creek and
22 began getting ready to build a home.
23 And then we run into a stumbling block

1 with the City of Anniston to get water,
2 a water meter. So it took about a year
3 to get that done, and during that period
4 of time my son elected to go ahead and
5 purchase another home.

6 So during the last couple of years
7 that particular piece of land has become
8 somewhat -- I don't know the exact
9 adjective, but there's been a lot of
10 interest in it because it does adjoin
11 Forever Wild near the bike trail. So
12 the bike trail -- the Coldwater bike
13 trail that starts up on the mountain
14 comes down and through Forever Wild, and
15 our land is -- meets that.

16 So we've been approached by the City
17 of Oxford. I really didn't know this --
18 about this particular part until my son
19 told me that I needed to come up here
20 today. So I'm happy to be here in that
21 regard.

22 But we -- Forever Young Farms has
23 other property, and we think that, you

1 know, with the right resources that
2 could be developed into some type of --
3 either a park or a hiking -- because
4 there's not hiking allowed on the bike
5 trail -- and potentially could be
6 something good for our area.

7 So I'm not sure what else you might
8 want to know about it, but I'll be glad
9 to try to answer any questions.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions from the
11 board?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Next is Yael Girard to
15 speak on the Blackwater River South
16 Tract, Tab 4-B, page 5. 4-B, page 5.

17 MS. GIRARD: And, Commissioner, we'll actually
18 have a couple of folks in a row on that
19 property.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Okay.

21 MS. GIRARD: I brought reinforcements this
22 time.

23 So, folks, today I'm talking about

1 the Blackwater River South Tract. Thank
2 you to the board for having us here
3 today. Again, my name is Yael Girard
4 with the Weeks Bay Foundation, and we
5 are serving as one of three partners on
6 this project bringing it to you.

7 This is a 2300-acre tract that is
8 located in Baldwin County right next to
9 the border with Florida. As you can see
10 from the sheet that was just handed out
11 to you, there's a map that shows that
12 this property has about 5 kilometers or
13 3 miles of frontage on the Blackwater
14 River, around 2 kilometers or a mile and
15 a quarter of frontage on the Perdido
16 River, an 80-acre lake called Reeder
17 Lake, and a 25-acre part of a bayou
18 called Alligator Bayou.

19 Within the property there is a range
20 for several listed species including
21 gopher tortoises, Alabama red-bellied
22 turtles, diamondback terrapins, and
23 indigo snakes.

1 The property has access off of
2 County Road 91 and an interior dirt-road
3 system. The property has oak habitat,
4 pine habitat, savannas, and a huge
5 mixture of different sorts of plant
6 communities.

7 This property is unique in Baldwin
8 County. There are not that many
9 properties of this size left. As y'all
10 know, a lot of properties we talk about
11 in that area are 100, 200 acres. To
12 find a 2300-acre piece of property with
13 several miles of frontage on two
14 different river systems is a very unique
15 opportunity.

16 And we believe that the recreation
17 capabilities on this property could be
18 huge. Florida already has a matching
19 Blueway Trail coming down the Perdido
20 River. The Blackwater is a very popular
21 floating and tubing area. And this
22 property would match nicely on the
23 Alabama side to increase recreational

1 opportunities over there.

2 There are adjacent conservation
3 opportunities as well. So if this
4 property was acquired by Forever Wild,
5 there are chances for other pieces in
6 the area to be added to it to make a
7 larger tract.

8 So I'm just speaking on the
9 conservation opportunities and the
10 different habitats and recreation, and
11 then the gentlemen that are following me
12 will continue the discussion on this
13 property. So thank y'all very much.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Andrew Chason.

15 MR. CHASON: Good morning. My name is Andrew
16 Chason. I'm the executive director of
17 the Coastal Land Trust. We are based in
18 Baldwin County. We focus on
19 conservation properties in south
20 Alabama. We've protected about
21 20,000 acres in south Alabama since the
22 early '80s. We came across the
23 Blackwater tract and thought it was an

1 excellent conservation tract. We have
2 partnered with The Conservation Fund on
3 this tract and are working towards a
4 conservation outcome.

5 One of the reasons that drew us to
6 this tract is the threat of development
7 on the property. The property is
8 currently owned -- it's in an estate of
9 a guy named Alex Baker. Alex passed
10 away last year. But he was a developer
11 out of Birmingham, and he had plans to
12 develop this property. He actually had
13 subdivision approval by Baldwin County
14 to build actually 1600 house sites, but
15 it got scaled down to 900 houses.

16 But he had a massive subdivision
17 development planned for this property.
18 It never came to fruition because of the
19 oil spill and the recession hit. It
20 never got off the ground. But we feel
21 like the threat of development for this
22 tract is very real. You know how fast
23 Baldwin County is growing, and we just

1 think it's a matter of time before this
2 property's development is developed.

3 So I think it would be a wonderful
4 addition to the state's holdings. I
5 think it would make a great state park.
6 I think the activities out there are
7 endless. It's a beautiful piece of
8 property. I think it would get a lot of
9 use. I mean, I really do. I think a
10 lot of people would use the property.
11 So thank you for your consideration.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

13 Mr. Ray Herndon.

14 MR. HERNDON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

15 Good morning to the board. Thank you
16 for the opportunity to provide comments.
17 I am providing comments on the same
18 tract you just heard about, the
19 Blackwater River South Tract.

20 My name is Ray Herndon. I'm with
21 The Conservation Fund. I'm their
22 Central Gulf Regional Director. As you
23 heard from Andrew and Yael, The

1 Conservation Fund is working in
2 partnership with Coastal Land Trust,
3 Weeks Bay Foundation, and others to
4 attempt to find a conservation outcome
5 for this particular property.

6 I just want to kind of run through a
7 couple of elements to the project that
8 are more sort of transactional related.
9 But I do want to note that the tract is
10 very unique, as you heard, from the
11 standpoint of habitat. It also is very
12 unique from the standpoint of recreation
13 opportunities.

14 And I also want to note that, as was
15 alluded to to some degree or another,
16 this tract is kind of nested south of
17 the Perdido River Wildlife Management
18 Area, north of the Lillian Swamp
19 acquisition that Forever Wild has
20 previously completed, and then directly
21 across the river from lands that were
22 acquired by Florida Forever in Escambia
23 County, Florida. So this adds to a

1 protected land base in that geography
2 along the Perdido and the Blackwater
3 Rivers feeding into the Perdido Bay.

4 TCF and -- The Conservation Fund and
5 its partners are now in a position where
6 we're poised to be able to deliver a
7 conservation outcome here. We, The
8 Conservation Fund -- since this property
9 was listed for sale some 9, 12 months
10 ago, we have been working with the
11 current owners to try and reach an
12 agreement, which we now have, to
13 purchase the tract.

14 In so doing, The Conservation Fund
15 has worked with an approved appraiser by
16 DCNR, and we have actually secured a
17 USPAP report for The Conservation Fund
18 but also naming Department of
19 Conservation and Natural Resources as an
20 additional user to that report.

21 What we would ask today is that the
22 board consider taking that report -- we
23 received it earlier this week, so it is

1 currently available -- for the staff to
2 review and potentially approve as a
3 first appraisal on this property.

4 I appreciate your consideration on
5 this project. We hope to be able to
6 work with the board and the staff to
7 maybe complete this opportunity. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

10 MR. HORN: Let me -- this little piece of
11 property, I guess, that is out of this
12 tract right up at the top -- I guess
13 that's -- is that a lake that is out --
14 that's not included in the property or ...

15 MS. McCURDY: The map -- we noticed that when
16 we were -- Yael's map was passed out to
17 us, and I think -- I'm not sure if
18 that's a difference in mapping or a
19 difference -- of course, I'm going to be
20 sure we're talking about the same ...

21 DR. WOODS: Is it Reeder Lake?

22 MS. McCURDY: Oh, the lake. Oh, I'm sorry.

23 MS. GIRARD: Reeder Lake is in the top east

1 corner. It's kind of an oblong shape.

2 MR. HORN: Yeah.

3 MS. GIRARD: That's a lake. That's the
4 80-acre lake that I mentioned.

5 MR. HORN: Is that part of the --

6 MS. GIRARD: It is -- it's within -- it's
7 surrounded by the land of this property
8 that you would be potentially moving on.

9 MR. HORN: But is it included -- would it be
10 included in the sale or --

11 MS. GIRARD: Well, the water body connects
12 to -- it actually does have navigable
13 connection to the river. So nobody
14 technically owns the --

15 MR. HORN: Okay. I understand.

16 MS. McCURDY: It may be quite likely
17 state-owned water bottoms, which is
18 fine. In the map you see it's circled
19 out.

20 MR. HORN: Okay.

21 MS. McCURDY: The question that I thought you
22 were asking, your map has a -- in our
23 packet has a small piece just to the

1 right --

2 MR. WRIGHT: It looks like an island.

3 MS. McCURDY: Looks like an island.

4 -- that's not on y'all's map. And
5 I'm not -- we'll figure that out.

6 But I'm sorry, Horace. That's what
7 I thought you were addressing.

8 MR. HORN: I'm good.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Mr. Herndon.

10 The next is Michael Jeffreys to
11 speak on the Guntersville-Smith Cemetery
12 Tract, Tab 4-B, page 25. 4 B, page 25.

13 MR. JEFFREYS: Good morning, gentlemen, the
14 board. Glad to be here today and
15 letting me speak on this tract. I'm
16 Mike Jeffreys. I'm the District
17 Superintendent of Alabama State Parks
18 which covers the northeast region. My
19 home park is Lake Guntersville State
20 Park, which is fairly close to this
21 tract of land.

