

In the Matter Of:
TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

BOARD MEETING

February 05, 2026



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1 FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST

2 BOARD MEETING

3

4

5 February 5, 2026

6 10:00 a.m.

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9 ALABAMA ACTIVITY CENTER

10 201 DEXTER AVENUE

11 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 MR. CHRISTOPHER M. BLANKENSHIP,
3 Commissioner, Department of Conservation
& Natural Resources

4 MR. ZACH CONLON

5 MR. JAKE HARPER

6 MR. THOMAS HARRIS

7 DR. HEATHER HOWELL

8 DR. BRIAN KEENER

9 DR. CHARLIE MARTIN

10 DR. A.M. NEUMANN, JR.

11 MR. RICK OATES

12 MR. JIMMY PARNELL

13 MR. MARK M. TUGGLE

14 DR. JOHN VALENTINE

15 MS. KAREN STANLEY

16 MR. JAMES "MICKEY" CHILDERS

17

18 ALSO PRESENT:

19 MS. PATTI McCURDY, Director, State Lands
20 Division, Alabama Department of
Conservation & Natural Resources

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Good morning.

3 It's 10:00. Welcome to our February 5th
4 2026 Forever Wild Board meeting. I think
5 that the last time that we met in this
6 building was during COVID and we all had
7 to stay separated, so it's nice to be
8 back here where we're all getting off
9 sitting at the table. I hope that none
10 of y'all are sick.

11 Let me call the roll and we'll
12 make sure that we have a quorum. When I
13 mention your name, just indicate that
14 you're here. Chris Blankenship is here.
15 Zach Conlon.

16 MR. CONLON: Here.

17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
18 Mr. Harper.

19 MR. HARPER: Here.

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
21 Mr. Harris.

22 MR. HARRIS: Here.

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
24 Dr. Howell.

25 DR. HOWELL: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

2 Dr. Keener.

3 MR. KEENER: Here.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

5 Dr. Martin.

6 DR. MARTIN: Here.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

8 Dr. Neumann.

9 DR. NEUMANN: Here.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

11 Mr. Oates.

12 MR. OATES: Here.

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

14 Mr. Parnell.

15 MR. PARNELL: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

17 Ms. Stanley.

18 MS. STANLEY: Here.

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

20 Mr. Tuggle.

21 MR. TUGGLE: Here.

22 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

23 Dr. Valentine.

24 DR. VALENTINE: Here.

25 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

1 Mr. Childers.

2 MR. CHILDERS: Here.

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We do
4 have a quorum. I appreciate Carrie Saele
5 and Genna Lanning at the Alabama Activity
6 Center for their assistance in making
7 this meeting location available. It's
8 very convenient to meet at this spot.
9 Our first meeting of the year is always
10 in the Montgomery area during the
11 legislative session, so I appreciate
12 everybody making the trip to Montgomery
13 today.

14 I don't think that we have any
15 special guests that are able to be here
16 today, so we'll move on to the public
17 comments. We do have several speakers
18 that have signed up to speak today. When
19 I call your name, just come to the podium
20 and just give everybody on the Board just
21 a second to find the property that you're
22 speaking on and remember that you're
23 limited to three minutes.

24 Is there anybody that wanted to
25 speak that did not have a chance to sign

1 up this morning? All right. Thank you.

2 The first speaker will be Chad
3 Scroggins on the Double Oak tract.
4 That's Tab 3b. Page 5. 3b. Page 5. Good
5 morning, Chad.

6 MR. SCROGGINS: Good morning.
7 Flip over to that one. My name is Chad
8 Scroggins, the county manager with Shelby
9 County. We appreciate at the last
10 meeting the votes to get to the first
11 appraisal and that's the situation now.
12 This particular tract, the Double Oak
13 tract, is directly adjacent to Shelby
14 County's Double Oak Park. It's
15 preservation of some areas, beautiful
16 hardwoods, timber ridges that really is
17 not conducive to anything else, not
18 timber, not farming, anything of that
19 nature. It's a beautiful piece of
20 property that the county is willing to
21 put in 25 percent of the purchase price,
22 but we will also maintain the property on
23 behalf of and under the guidance of State
24 lands, but on behalf of Forever Wild that
25 the park does. Shelby County is

1 committed to that. We've been committed
2 since day one to 25 percent of the
3 purchase price.

4 We've got a long history with the
5 Forever Wild Land Trust Board. We do the
6 maintenance at Cahaba River Park which is
7 on the west side of our county along the
8 Cahaba River and there's never been a
9 piece that we've been involved with that
10 would be so ready to be open to the
11 public for trail hiking use, things of
12 that nature. It's got a series of double
13 track roads on it that the county
14 actually has gates up against right now
15 because of our existing park. We would
16 literally be able to move those back and
17 on day two, maybe not day one, but day
18 two after closing it can be opened up for
19 people to be able to enjoy.