22 I've been in and around Lake
23 Guntersville State Park since 1999, and

1 in my time there I have witnessed an
2 abundant amount of people that use
3 through this property. The most
4 important part of this property is
5 access. People will put their kayaks in
6 and begin their trip about a mile and a
7 half from Lake Guntersville State Park
8 at High Falls, if any of you guys are
9 aware, in DeKalb County. That's their
10 takeout point is the Smith Cemetery.
11 It's a long hike, and someone trying to
12 do that -- it wouldn't be me. It's long
13 and it's treacherous.

14 But it is a takeout point to
15 property that has got a lot of rich
16 natural resources that is unaccessible
17 except by boat from any of our
18 trailheads from the Town Creek area or
19 the dense roadway. And this is vital to
20 getting in that back 40 per se of Town
21 Creek, which if any of you has been
22 there is amazing.

23 There's some unique aspects or

1 components of this tract. There's
2 Callahan's Cave, which is a beautiful
3 cave that comes out of the sides of a
4 bluff, and it's some of the most
5 crystal-clear water I've ever seen.

6 There's an old gristmill there.
7 This dates back -- there's record of
8 existence here to the 1700s, including
9 Kirby War Cemetery, which is a Civil War
10 cemetery that's on your map. If you
11 look by mile 7 in the water, you can see
12 it a little bit northeast of mile 7.
13 It's marked on that map. It was
14 destroyed during the tornado, as a lot
15 of things were, in 2011. I personally
16 went in with my chainsaw.

17 And another reason I'm speaking
18 about this is the interpretation, the
19 maintenance, the upkeep, and what we'd
20 be able to showcase to our public is
21 astronomical within this area if we have
22 access. That's why I'm suggesting that
23 the board approve the purchase of this

1 land. And I appreciate your time today.

2 Is there any questions?

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Michael, I appreciate
4 you coming.

5 Michael is -- he not only has
6 Guntersville Park, but what other parks
7 are in your district?

8 MR. JEFFREYS: Buck's Pocket and DeSoto, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So if you have any
10 questions in your area for those three
11 state parks, Michael is the guy to see.
12 He does a great job at Guntersville and
13 DeSoto and hopefully shortly Buck's
14 Pocket when we get that opened back up.

15 MR. JEFFREYS: I've got a little bit more
16 time.

17 One other key component is --

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: There you go. Use it
19 all up.

20 MR. JEFFREYS: I had to say this.

21 -- is at one time there was a trail
22 built by the Scouts in the '80s that
23 connected Buck's Pocket to Lake

1 Guntersville State Park. I don't know
2 of any other park system or any other
3 state that has a trail that connects two
4 state parks. I may be wrong. The
5 Director may know of one that I don't
6 know of.

7 But this is that midway opportunity
8 for a goal I've had since I've been
9 here, whether -- any type of trail it
10 could be. It could be multiuse.
11 There's a lot of components here we can
12 use this land for.

13 Again, thank you for your time.

14 MR. RUNYAN: Actually, I've got a question.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Russ.

16 MR. RUNYAN: Would you try to use this to open
17 up a road facility to a launch -- a boat
18 launch on Town Creek?

19 MR. JEFFREYS: No, sir. The terrain -- it
20 would be an extreme expense to get a
21 sustainable road into the water back
22 there. There's probably a 700-foot
23 elevation change from there to the

1 water -- at least 500 foot. There's one
2 large ditch that goes down. But it's --
3 it would take a lot of work and a lot of
4 expense to get the road and the ramp in
5 back there.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

7 Next is Matt Sams to talk about the
8 Wake Tract. I think that's Tab 4-B --

9 MS. McCURDY: Shelby County Crossroads.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. Shelby
11 County Crossroads. That's Tab 4-B,
12 page 31, I think.

13 MR. SAMS: Shelby Crossroads.

14 Thank you for letting me come here
15 today and talk about this tract. My
16 name is Matt Sams. I'm a forester with
17 Buchanan Timber & Forestry, and I work
18 for the company that owns this property,
19 Buchanan Woodlands. It's an 884-acre
20 tract in Shelby County near Shelby,
21 Alabama. It's south of Columbiana.

22 It provides a ton of recreational
23 opportunities, lakes, fishing, biking,

1 hunting. It's got paved-road access,
2 county-road access. It's near the site
3 of the Shelby County Iron Works. Part
4 of that facility used to be on this
5 property, and we gave that to them years
6 ago. The internal road system is really
7 nice.

8 People coming out of the Jefferson
9 County-Shelby County area would be close
10 so they could come and enjoy the
11 recreation potential, pine, hardwood,
12 creeks, hayfield, dove field, you know,
13 dove-hunting opportunities, duck-hunting
14 opportunities.

15 And I just would appreciate it to be
16 nominated for a first appraisal is the
17 reason why I'm here. So I can answer
18 any questions if you have any.

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

20 MR. WRIGHT: Is there any active agricultural
21 farming going on?

22 MR. SAMS: No, sir. A person has overseen the
23 property for years, and he has horses

1 and cows on the property and, I think,
2 off the property. And he maintains the
3 hayfields just to keep them low and so
4 they don't, you know, go crazy.

5 So he does not pay us for the hay
6 rights. He just maintains the -- he
7 cuts the hay and then uses the hay for
8 his personal use. But, no, sir, no
9 active agriculture.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

11 MR. SAMS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Chad Scroggins on the
13 same piece of property.

14 MR. SCROGGINS: Good morning. My name is Chad
15 Scroggins. I'm the chief development
16 officer for Shelby County. We have
17 other projects that we work together
18 with Forever Wild, with State Lands, and
19 also with State Parks. We've got a
20 history in Shelby County of working with
21 DCNR on projects. And on this
22 particular project, we have interest in
23 it from the county's standpoint for

1 recreational opportunities.

2 As you all know, Shelby County has
3 been growing for years and years very
4 rapidly. And so we look at parcels that
5 we can partner with our public partners
6 to help access and maintain an
7 opportunity for the public to use. Like
8 in other places, the Cahaba River Park,
9 specifically where we're doing work
10 right now, we would be able to come in
11 and maintain access, maintain gates,
12 maintain the property, the roads, really
13 anything that would need to be done from
14 a maintenance standpoint. And so it's a
15 unique opportunity that Shelby County
16 can actually help fund some of that
17 maintenance.

18 And in the Cahaba River Park
19 situation, we do -- we bring our money
20 with it as well. So it's not just the
21 labor portions of it. We pay for gates
22 and stone for roads and things of that
23 nature.

1 So on this particular property,
2 because it has lakes -- it has some
3 public lakes, we find that as a unique
4 opportunity. Right now we really push
5 people to Oak Mountain State Park as a
6 place for public fishing. This would
7 allow that opportunity for the south end
8 of the county and in the Shelby area.

9 I'll be glad to answer any questions
10 you might have.

11 Yes, ma'am.

12 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Are these creeks draining
13 into the Cahaba or the Coosa?

14 MR. SCROGGINS: They're in the Coosa. They're
15 in the Coosa. They would be
16 geographically about 4 or 5 miles as the
17 crow flies to Lay Lake on the Coosa
18 River system.

19 And one of your -- one of your board
20 members, Butch Ellis, about 50 or 60
21 years ago claims he may have lost a coon
22 dog on this property. So that's just a
23 side bit. But he was very familiar with

1 it. And I think he's out of town today,
2 so ...

3 MR. WRIGHT: Question, please.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

5 MR. WRIGHT: Can you tell me a little bit
6 better -- I mean, I heard the
7 description. Where is this piece of
8 property? What town is it close to?

9 MR. SCROGGINS: So if you go directly south of
10 Columbiana going towards 145 that will
11 run towards either Clanton or
12 Wilsonville -- if you go about 4 to 5
13 miles directly south of Columbiana, you
14 would run into this property.

15 Columbiana has interest on an old
16 railroad line that comes down to the
17 Shelby Iron Works Park to potentially
18 try to do a trail project where people
19 could actually walk from Columbiana down
20 to this property.

21 And, as mentioned, it's actually
22 directly across the street from the
23 Shelby Iron Works. Shelby Iron Works

1 historically was actually bigger than
2 Tannehill back in the days of the Civil
3 War when they produced iron. So there's
4 a historical aspect as well.

5 To directly -- to answer your
6 question directly, 4 miles or 5 miles
7 below Columbiana.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Chad, I do want to say
9 I appreciate Shelby County and the way
10 that you work with the Department of
11 Conservation -- not just with Forever
12 Wild and State Lands, but our Wildlife
13 and Freshwater Fisheries Division and
14 State Parks. I took the opportunity --
15 a couple of weeks ago I had a meeting up
16 that way and spent an afternoon riding
17 around looking at some of our projects
18 that we've done together and just wanted
19 to tell you how much I appreciate
20 y'all's support for providing
21 recreational opportunities in Shelby
22 County and working with the Department.

23 MR. SCROGGINS: Glad to do it. We appreciate

1 this -- you know, these joint
2 opportunities to make our dollars go a
3 little bit further and certainly with
4 your lands.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

6 MR. SCROGGINS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: That was the last
8 comment card that I had. Is there
9 anybody else that wanted to speak that
10 just didn't get an opportunity to fill
11 out a card or something just hit you
12 while you were sitting there you want to
13 talk about?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Then that will end our
16 public comment period.

17 This is the part of the meeting
18 where we do recess for executive session
19 to discuss appraisals. I'll read this
20 statement approved by our attorneys.

21 By regulation, appraisal values are
22 confidential during periods of
23 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to

1 discuss tract appraisal values, the
2 board will need to go into recess for an
3 executive session.

4 Is there a motion for the board to
5 now recess to attend an executive
6 session?

7 MR. HORN: So move.

8 MR. JONES: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So moved by Mr. Horn,
10 seconded by Mr. Jones.

11 As I call your name, please state
12 your position on the motion to recess.
13 Those in favor indicate by saying "aye."
14 Those opposed indicate by saying "nay."

15 Chris Blankenship, yea.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: David Wright?

17 MR. WRIGHT: Yea.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Woods?

19 DR. WOODS: Yea.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sonny Cauthen?

21 MR. CAUTHEN: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Horace Horn?

23 MR. HORN: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Raymond Jones?

2 MR. JONES: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Rick Oates?

4 MR. OATES: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Watson?

6 DR. WATSON: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

8 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims?

10 DR. SIMS: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Runyan?

12 MR. RUNYAN: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Those all present have
14 voted "yes."

15 And so we'll now be in executive
16 session. It is now 10:35. We hope to
17 return in 15 to 20 minutes. And so
18 we'll plan to reconvene at 10:55.

19 **(Recess for executive session was**
20 **taken at approximately 10:35 a.m.**
21 **and the meeting was called back to**
22 **order at approximately 11:00 a.m.)**

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I have eleven o'clock.

1 So we'll pick back up with the meeting.
2 We're back from executive session at
3 11 a.m.

4 We'll pick up with number 5 on your
5 agenda, program status report. It
6 begins with Ms. Powell, financial data
7 on Tab 2. Tab 2.

8 MS. McCURDY: Thank you, Commissioner.

9 At this point in the meeting -- and
10 two things. It is Patti Powell, but I
11 also got married. So I'm trying to
12 transition to McCurdy. So those of you
13 who get emails from me that say McCurdy,
14 do not panic. You have not sent your
15 email to the wrong person.

16 My old email works. Don't worry
17 about it. But don't panic if you think
18 you've sent it incorrectly to the wrong
19 Patti. Fortunately or unfortunately, it
20 is me.

21 So this is the portion where I run
22 through some financial information for
23 the board's benefit but also for the

1 public's benefit. I often say this is
2 where we do two things sort of like your
3 checkbook. There are certain properties
4 that we have committed to close that are
5 in closing. The money has not been
6 subtracted from the fund balance, but it
7 will be if things continue to go well.

8 So we run through what we have in
9 closing, provide the board with the
10 amount of funding that is uncommitted,
11 available. But, also, each meeting I
12 have to also talk about how much is
13 actually available for board action due
14 to some additional constraints that
15 often come with the state budgeting
16 process. So that's what I'm going to
17 run through now.

18 For the board, again, I'm on
19 Tab 2-A. The first page is financial
20 information. Then I will run through --
21 the second page contains a list of all
22 the properties that have been closed or
23 properties that did not reach closing

1 due to our offer being declined after
2 you instructed staff to try to get to
3 closing.

4 So currently the fund balance in the
5 bank, so to speak, is just over
6 26 million, almost 27 million. By the
7 time you take the properties that we
8 have in one stage or another of the
9 closing process, that amount is reduced.
10 But let me run through the tracts that
11 are in closing.

12 We have the Bon Secour River-Swift
13 School Tract, Baldwin County. Coldwater
14 Mountain-Rice Addition, Calhoun.
15 Lauderdale WMA-Newman Addition,
16 Lauderdale. Red Hills-Parris Trust
17 Addition, Monroe County. Rum Creek,
18 Dallas County. Tannehill-Ayers
19 Addition, Jefferson County. Barbour
20 WMA-Leak Creek Addition, Barbour County.
21 Caldwell Swamp, Baldwin County. Weeks
22 Bay Reserve-Meadows Phase III Additions
23 in Baldwin County.

1 Subtracting those commitments, the
2 unencumbered balance would be just over
3 17 million. However, I need to let the
4 board know that once you take into light
5 the additional capital spending
6 authority that's available -- what's
7 available to the board, their spending
8 authority per state budgeting practices,
9 you have just over 9.3 million available
10 for you today for any type of action or
11 plan commitments.

12 So as to the tracts that are
13 reflected on page 2 of your Tab 2-A, I'm
14 going to run through for the benefit of
15 the public the tracts that have both
16 been closed and declined this calendar
17 year for the state. That would be
18 beginning October 1st of 2017 and will
19 end September 30. So we will -- our
20 next meeting in November will be during
21 the next fiscal year.

22 The tracts that have closed or have
23 been declined: Big Canoe Creek, closed.

1 Coon Gulf-Heard, closed. Dallas County
2 WMA Addition, closed. DeSoto State Park
3 French Addition, closed. Freedom Hills
4 WMA-Randolph Hollow Addition, closed.
5 Grand Bay-Solet Addition, which was a
6 donation, closed. Lake Lurleen State
7 Park-Roebuck Addition, closed. Old
8 Cahawba Prairie-Childers Creek Addition,
9 closed. Perdido WMA-Freise Addition,
10 closed. Pine Barren Creek Tract,
11 closed. Red Hills-Ziebach Addition,
12 closed.

13 The Rickwood Caverns State
14 Park-Helms Tract was declined as was
15 both the Sipse River Swamp-Taylor Creek
16 Addition and the Weeks Bay
17 Reserve-Harrod's Farm Tract.

18 We did close -- we have closed one
19 additional tract so far, and that was
20 the Weeks Bay-Sunset Shores Addition.

21 So that is the status of the tracts
22 that you had previously motioned for
23 staff to proceed to closing on.

1 Any question on that or the
2 financial numbers from the board?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. McCURDY: Okay. I will update you on the
5 stewardship fund. This is the fund
6 that -- for benefit of the public, each
7 time the board makes a purchase or
8 accepts a donation, by law the board
9 must transfer 15 percent of the
10 appraised value of the tract into what's
11 called a stewardship fund. That is a
12 fund that remains so that perpetually
13 Forever Wild can take care of the
14 property that it acquires. We try our
15 best to spend the interest earnings from
16 that fund. Sometimes we do have to use
17 some of the corpus funds.

18 But to give you information on the
19 stewardship fund, the current balance is
20 just over 33 million. We had budgeted
21 up to 1.5 million for this current
22 fiscal year for maintenance or other
23 improvements that needed to be made to

1 the tracts. We currently as of when we
2 were able to run the balances at the end
3 of July, July 31st, still had about
4 \$550,000 of the amount we -- that 1.5 we
5 budgeted.

6 This is a time of year when we are
7 doing a lot of work. You are going to
8 see that decline probably significantly
9 by the next meeting. But we are in good
10 shape for this fiscal year as to the
11 stewardship fund.

12 Any questions on the stewardship
13 fund?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. McCURDY: The next, if you would look at
16 Tab 3-A. Each meeting we also run
17 through for benefit of the public the
18 appraisals that we have in hand. Those
19 are from previous board motions for
20 first appraisals.

21 We're in a little bit of an odd
22 space this meeting. We have several
23 appraisals in process that have not been

1 completed. Some we -- we do not proceed
2 with the -- after the board makes a
3 motion for first appraisal, we do not
4 actually proceed with that appraisal
5 until we have all of the deed
6 information from the landowner. We want
7 to be sure that we only pay for an
8 appraisal and pay for it once and
9 hopefully that it is correct on that
10 first attempt. So we do try to tie down
11 that information.

12 We also had some tracts that needed
13 some timber cruises, and some of those
14 are not completed.

15 So as we are here today, we only
16 have two appraisals that are actually in
17 hand, and that is for the Coldwater
18 Mountain-Sarrell Addition and the
19 Skyline WMA-Crow Mountain Addition.

20 There are multiple appraisals in the
21 hopper that will be -- based on the last
22 meeting, that will be done and available
23 for your meeting in November. So don't

1 worry. You'll have plenty more
2 available to you the next time we meet.

3 Unless there are any questions on
4 that, we'll move on to -- Doug will come
5 up and give some grant information.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Question, please.

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

8 MR. WRIGHT: Patti, I may be sitting up here
9 asleep, but I didn't hear anything about
10 the Tannehill-Ayers Addition. Did I
11 miss it or --

12 MS. McCURDY: I think that that -- and Doug
13 can speak more -- we have offered on
14 that, and I believe that offer was
15 accepted. But we -- we still are
16 working on --

17 MR. WRIGHT: It's in closing, then?

18 MR. DEATON: It's in closing.

19 MS. McCURDY: Yeah, in closing. But you
20 wouldn't see it reflected anymore on the
21 appraisal sheet.

22 Any other questions?

23 (No response.)

1 MS. McCURDY: Okay. I'll turn it over to
2 Doug.

3 I was going to do this, but since
4 I'm already standing up here, let me get
5 me out of the -- off the microphone.

6 I wanted to update the board. One
7 of the grant items for this time
8 would -- you heard Steve Northcutt speak
9 to you regarding the Grand Bay Savanna
10 nomination. As Mr. Northcutt said, this
11 is basically the same process, the same
12 transaction that we saw with the Grand
13 Bay-Solet Addition donation. And we are
14 working with Mr. Northcutt, and we're
15 very excited to be able to say that the
16 due diligence is paid for with NFWF
17 funds. So when we say and when
18 Mr. Northcutt says that it is a
19 donation, it truly is, other than your
20 15-percent stewardship percentage.

21 But this is -- we are working with
22 him both to take the appraisal that was
23 paid for with NFWF funds -- there may be

1 some small adjustments once the survey
2 is done.

3 Also, being a donation, we will look
4 at the Phase I Environmental. That is
5 part of our normal closing process that
6 we do for you. That Phase I has also
7 been paid for by NFWF funds. So we will
8 be working with TNC on that and are very
9 appreciative of their efforts of being
10 able to close that. So it comes to you
11 not only as a donation but as a package
12 of paid-for due diligence.