20 There's a lot of density of
21 housing developments around it, and so
22 this particular -- our particular park
23 right now is connected to two different
24 subdivisions and people can walk out
25 their back door and be able to enjoy the

1 outdoors, get out and recreate. We've
2 seen everything from seniors with the
3 grandchildren to young couples, people to
4 get out and have an opportunity to enjoy
5 and get a little bit of mental health
6 space.

7 It's a great piece, and so we
8 appreciate your support so far and would
9 ask that you would move forward with a
10 second appraisal. Thank you so much.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
12 you, Chad. Thank you for speaking and
13 thank you for your partnership with the
14 department. We enjoy working with Shelby
15 County.

16 The next speaker is Ms. Rusha
17 Smith on the Sipse River property, Tab
18 3b. Page 6. 3b. Page 6. Good morning,
19 Ms. Smith.

20 MS. SMITH: Good morning,
21 Commissioner and Board members. Thank
22 you so much. I am here -- I'm the
23 executive director of Freshwater Land
24 Trust. I've been here before on behalf
25 of the Sipse River Swamp - Kellytown

1 Addition. We previously nominated this
2 property. It's a Westervelt property,
3 and so we have already been through the
4 first appraisal vote and are here asking
5 for you to consider a second appraisal
6 and then an offer for their property.

7 I have with me Sam Blumenfeld
8 who's the sustainability and policy
9 analyst for Westervelt, and so he's happy
10 to answer any questions that you have.

11 As a very brief reminder, this is
12 a thousand acre property between two
13 existing Forever Wild properties. It
14 also provides a public road, and so we
15 think that certainly -- It's in
16 Tuscaloosa County and as someone who runs
17 the Land Trust, we understand the
18 importance of contiguity and also access,
19 and so we're very excited about this
20 property and hope that you will give it
21 all due consideration, and I will turn it
22 over to Sam if you have any questions.
23 Thank you very much.

24 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
25 you. So our next speaker is Sam. Take

1 it away. Start your three minutes.

2 MR. BLUMENFELD: We're going to
3 keep it running. I don't have much more
4 to say. Rusha did a great job. As she
5 said, it's a beautiful tract, wonderful
6 area. If anyone has anything that you
7 want to know, any questions for me.

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
9 questions?

10 MR. CHILDERS: I do. On this
11 map, Chris, there's two lines running
12 diagonally across some of that property.
13 What does that represent?

14 MR. BLUMENFELD: Do you mind if I
15 come see it?

16 MR. CHILDERS: Certainly.

17 MR. BLUMENFELD: Are you talking
18 about these diagonal lines?

19 MR. CHILDERS: Yes.

20 MS. McCURDY: I'm going to get
21 staff to confirm, but I believe that is
22 where we always draw where we don't have
23 ownership. I believe that's a road
24 there. If you'll give me just a second,
25 let me double check that that's all it

1 is. I'm going to come to you and be sure
2 that we're talking about the same thing.
3 Give me one second. Okay?

4 Yes. That is a roadbed that is
5 not -- would not be part of the simple
6 purchase, but is available. It's a
7 county road, so it's county property.
8 It's a county road, so we don't own the
9 road, so when we showed you what we would
10 be acquiring, we showed you our acreage
11 on the map, so that's why it looks like
12 that, but that's a good thing because it
13 is a county road.

14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
15 you. The next speaker is Steve Northcutt
16 on the Inland Lake North, Tab 4b. Page
17 17. 4b. Page 17.

18 MR. NORTHCUTT: Good morning. I
19 am Steve Northcutt with the Nature
20 Conservancy and I want to discuss the
21 property that's nominated. Inland Lake
22 is the largest water source for the City
23 of Birmingham. It's a crucial draining
24 water source. It serves over 770,000
25 people. Originally, that property was

1 part of an acquisition for Birmingham
2 Water Works. Now as you probably know,
3 Birmingham Water Works has changed its
4 structure, so it's now Central Alabama
5 Water serving additional counties.

6 So the lake itself is unique and
7 over the years, the Birmingham Water
8 Works previously tried to acquire
9 property to protect the watershed and
10 their drinking sources. This particular
11 property came to the Nature Conservancy
12 because the Virginia Chapter of the
13 Nature Conservancy was working with the
14 owners and they brought up this property
15 as being a really unique piece of
16 property and they would be willing to
17 sell it, so we went out to look at the
18 property with Keith and Seth from
19 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. It
20 has a good road system. It's all intact
21 forested land, so not only would it be an
22 excellent protection for the water
23 source, drinking water source for the
24 City of Birmingham, it actually being a
25 tributary to the Locust Fork, the

1 Blackburn Fork. There's been recent ED
2 testing done and it's considered one of
3 the head water streams of the Black
4 Warrior River System.