13 So we are continuing to work with
14 them. And by the November meeting I
15 would anticipate we would have all that
16 and have it reviewed. So I would
17 anticipate that would be available to
18 accept fully into the program as a
19 donation by our November meeting.

20 But we very much thank TNC for their
21 efforts on that and continue to work
22 with them to get that actually where you
23 can make a final acceptance on it.

1 MR. DEATON: So as you may remember, we had an
2 application submitted to the U.S. Fish
3 and Wildlife for an HCP grant and an RLA
4 grant. And we received the award letter
5 saying that we're getting those funds to
6 apply towards the Red Hills-Flat Creek
7 Phase I Tract that we have and, also,
8 the Red Hills-Section 2 Tract that the
9 board had motioned to proceed with a
10 first appraisal at the last meeting.

11 We'll have 250,000 to be applied to
12 the Red Hills-Section 2 property.
13 That's Tab 3, page 13. And then we'll
14 have about 2.2 million to be applied to
15 the Red Hills-Section 2 -- I mean, the
16 Red Hills-Flat Creek Tract, which is
17 Tab 4, page 29.

18 The Red Hills-Flat Creek Tract
19 requires a 25-percent match with the
20 remaining 75 percent being grant funds.
21 The Red Hills-Flat Creek Tract would be
22 a situation similar to other matching
23 opportunities that we've taken advantage

1 of with Wildlife and Freshwater
2 Fisheries where Forever Wild will be
3 deeded 25 percent of the acquisition's
4 value and the remaining 75 percent will
5 be deeded to Wildlife and Freshwater
6 Fisheries.

7 Any questions on that?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No questions. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. DEATON: Okay. Chuck Sykes has a quick
12 update.

13 MR. SYKES: I just basically wanted to thank
14 the board for working with us over the
15 past few years when we first made the
16 proposal at the December meeting in '14
17 on using our PR dollars as match. We
18 have accomplished some big goals that we
19 set forth.

20 We will be closing out this fiscal
21 year with the addition of the Rum Creek
22 Tract. And then starting in October we
23 will have some additional funds that we

1 can look to Forever Wild for some more
2 partnership opportunities as soon as we
3 decide exactly what direction we want to
4 go.

5 So basically I just wanted to let
6 the board know that we will be looking
7 for some more partnership opportunities
8 starting in the next fiscal year. And
9 if anybody has any questions, I'll be
10 happy to answer them or try to anyway.

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. No
13 questions. Thank you, Chuck.

14 MR. SYKES: Thanks.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Now, Jo, for the
16 short-list update.

17 MS. LEWIS: Good morning. For the sake of the
18 audience, I'm Jo Lewis with the State
19 Lands Division, and I'm going to present
20 the nomination information available for
21 the board.

22 This is Tab 4. There are four --
23 three items in Tab 4. There is Tab 4-A,

1 which is the short list, Tab 4-B, which
2 is the narratives and maps of the short
3 list, and Tab 4-C, which is a list of
4 all active nominations available.

5 So I'm going to go with the short
6 list in the traditional way. The short
7 list is comprised of the
8 top-three-scoring nominations in each
9 category of use in each geographic
10 region of the state. Hypothetically,
11 there could be 36 nominations on the
12 short list. This time there are 18
13 because in some of the categories of use
14 there are no nominations in certain
15 areas and in some of the -- also, some
16 of the nominations short-listed in more
17 than one category of use.

18 So we have 18. They vary in size
19 from 40 to about -- 40 acres to about
20 8,000 acres. They're distributed
21 throughout the state in 12 different
22 counties from Marshall County to Mobile
23 County.

1 So I'm going to run through the
2 list. We have a Powerpoint going behind
3 the board if you want to look over your
4 shoulders, or you can flip through the
5 maps in Tab 4-B in the same sequence.
6 This time I've got my faithful coworker
7 Ashley running the Powerpoint so it will
8 actually move.

9 To begin, we have Big Canoe
10 Creek-Epps Addition. That's 40 acres in
11 St. Clair County.

12 We have Blackwater River South
13 Tract, which is approximately 2300 acres
14 in Baldwin County.

15 We have Briar Lake, which is
16 111 acres in Baldwin County.

17 Cahaba River-High Pines Tract, which
18 is in Bibb County, 325 acres.

19 Cahaba River-Mohon Tract, which is
20 362 acres in Bibb County.

21 We have Chickasaw Creek Tract, which
22 is 1,031 acres in Mobile County.

23 Coldwater Mountain-Oxanna Addition,

1 62 acres in Calhoun County.

2 Coldwater Mountain-Phase II Amended,
3 which is 113 acres in Calhoun County.

4 Coldwater Mountain-Young Addition,
5 which is 59 acres in Calhoun County.

6 Freedom Hills Wildlife Management
7 Area-Buzzard Roost Creek Addition, which
8 is 75 acres in Colbert County.

9 We have GBS or Grand Bay
10 Savanna-Little River Addition, which is
11 377 acres in Mobile County.

12 We have Guntersville State
13 Park-Smith Cemetery Addition, which is
14 46 acres in Marshall County.

15 We have MTD or Mobile-Tensaw
16 Delta-Three Lakes Tract, 8,200 acres in
17 Clarke County.

18 We have Red Hills-Flat Creek
19 Phase I, which is about 1400 acres in
20 Monroe County.

21 We have Shelby Crossroads, 861 acres
22 in Shelby County.

23 Skyline Wildlife Management

1 Area-Bishop Cove Addition, 391 acres in
2 Jackson County.

3 Tannehill-South Addition, 422 acres
4 in Bibb and Shelby Counties.

5 And, finally, Terrapin Hill, the
6 amended nomination, 650 acres in Coosa
7 County.

8 I'll be happy to address any
9 questions about any of the nominations.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions for Jo?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Now we will move into
14 the general discussions portion of the
15 meeting. This is where we generally
16 entertain any motions for appraisals,
17 first or second, or any other general
18 discussion of the board.

19 Is there anybody that would like to
20 speak or make a motion?

21 Mr. Wright.

22 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
23 move for a first appraisal on Big Canoe

1 Creek-Epps Addition, 40 acres in
2 St. Clair County.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.

4 Mr. Wright --

5 MR. CAUTHEN: What page are you looking on,
6 Chris?

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I guess we're back and
8 forth between Tab 4-A and Tab 3-A.

9 MR. WRIGHT: It's page 4.

10 MS. McCURDY: If it's a motion for a first
11 appraisal, you'll be looking at Tab 4-A.

12 And then some of my page numbers are
13 off. So on the Big Canoe Creek, if it's
14 alphabetical, it would be Tab ...

15 MR. WRIGHT: It's 4-B.

16 MS. McCURDY: I'm sorry. 4-B.

17 MR. WRIGHT: Page 4.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: 4-B, page 4.

19 All right. So that's a motion by
20 Mr. Wright on Big Canoe Creek-Epps
21 Addition. Is there a second?

22 MR. CAUTHEN: I second it.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by

1 Mr. Cauthen.

2 Any discussion?

3 It's for a first appraisal on the
4 Big Canoe Creek-Epps Addition.

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No discussion.

7 All those in favor say "aye."

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

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
13 carries.

14 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. Jones.

16 MR. JONES: I'd like to motion for first
17 appraisal the Red Hills-Flat Creek
18 Phase I, 1400 acres in Monroe County.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. That's the
20 Red Hills-Flat Creek. That's 4-B,
21 page 29.

22 DR. WOODS: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones made the

1 motion, and that was seconded by
2 Dr. Woods.

3 All right. Any discussion?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
6 "aye."

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

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
12 carries.

13 DR. SIMS: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

15 DR. SIMS: I'd like to move for a second
16 appraisal and move to purchase the
17 Skyline WMA-Crow Mountain Addition.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So this is
19 on Tab 3-A.

20 Dr. Sims has motioned to move for
21 second appraisal and move to purchase on
22 the Skyline WMA-Crow Mountain Addition.
23 Is there a second?

1 MR. JONES: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Jones.

3 Any discussion?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say

6 "aye."

7 (All board members present respond

8 "aye.")

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed say "no."

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No opposition. Motion

12 carries.

13 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to
14 move for first appraisal on the Freedom
15 Hills WMA-Buzzard Roost Creek Addition,
16 75 acres in Colbert County.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So this is

18 back to Tab 4.

19 MR. HORN: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Freedom Hills-Buzzard
21 Roost Creek Addition, Tab 4-B, page 21.

22 4-B, 21.

23 Seconded by Mr. Horn.

1 So the motion is to move for first
2 appraisal on the Freedom Hills
3 WMA-Buzzard Roost Creek Addition, 75
4 acres in Colbert County. All those in
5 favor say "aye."

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

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No opposition. Motion
11 carries.

12 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Mr. Chairman?

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

14 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I'd like to motion for a
15 second appraisal and move to purchase of
16 the Coldwater Mountain-Sarrell Addition.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Coldwater
18 Mountain-Sarrell Addition. Okay.
19 That's back on Tab 3-A.

20 So the motion by Dr. Tolley-Jordan
21 is to move for a second appraisal and
22 move to purchase on the Coldwater
23 Mountain-Sarrell Addition, 22 acres in

1 Calhoun County. Is there a second?

2 DR. SIMS: Second.

3 DR. WATSON: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. Watson.

5 Any discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No discussion.

8 All those in favor say "aye."

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

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No opposition. Motion
14 carries.

15 I'm just catching up. Sorry.

16 Any other discussion?

17 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Commissioner?

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

19 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to move for a first
20 appraisal on the Guntersville-Smith
21 Cemetery Addition of 46 Acres. It's in
22 Marshall County.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. And that is

1 Guntersville-Smith Cemetery Addition,
2 4-B, page 25. Move for first appraisal.
3 Is there a second?

4 MR. CAUTHEN: I'll second it.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
6 Mr. Cauthen.

7 So the motion is to move for a first
8 appraisal on Guntersville-Smith Cemetery
9 Addition. Is there any discussion or
10 questions?

11 (No response.)

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

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

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
19 carries.

20 Anything else?

21 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Mr. Chairman?

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

23 Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

1 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I'd like to make a motion
2 for first appraisal on the Cahaba
3 River-Mohon Tract.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Cahaba River-Mohon
5 Tract. That is Tab 4-B, page 11. 4-B,
6 page 11.

7 MS. McCURDY: And on that one, that is one
8 item that we have a memo on in Tab 5.
9 There had been some questions at the
10 last meeting that came up due to a gas
11 well that's on site and the operation of
12 that. We may want to --

13 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Hold --

14 MS. McCURDY: No, you absolutely do not have
15 to hold at all. I was just going to say
16 let's go ahead and cover that now
17 while --

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Well, first let me see
19 I can get a second.

20 There's a motion. Is there a
21 second?

22 And then we can have the discussion.

23 DR. WATSON: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. Watson.

2 Now we can have discussion on this
3 motion.

4 Ms. McCurdy, would you like to cover
5 that?

6 MS. McCURDY: I don't know. It depends if I
7 know the answer or not. But let me get
8 y'all to the right -- it's Tab 5-G.

9 To refresh everyone's memory, at the
10 last meeting when this tract was
11 presented on the short list, Dennis
12 Lathem, who works with the producer of
13 the gas well on site, expressed --
14 wanted us to determine whether or not
15 the gas well actually was within the
16 property boundary.

17 So we double-checked. It is right
18 on the edge. But it is on the property
19 boundary. There are other gas wells
20 there on the adjacent property managed
21 by Chuck's division. Wildlife has had
22 no issues on that property with any
23 problems, and it certainly would not be

1 any impediment to public usage on the
2 tract. However, there had been some
3 issues elsewhere on some gas wells with
4 some -- as you might expect, some
5 horseplay and some vandalism in some
6 other areas.

7 This particular well, as with the
8 others there -- most of the others there
9 on the WMA, does not have a fence or
10 anything around it. I've had an inquiry
11 from board members about the site and if
12 it was on the property, what it looked
13 like. So that memo in 5-G includes a
14 picture.

15 And so I just wanted to update the
16 board on our looking into that. There
17 is not a fence. It is on the edge of
18 the property. Just wanted the board, if
19 they wanted any follow-up discussion on
20 any safety issues or any desire to
21 not -- you know, sometimes on some of
22 these properties we will ask the owners
23 to take out a portion of the acreage.

1 I'm not suggesting any new data.
2 I'm just really reporting back to the
3 board as we were asked to do at the last
4 meeting, so if we have any questions or
5 any concerns. If not, please proceed
6 with the motion. I just wanted to go
7 ahead and provide that update while we
8 were on the topic.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, ma'am.

10 Any other discussion or questions?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. All of
13 those in favor of moving for a first
14 appraisal on the Cahaba River-Mohon
15 Addition, please say "aye."

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

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
21 carries.

22 DR. SIMS: Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am, Dr. Sims.

1 DR. SIMS: I'd like to move for a first
2 appraisal on the Blackwater River South
3 Tract.

4 MS. McCURDY: That's Tab 4-B, page 5.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: 4-B, page 5.

6 Move for a first appraisal on the
7 Blackwater River South Addition in
8 Baldwin County. Is there a second?

9 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I have a question.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Let me see if I can get
11 a second first.

12 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Oh, sorry. Sorry.

13 MR. HORN: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. -- I
15 mean, Mr. Horn. Congratulations on your
16 honorary doctorate.

17 Yes, ma'am, Dr. Tolley-Jordan. Do
18 you have a question?

19 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Right. So it was about
20 road access and road maintenance within
21 the property.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Okay.

23 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: How is it -- who is

1 responsible for the road maintenance in
2 the property?

3 MR. HERNDON: The question is currently who's
4 responsible?

5 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Or if it was acquired, who
6 would be responsible for --

7 MS. McCURDY: Just identify yourself for the
8 record.

9 MR. HERNDON: Sure.

10 MS. McCURDY: In fact, why don't you come up
11 to the microphone so that the court
12 reporter can get that.

13 MR. HERNDON: Again, Ray Herndon with The
14 Conservation Fund.

15 The property does have access via
16 blacktop highway, local highway, which
17 arrives kind of directly on the front
18 side of the property, the west side of
19 the property.

20 On the interior roads, you know,
21 they're just woods roads. They're very
22 basic woods roads. There's one main
23 artery that goes down to Reeder Lake.

1 It's in very good shape. The owner has
2 improved that road.

3 As far as long-term maintenance, I
4 think that would be something that would
5 reside with the titleholder, so in this
6 instance Department of Conservation.

7 MS. McCURDY: Well, Forever Wild would be
8 the -- your stewardship -- I mean, it
9 would be Forever Wild's ownership, not
10 the Department's. So it would be
11 Forever Wild's monetary responsibility.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And please remind me
13 from your comment. Did you say that
14 there is an appraisal being done on this
15 or has been done on this that could be
16 used -- could possibly be used by the
17 staff?

18 MR. HERNDON: So what we had offered is that
19 The Conservation Fund does have a report
20 to USPAP standards by an approved DCNR
21 appraiser that we would offer for
22 consideration and potential approval.

23 MS. McCURDY: And it is one of our appraisers.

1 For somebody who may not be familiar
2 with the USPAP, it is a higher set of
3 standards for us that's often used with
4 some grant funding. But not everyone is
5 familiar with that standard, so I just
6 wanted to ...

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

8 DR. SIMS: So am I understanding you correctly
9 to mean that if that appraisal is
10 acceptable, the first appraisal we would
11 not incur a cost for?

12 MS. McCURDY: That's correct. I mean, staff
13 would have to review it again. It's by
14 one of our appraisers. I would -- I
15 would expect it to be in order. But,
16 yes, we would have -- we haven't seen
17 it, so we would have to review it.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Any other
19 discussion?

20 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. Jones.

22 MR. JONES: My concern with this tract just --
23 it doesn't seem to really be connected

1 to any of our other landholdings. So
2 we're almost creating a new landholding.
3 And I would love -- it would be
4 something I'd love to hear the staff's
5 thoughts on that.

6 MS. McCURDY: It would be a new holding. It
7 is of some significant acreage. We do
8 have other properties in Baldwin County.
9 This wouldn't be -- we are in that
10 county.

11 The interaction of the
12 maintenance -- you know, this property
13 scored as -- it short-listed in the
14 nature preserve category and also in the
15 state parks category. The staff
16 involvement would depend a little bit
17 upon how it was managed if it was
18 ultimately acquired. So there may be
19 some additional manpower questions as to
20 that.

21 But, you know, there's no question
22 it would be a new significant holding,
23 but it is in a county where, you know,

1 we do have some other holdings.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: It's not adjacent to
3 our Lillian Swamp Tract. There is a
4 piece of property in between there. But
5 it is close to the Lillian Swamp Tract,
6 so it's ...

7 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Commissioner?

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

9 MR. WRIGHT: I'm concerned here that it says
10 for nature preserve and a new state
11 park.

12 Is there someone here that could
13 address the funds of the state park? I
14 mean, does the State Parks system have
15 the funds to create a new state park?

16 MS. McCURDY: Commissioner, Greg Lein, our
17 Parks director --

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Would you like to
19 address it, Greg, or ...

20 If you would like, you are welcome
21 to.

22 This is Greg Lein, our State Parks
23 director, for anybody that might not

1 know Greg.

2 MS. McCURDY: And there may be a couple of
3 technical -- legal technicalities in
4 there because of the Forever Wild
5 dollars, but I'll let -- Greg can give
6 you the big picture.

7 MR. LEIN: Historically the successful Forever
8 Wild acquisitions that have complemented
9 the State Parks' mission have been
10 properties nominated to an existing
11 state park. My recollection is there
12 has only been one property -- I think it
13 was Yates Lake West -- that actually was
14 successfully bought that scored also as
15 a state parks addition. And we have not
16 implemented any improvements on that
17 property to make it a state park. It
18 exists and it's written into the
19 management plan that that could happen
20 one day.

21 But in the State Parks system, we
22 operate the user pay program model. By
23 that I mean, we don't get any general

1 fund money, and we don't get any federal
2 money, like Chuck does, that can be
3 three dollars that can be matched by a
4 dollar.

5 So the operational funds in the
6 State Parks system come from our
7 customers, and that only works when it's
8 either a gated park or a park with
9 overnight improvements like campgrounds,
10 cabins, a lodge, as you heard
11 Mr. Jeffreys reference, like
12 Guntersville State Park Lodge. That's
13 where our operational revenues come from
14 are those guests.

15 And so when you have a property like
16 this that in the scoring system it does
17 get points and it's recognized as being
18 a potential state park, you'll notice
19 the score is low. It's in the 50s. But
20 because of the way the scoring system
21 works, it ends up being short-listed de
22 facto because there's so few properties
23 that do short-list under the state parks

1 category.

2 So to be able to take this from a
3 vacant piece of property to a state park
4 would require significant capital
5 investment, and we don't have those
6 funds right now to undertake that type
7 of action. Our funds are really
8 dedicated to a backlog of maintenance of
9 the existing parks and facilities we
10 have today.

11 The only potential solution I see to
12 that dilemma would be significant grant
13 funds that could help provide for those
14 kind of capital improvements, putting in
15 the utilities and all the things that
16 would go with state parks' overnight
17 amenities that could then generate
18 revenue where we could operate that park
19 successfully as a park that covers its
20 costs.

21 I'm sorry that's such a longwinded
22 explanation, but our operations are a
23 little different than what you're

1 accustomed to with Wildlife and
2 Freshwater Fisheries and even State
3 Lands.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Greg.

5 DR. SIMS: Mr. Chairman, and my comment in
6 response to that is that it's almost
7 misleading, I guess, this information,
8 because I don't know where that
9 language -- how that language made it
10 into the summary description of the
11 property if, in fact, in your
12 assessment, you know, that's not an
13 appropriate use, so that will not work
14 for this piece of property.

15 So I appreciate that question
16 because that causes some concern.
17 Because in reading this, it appears that
18 it has been -- that your office has
19 blessed it, so to speak, and so I --

20 MR. LEIN: Well, again, we're relying on an
21 objective scoring system that all the
22 categories have when we score it. And
23 we looked at this very closely. I

1 looked at it with our staff. It does
2 have the potential to be a state park.
3 It truly has those attributes. But the
4 distinction between potential and actual
5 is what you just heard me describe.

6 DR. SIMS. Great job. Thank you.

7 MS. McCURDY: And I would say it's like some
8 other opportunities that without a
9 partner or other funds, sometimes -- and
10 sometimes we do have that readily
11 available.

12 Another issue, that if we -- we're
13 getting into the weeds of a state park
14 operation -- would be under the law if
15 Forever Wild acquired it, probably the
16 need to then lease it to State Parks;
17 otherwise, the revenue that the state
18 parks might be able to generate would go
19 to the general fund. So you're sort of
20 further -- I think that's why you see
21 mostly additions to state parks.

22 But it is doable, but we would need
23 to talk probably to -- to benefit State

1 Parks -- because it would need to be --
2 which can be done under the law, after
3 acquisition a lease to State Parks, at
4 least some of the acreage, to allow them
5 to generate the revenue and actually
6 benefit from it. It is -- it is
7 something the board could accomplish.

8 DR. SIMS: Mr. Chairman?

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

10 DR. SIMS: In light of the additional
11 information, I respectfully request to
12 rescind my nomination for a first
13 appraisal.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims has removed
15 her motion for a nomination. Does the
16 seconder agree?

17 MR. HORN: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So the Blackwater River
19 South Addition -- or South Tract has
20 been no longer -- we no longer have a
21 motion for nomination for first
22 appraisal.

23 DR. SIMS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any other general
2 discussion or business?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.
5 Thank you, all.

6 Next we'll move to Tab 5 of the
7 miscellaneous reports. Ms. McCurdy, I
8 think you have 5-A, procedure for
9 addressing unsuccessful board motions.

10 MS. McCURDY: Yeah. I didn't know how else to
11 title this.

12 We worked back in February to come
13 up with sort of what I would call an
14 automatic system where staff would
15 remove stale tract nominations either on
16 the appraised nominations list or on our
17 short list to provide opportunities for
18 other nominations to move up if other
19 ones had sat for a while with no action.

20 One item we didn't cover that came
21 up in our last meeting -- which we don't
22 see as often, but since it came up
23 twice -- would be a scenario where the

1 board -- we have a motion. We have a
2 second. It actually proceeds to a full
3 vote. And whether it's a motion for
4 first appraisal or a motion for second
5 appraisal and proceed to purchase, it is
6 voted down, does not receive the
7 necessary nine-member vote.

8 We're hesitant to recommend a
9 specific procedure because, for example,
10 you might have a tract that several
11 board members are very interested in and
12 do want -- or do hope they're able to
13 acquire. They just want some more
14 information on it or they want us to
15 look into something. So a "no" vote
16 might be misleading. It's just more
17 like a "not yet" vote.

18 So what we are suggesting moving
19 forward -- although I'm open for other
20 ideas -- is simply during the general
21 discussion session, the session we just
22 had where there are motions and seconds
23 and votes, if we have a vote -- a matter

1 go to a vote and it fails, I'm going to
2 ask the board at that time while the
3 discussion is at the front of your mind
4 whether you want it to stay on the
5 listing or be removed. And we'll have
6 that discussion at the time.

7 So I had a board member ask about a
8 procedure to take care of those, and it
9 would be kind of ad hoc because I just
10 can't predict every scenario, which is
11 quite different from five or six
12 meetings with no action on a short-list
13 nomination or an appraised nomination.

14 So if the board is okay with that, I
15 don't really know -- don't really need a
16 vote on that because we would vote at
17 the time it occurred. But I'm open to
18 other suggestions. Otherwise, when that
19 happens, if it happens again, that's how
20 we're going to handle it. I just wanted
21 to be sure the board was comfortable
22 with that process, so to speak.

23 Any questions? Any concerns? Any

1 different ideas?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. McCURDY: Okay. Well, that's how we'll
4 handle that.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Do we need to address
6 the two from the last meeting?

7 MS. McCURDY: We do. That's memo 5-B. Turn
8 the page.

9 Under the previously adopted
10 process, we will announce to you each
11 meeting at this miscellaneous reports
12 time nominations that would come off
13 based upon no board action just to be
14 sure there's no board member wishing to
15 take a vote to keep it on.

16 So the only change that would happen
17 between -- currently would be -- coming
18 off the short-list nominations listing
19 would be the Coldwater Mountain-Phase II
20 Amended Tract in Calhoun County. Unless
21 I hear a desire or motion otherwise or
22 discussion, we will be removing that
23 tract.

1 And that's just for your
2 information. Stop me if someone doesn't
3 want us to do that.

4 MR. HORN: So no action removes it?

5 MS. McCURDY: No action needed. We adopted
6 that process by vote. So I don't need a
7 vote each time. I just need y'all to
8 tell me to put on the brakes if you
9 don't want me to follow the process.

10 All right. With that, if there are
11 no questions, I think we move on to a
12 memo, Tab 5-C, which is a follow-up on
13 the oyster activity request that we
14 really just ran out of time on last
15 meeting.

16 Commissioner, I'll let you carry
17 that discussion. I'll remain here for
18 any questions or anything I can assist
19 with.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We've discussed this
21 for several years about the possibility
22 of leasing the riparian rights adjacent
23 to some of the Forever Wild properties

1 to people that are in the oyster
2 aquaculture business to help them expand
3 those businesses and provide them
4 opportunities and places to do this
5 work.

6 We did follow up with Mr. Steve
7 Crockett. He made a request several
8 meetings ago to be able to lease the
9 property or tracts or a portion of it
10 adjacent to his property in the Grand
11 Bay area. Last meeting we had kind of a
12 flow chart of how the process would work
13 with bidding that out, doing the market
14 analysis. It's in the packet today.

15 We had discussions with Mr. Crockett
16 to make sure that he was still
17 interested in proceeding if the board
18 came up with a policy or approval to do
19 this. He is still very interested in
20 possibly leasing those rights adjacent
21 to his property that is in front of the
22 Forever Wild property in Grand Bay.

23 I think Ms. Powell -- Ms. McCurdy

1 got some information that was discussed
2 last time about the bids and what would
3 be needed to -- for a market analysis
4 and potential cost of the market
5 analysis, about 3500 to \$4,000. That
6 market analysis could be used not just
7 for Mr. Crockett's request but for other
8 requests. The market analysis should be
9 broad enough that it would give us the
10 information we need as other people
11 request to lease out these rights, and
12 it could be used for those as well.

13 So are there any questions or
14 anything else you wanted to add, Patti?

15 MS. McCURDY: No. We just -- State Lands
16 wears two hats in this scenario. We
17 along with Marine Resources have certain
18 roles in the overall process. Our role
19 here would be with this board doing the
20 competitive bids and the leasing for the
21 rights. So we're part of the bigger
22 process for the oyster aquaculture
23 industry, and we're here today with our

1 Forever Wild hat on.

2 But any questions on the activity or
3 what it involves, Commissioner is an
4 expert. So we will address any
5 questions that you may have.

6 I've talked with a couple of board
7 members. I've already addressed some
8 questions, but I'm not sure if there are
9 any additional ones.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any other questions?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: If not, I would
13 entertain a motion. There's kind of a
14 suggested motion on 5-C that would at
15 least allow us to get started with this
16 first one and see how the process works.

17 MR. HORN: So move.

18 MR. OATES: Second.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: If you wouldn't mind
21 making the -- reading the motion.

22 MR. HORN: I'm sorry.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Motion by Mr. Horn.

1 MR. HORN: Okay. The board requests that
2 staff proceed with obtaining a market
3 analysis of the value of the oyster
4 riparian rights associated with the
5 Forever Wild Grand Bay Savanna and
6 Portersville Bay Tracts. Once obtained,
7 the board further authorizes the State
8 Lands Division to proceed with
9 advertising for bids and awarding a
10 lease of the approximate area nominated
11 by Mr. Steve Crockett as identified in
12 Figure 5 of the board memo dated
13 May 10th, 2018.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: That's a motion by
15 Mr. Horn. Is there a second?

16 MR. OATES: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by --

18 MR. CAUTHEN: Cauthen.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I'm going to let
20 Mr. Oates reflect in the record as the
21 second.

22 So there's been a motion and a
23 second. Any other discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
3 "aye."

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

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. Motion
9 carries.

10 MS. McCURDY: Okay. I'm going to turn over
11 the next few items to Doug. We've
12 had -- he's going to follow up on some
13 previous land swap requests and also
14 some new easement right-of-way requests.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And you haven't gotten
16 married. Your name is still Deaton;
17 correct?

18 MR. DEATON: That is correct.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Go ahead, Mr. Deaton.

20 MR. DEATON: So the next item is found in
21 Tab 5-B -- 5-D. I'm sorry. I'll give
22 you guys just a second to turn there.

23 So at the August 10th meeting, I

1 presented a proposed land swap on behalf
2 of Mr. Robert Slaughter and his brother,
3 Joe Slaughter, located in the Upper
4 Delta WMA. The land swap proposed the
5 exchange of 264 acres owned by the
6 Forever Wild Land Trust for 418 acres
7 owned by the Slaughters with the
8 resulting difference to be paid to the
9 appropriate party.

10 The board authorized staff to
11 proceed with appraisal to determine the
12 value of each property with the
13 condition that the Slaughters would pay
14 for that appraisal. That appraisal has
15 been completed and has resulted in an
16 amount that is represented in your memo
17 in favor of the Slaughters. The value
18 difference is due to a combination of
19 the Slaughters' property, one, just
20 naturally having more land acreage
21 compared to Forever Wild and the
22 associated timber value with the larger
23 footprint.

1 As mentioned previously, Chuck and
2 myself visited the tract to see what it
3 looked like and see if it would be of
4 benefit to the program. We think it
5 would help out as far as allowing better
6 access. Our property currently has high
7 banks. This property has more gentle,
8 sloping access. And it would alleviate
9 some of the trespass issues that
10 Mr. Slaughter is dealing with because
11 people park on his property to access
12 our property.

13 Also, it would help us consolidate
14 our boundary lines. As you see on the
15 map there, our current acreage is an
16 outlier. It would benefit both parties
17 to help consolidate each other's
18 ownership.

19 So assuming that the terms of the
20 exchange are acceptable by the board, we
21 would need a motion to approve this
22 transaction. And there is some
23 suggested language in your packet.

1 Are there any questions?

2 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones.

4 MR. JONES: This is an island; is that
5 correct?

6 MR. DEATON: Yes, sir.

7 MR. JONES: Okay. So how would -- what's the
8 access? Just river access?

9 MR. DEATON: River access. Most of our Delta
10 is river access, yes, sir.

11 MR. JONES: Okay. All right.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there a motion to --

13 DR. WOODS: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

15 DR. WOODS: I make a motion that the board
16 approve the State Lands Division to
17 proceed with the closing of the proposed
18 Slaughter Land Swap which includes a
19 transfer of 264 acres of Forever Wild
20 Land Trust property and a payment by
21 Forever Wild of \$533,500 to the
22 Slaughters in exchange for 418 acres
23 owned by the Slaughters and

1 reimbursement of appraisal costs by the
2 Slaughters.

3 MR. HORN: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: A motion by Dr. Woods,
5 seconded by Mr. Horn.

6 Any additional discussion?

7 MR. RUNYAN: I've got a question.

8 The MTD-Sheffield nomination that is
9 adjacent to the swap, how is that going
10 to affect where we stand on it?

11 MS. McCURDY: It will have to be -- will need
12 to be rescored. And so we will do that
13 and come back to you. We'll have that
14 for the next -- information for the next
15 meeting.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any other discussion?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
19 "aye."

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

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

23 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
2 carries.

3 MR. DEATON: The next two items I'll be
4 covering deal with requests from Alabama
5 Power.

6 The first one you'll find in
7 Tab 5-ei. The first request has two
8 parts to it. It has a right-of-way
9 request for a large transmission line
10 and then an access easement request.
11 I'll cover the right-of-way request
12 first.

13 The right-of-way request will cover
14 approximately 5.6 acres. If you could
15 take a look at the map on the second or
16 third page of the memo, you can see that
17 the right of way crosses the
18 southernmost portion of the property.
19 We've reviewed the location of this
20 area, and we don't feel like it will
21 have any impact on recreational use or
22 habitat considering its location.

23 And so, as you may know, the

1 amendment authorizes the board to convey
2 an interest in land as long as it's at
3 appraised value. In conversations with
4 Alabama Power, they have provided at
5 their own expense an appraisal needed to
6 determine the value of the right of way,
7 which we have reviewed and approved the
8 appraisal that they provided, and that
9 amount is indicated in your packet there
10 before you.

11 We have also provided a draft
12 right-of-way agreement for your
13 consideration. This agreement is almost
14 identical to the right-of-way agreement
15 that we entered into as part of the
16 Yates Lake North acquisition that we
17 bought a few years ago.

18 As to the easement portion of the
19 request, the access easement covers the
20 only existing public road we have into
21 the property. So instead of granting
22 access easement, we would like to ask
23 the board to consider allowing us to do

1 what we call a permit to cross. That's
2 what we typically do when people need
3 access across our property. So it would
4 be a renewable permit that we could
5 provide each year or negotiate the
6 terms.

7 But if the board desires the staff
8 to continue to work with Alabama Power
9 to reach a mutual agreement on the terms
10 of this permit to cross -- however, if
11 we can't come to terms on that, we would
12 like to get further authority to
13 negotiate an access assessment. As with
14 the right-of-way agreement, staff would
15 require that the transfer -- the
16 easement agreement would come and they
17 would have to -- Alabama Power has
18 agreed to pay for appraisal costs and
19 pay the appraised value. We would
20 condition that transfer on that.

21 And we ask that the board would
22 allow us to enter into those
23 negotiations and come up with an

1 agreement agreeable to the Commissioner.
2 And there's some -- there's some
3 language there if you guys are
4 interested in pursuing that.

5 Are there any questions about the --
6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions from Doug
7 on this easement and the -- for the
8 transmission line and the access road?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: If there are no
11 questions, then if the board is in
12 favor, I would entertain a motion as
13 outlined suggested on 5-ei.

14 MR. HORN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the board
15 request that staff continue to proceed
16 to closing of the Weeks Bay
17 Reserve-Meadows --

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Wrong one.

19 MR. HORN: I'm sorry.

20 MS. GIRARD: You can keep going with that one.

21 MR. HORN: All right. I move again that the
22 board authorize the State Lands Division
23 to negotiate with Alabama Power as to

1 some type of a mutually acceptable
2 access agreement as outlined in said
3 memo conditioned upon Alabama Power
4 covering appraisal costs and paying
5 appraised value in the event an interest
6 in land is ultimately transferred.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: That is a portion of
8 the motion. If you wouldn't mind adding
9 the first part of the motion.

10 MR. HORN. Oh, I'm sorry. I messed that up.

11 You want me to go over the whole
12 thing again?

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Please. I think so,
14 Mr. Horn.

15 MR. HORN: Yeah. Okay. We'll start again.

16 The board approves staff to proceed
17 with the requested right-of-way transfer
18 to Alabama Power pursuant to the
19 condition that Alabama Power pays
20 appraised value for the interest
21 outlined in the memo dated August 9,
22 2018.

23 Further, the board authorizes the

1 State Lands Division to negotiate with
2 Alabama Power as to some type of
3 mutually acceptable access agreement as
4 outlined in said memo conditioned upon
5 Alabama Power covering appraisal costs
6 and paying appraised value in the event
7 an interest in land is ultimately
8 transferred.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So that's the motion
10 made by Mr. Horn. Is there a second?

11 MR. WRIGHT: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Wright.

13 Any other 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 5-eii.

1 MR. DEATON: That's right. And that should be
2 in your green folder.

3 We had an on-site meeting with
4 Alabama Power after sending out the
5 packets, so it came to you guys just a
6 little bit late. But this one is a
7 little bit more simple.

8 Alabama Power is requesting a small
9 easement along the northern boundary of
10 the Yates Lake North Tract. They're
11 requesting this easement to establish a
12 distribution line. Currently they have
13 a distribution line that comes and ends
14 in Elmore County and Tallapoosa County.
15 And they're wanting to connect those two
16 distribution lines with a new one to
17 increase their reliability for power in
18 that area.

19 Alabama Power has indicated that
20 they're willing to pay for the appraisal
21 and to pay appraised value for the
22 property. If the board is interested in
23 pursuing this agreement as well, I will

1 need a motion from the board, which is
2 provided in your packet there.

3 Are there any questions?

4 MR. WRIGHT: Question.

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

6 MR. WRIGHT: This transmission line follows
7 the road?

8 MR. DEATON: Yes, sir. The poles will
9 actually be placed in the right of way
10 in the highway, and they need about a
11 14-foot easement to clear to provide
12 protection from their lines.

13 And we have an easement agreement
14 provided there for your review and
15 consideration and also plans showing
16 where the poles and wires will be
17 located.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. I make a
19 motion that the board approve staff to
20 proceed with the requested easement
21 agreement with Alabama Power pursuant to
22 the condition that Alabama Power pays
23 for appraisal costs and agrees to pay

1 appraised value for the interest
2 outlined in the memo dated August
3 the 9th, 2018, adjacent to our Yates
4 Lake North Addition.

5 Is there a second?

6 MR. JONES: Second.

7 MR. HORN: Second.

8 MR. OATES: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Oates.

10 Any discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say

13 "aye."

14 (All board members present respond

15 "aye.")

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion

19 carries.

20 MR. DEATON: The next item I have to cover is

21 found in Tab 5-F. I'll give everybody a

22 moment to turn there.

23 This memo covers a reduction in

1 acreage of the Weeks Bay-Meadows Phase
2 III Addition. At the February board
3 meeting the board motioned to proceed
4 with a second appraisal and purchase of
5 the tract. At that time it was
6 79.7 acres.

7 We made an offer to the three
8 landowners. Two of the landowners
9 accepted the offer as is. The third
10 landowner requested to have some of
11 their acreage removed from
12 consideration. So that's what has
13 brought us down to -- what we now have
14 is 47 acres remaining of the nomination.
15 The map that you have there, the new
16 acreage is in red and the original
17 acreage is outlined in yellow.

18 The reduction does not impact the
19 nomination's valuation score. And the
20 nomination at its reduced size still
21 offers valuable protection for the Weeks
22 Bay watershed and the mission of the
23 Weeks Bay Reserve. Additionally, NOAA

1 grant funds are still available to be
2 applied to this acquisition.

3 So considering that the reduction in
4 acreage of the nomination as originally
5 moved by the board, we are seeking a
6 motion for staff to proceed to closing
7 if the board desires. If the board does
8 wish to proceed, we have some suggested
9 language in there. The only slight
10 adjustment would be to reflect the
11 July 25th date of the memo.

12 DR. WOODS: I do have a question.

13 The matching funds, is this the one
14 where it was only for the wetlands?

15 MR. DEATON: No, sir. That was the Harrod's
16 Bay -- I mean, Harrod's Farm Addition.

17 DR. WOODS: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So the grant funding
19 would cover approximately 75 percent of
20 the cost?

21 MR. DEATON: That's correct, yes, sir. Which
22 would be 35 acres.

23 MR. OATES: Am I reading this map right that a

1 piece of this property is going to be
2 off by itself or not contiguous to the
3 rest of the ...

4 MR. DEATON: That's correct.

5 MR. WRIGHT: Question, please.

6 Doug, the piece that's between the
7 road and Weeks Bay, how far is that? Is
8 that a --

9 MR. DEATON: Let me come see exactly what
10 you're pointing to.

11 MR. WRIGHT: The little narrow piece.

12 How far is it from there to there?

13 MR. DEATON: It's a total -- yeah. It's
14 probably -- I think it's 18 acres total.
15 So the distance I couldn't say for sure.

16 MR. JONES: About three-quarters of a mile
17 approximately just looking at the scale.

18 MR. WRIGHT: Oh, the scale there.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there any interest
20 in a motion to continue moving forward
21 with the 47 acres as opposed to the
22 79.7 acres?

23 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I -- yes.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right,
2 Dr. Tolley-Jordan. Would you mind -- if
3 you would like to make that motion,
4 would you mind reading the suggested
5 language on 5-F.

6 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: The board requests that
7 staff continue to proceed to closing of
8 the Weeks Bay Reserve-Meadows Phase III
9 Addition nomination with the reduction
10 in acreage as described in the memo
11 dated July 18th, 2018.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan has
13 made that motion. Is there a second?

14 MR. HORN: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Horn.
16 Any other discussion?

17 MR. DEATON: Just one correction. The memo is
18 actually dated July 25th. So if I could
19 just have that one slight change.

20 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: July 25th, 2018.

21 MR. DEATON: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

23 All those in favor say "aye."

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

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
6 carries.

7 We have covered 5-G during our
8 general discussion. So 5-H, 2019
9 forestry management activity.

10 MS. McCURDY: The next two items in your
11 packet relate to routine matters we
12 generally cover at this quarterly
13 meeting.

14 The first is a memo that outlines
15 the forest management activity that
16 staff would be proposing for our
17 upcoming fiscal year. We normally
18 present it just before the fiscal year
19 to give you an idea of the activities
20 that our staff and forester has deemed
21 advisable for the upcoming year.

22 We do normally -- because we are
23 asking basically a -- before we even get

1 into the fiscal year we generally do ask
2 that the board give us some flexibility.
3 As you can imagine, sometimes we don't
4 fully know what we're going to find and
5 what we're going to need until we
6 actually begin preparation and plans to
7 enact those activities.

8 But the memo outlines the tracts and
9 the types of activities that we
10 anticipate for the 2018-2019 fiscal
11 year. Galen Grider is here, also, if
12 there are any additional questions.

13 So first let me just see if anyone
14 has any questions from their review of
15 the memo as to the intended activities
16 before we go forward.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions for Patti
18 or Galen on the proposed forestry
19 activities?

20 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Russ, do you have a
22 question?

23 MS. McCURDY: I think Mr. Wright --

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Oh, I'm sorry,
2 Mr. Wright.

3 MR. WRIGHT. I have a question for Galen about
4 this. I mean, I know it's --

5 MS. McCURDY: Galen, please come up here, if
6 you could.

7 MR. WRIGHT: This question is just for my
8 curiosity because I am from Dallas
9 County.

10 Cedar Creek. It has a very good
11 name of cedar, and I notice you're going
12 to do a thousand acres of -- it says
13 here thinning. What's your real plan
14 about that?

15 MR. GRIDER: I'm Galen Grider. I'm State
16 Lands Manager with the State Lands
17 Division responsible for all the forest
18 management.

19 We're pursuing the removal of red
20 cedar on a good bit of that tract in
21 cooperation with the Wildlife Division.
22 The red cedar is somewhat of an
23 invasive -- actually, some of it in the

1 past was actually planted out there,
2 because a lot of that soil won't support
3 a very good stand of hardwood or pine
4 because of the pH and productivity of
5 the site. It's basically crowding out a
6 lot of the native species that would be
7 beneficial for the site from a wildlife
8 management standpoint.

9 We've had contact with a company
10 that possibly could be able to harvest
11 those cedar, and we're -- we've met with
12 them, and we're in kind of a waiting
13 mode to hear back from them.

14 MR. WRIGHT: To harvest them rather than just
15 mulching them?

16 MR. GRIDER: There is a commercial market for
17 cedar, but it's -- it is a stretch
18 trying to harvest that. But because of
19 the volume that's out there, this
20 company was willing to investigate the
21 possibility of commercial harvesting.

22 MR. WRIGHT: So this would essentially be a
23 clear-cut?

1 MR. GRIDER: In some areas. But it would --
2 it's interspersed with pine and with
3 hardwood in parts of the site. So it
4 covers -- there are some stands of pure
5 cedar, some areas that actually had been
6 planted in the past, and then some of it
7 is naturally occurring or it is
8 interspersed -- over time has
9 interspersed with the pine and the
10 hardwood. We wouldn't touch that. The
11 folks would be on the cedar.

12 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

13 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a
14 motion that the board authorize the
15 State Lands Division to implement the
16 forest management activities for the
17 2018-2019 fiscal year as described in
18 the memorandum dated 8-9-2018.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: And I second it.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Motion made by
21 Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Cauthen.

22 All those in favor say "aye"?

23 (All board members present respond

1 "aye.")

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No opposition. Motion
5 carries.

6 MS. McCURDY: Okay. The final item and memo
7 in your packet -- it's actually several
8 memos under 5-I. These are the annual
9 activity reports that various members of
10 the staff present to you to describe the
11 types of activity in more detail than we
12 would ever take time at a meeting to
13 tell you about.

14 I really -- you know, we stand up
15 and you hear Doug and I talk a good bit
16 and Jo, also. And Doug and Jo do a
17 tremendous amount of work. But we have
18 several staff members that do a great
19 job and do it with great passion and
20 great diligence. And so I don't want to
21 short shrift this, but I also have been
22 promising y'all a short meeting if I
23 could ever figure out how to do one. So

1 I don't want to spend too much time.

2 But I also want to tell you -- these
3 are reports from our staff. And I also
4 want to say we obviously receive a
5 tremendous amount of assistance from
6 Chuck's staff of Wildlife and Freshwater
7 Fisheries Division, as well as Greg
8 Lein's group, State Parks, and to the
9 various divisions that support their
10 parks.

11 So without me taking too much
12 time -- but I would like for my State
13 Lands Division staff -- my staff
14 members, if you would stand. There's a
15 lot of work that goes into the financial
16 information, the appraisals, and a ton
17 of on-site activities statewide that
18 nobody ever really sees but the public
19 greatly benefits from. So thank y'all
20 for your hard work.

21 With that, Commissioner, unless
22 there are any questions from the board's
23 review of the activity report memos,

1 I'll send it back to you.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. And thank
3 you to the staff of Parks, Wildlife and
4 Freshwater Fisheries, and the Lands
5 Division that are here today and all the
6 work that you do to keep everything
7 moving swiftly in our state and
8 providing access and recreational
9 opportunities for people.

10 The next item of business is the
11 approval of the minutes from the
12 May 10th meeting.

13 Do I have a motion to approve those
14 minutes?

15 DR. SIMS: So move.

16 MR. CAUTHEN: I'll make it.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I think Dr. Sims made
18 the motion. Mr. Cauthen seconded the
19 motion.

20 Any corrections or discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
23 "aye."

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

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The
6 minutes are approved.

7 The tentative date for the next
8 meeting -- I guess that would really be
9 a hard date -- is November the 8th.
10 November the 8th.

11 We do not have a location selected
12 as of today. So if you have any
13 suggestions, feel free to let me know or
14 Patti or Doug or Jo, and we'll try and
15 see if we can line up a place very
16 shortly so everybody can plan.

17 Our meeting after that, the first
18 meeting of the year, is in Montgomery
19 every year. That will be in February.
20 And the tentative dates for those
21 meetings are also listed in your packet
22 somewhere. I saw those. So you can go
23 ahead and put those on your calendar.

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Any other discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: How about a motion to adjourn?

DR. SIMS: So move.

CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims makes that motion, and I'll second it.

With that, I think we are adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.)

* * * * *

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

* * * * *

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 9, 2018.

The foregoing 118 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

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

4 This 11th day of October 2018.

5
6
7 -----
8 Tracye Sadler Blackwell
9 ACCR No. 294
10 Expiration date: 9-30-2019
11 Certified Court Reporter
12 and Commissioner for the State
13 of Alabama at Large
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