5 This area would also be an
6 excellent shortleaf pine woodland
7 restoration site. And there's very
8 little public hunting in this particular
9 area of the state. It's 40 miles north
10 of Birmingham and I think that it's about
11 ten miles south of Oneonta.

12 And I can mention that if you
13 were to consider acquiring this property
14 that Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
15 would contribute up to 20 percent of the
16 purchase price to the Pittman-Robertson
17 fund, so that would help offset the cost.

18 I'll be glad to answer any
19 questions that you have.

20 MR. PARNELL: The owner and the
21 ownership, I didn't quite follow you.

22 MR. NORTHCUTT: I didn't mention
23 it. So it's owned by TIMO, a timber
24 investment management organization,
25 Domain, so they own the property. We

1 talked to them through videoconferencing
2 and I think that the State has as well,
3 so they are willing to sell it. Today I
4 guess that I would ask for the Board to
5 consider a first appraisal.

6 MR. TUGGLE: So does TIMO still
7 own the inholdings still? Who owns the
8 inholdings?

9 MR. NORTHCUTT: So there are
10 inholdings. Those are not owned by the
11 company. I can mention that one of the
12 inholdings, the Nature Conservancy has
13 been in negotiations with the owner and
14 they are willing sellers and we're going
15 to consider to try and purchase part of
16 that property.

17 MR. CHILDERS: Has the timber
18 been cut?

19 MR. NORTHCUTT: Part of it has.
20 It's an ongoing timber operation. Some
21 of it's been replanted. In fact, some of
22 it's been replanted with long leaf, but
23 it's a long leaf, short leaf depending on
24 the areas that they were reforesting, but
25 most of it's, in fact, natural forest.

1 There's a lot of areas that are very nice
2 parcels of property.

3 MR. CONLON: Is subsurface
4 included in this?

5 MR. NORTHCUTT: I would expect
6 that the subsurface rights would probably
7 be out.

8 MS. McCURDY: We haven't seen all
9 of the documents that we would need for
10 me to be able to tell you for sure about
11 that.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
13 you, Steve. The last speaker that I have
14 a card here for is Mr. Brooks Knapp on
15 the Double Oak Tract. That's Tab 3b.
16 Page 5. Back to the first speaker, same
17 property. Good morning, Mr. Knapp.

18 MR. KNAPP: Good morning. Again,
19 I'm Brooks Knapp. I'm with Ebsco
20 Industries. We are the owner of the
21 Double Oak Tract which today we're going
22 to be asking for a second appraisal.

23 I'll follow up with what Chad
24 Scroggins said with Shelby County. We
25 have reached a fair willingness to

1 contribute 25 percent of the cost of the
2 purchase of this land and maintenance in
3 perpetuity. So again, we would like to
4 ask for a second appraisal today and we
5 appreciate your consideration.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
7 you, sir. Any questions? Thank you.
8 That was the last speaker. Before we
9 dismiss to Executive Session, one thing
10 that I did fail to do that I wanted to do
11 when we started the meeting, I'd like to
12 introduce you to our new Wildlife and
13 Freshwater Fisheries director Chris
14 Lewis. Would you mind standing? Chuck
15 Sykes, our former director of Wildlife
16 and Freshwater Fisheries, left over the
17 summer and Chris came to work I think the
18 week after our last Board meeting, so
19 he's been here like a really long time
20 now, almost three months, and so I feel
21 like he's part of us, but he's not been
22 introduced to the Board, so I hope that
23 you'll take some time after the meeting
24 to get to know Chris. He's doing a
25 fantastic job for us at Wildlife and

1 Freshwater Fisheries in leading that
2 division. So thank you, Chris, for being
3 here and for the work that you're going
4 to do for us.

5 By regulation, appraisal values
6 are confidential during periods of
7 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
8 discuss tract appraisal values, the Board
9 will need to go into a recess for an
10 Executive Session.

11 Is there a motion for the Board
12 to now recess into Executive Session?

13 MR. HARRIS: So moved.

14 MR. OATES: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Motion
16 by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Oates. As
17 I call your name, please state your
18 position on this motion to recess. Those
19 in favor please indicate by saying "aye,"
20 opposed by saying "nay." Chris
21 Blankenship aye. Mr. Conlon.

22 MR. CONLON: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
24 Mr. Harper.

25 MR. HARPER: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

2 Mr. Harris.

3 MR. HARRIS: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

5 Dr. Howell.

6 DR. HOWELL: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

8 Dr. Keener.

9 DR. KEENER: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

11 Mr. Martin.

12 MR. MARTIN: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

14 Dr. Neumann.

15 DR. NEUMANN: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

17 Mr. Oates.

18 MR. OATES: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

20 Mr. Parnell.

21 MR. PARNELL: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

23 Ms. Stanley.

24 MS. STANLEY: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

1 Mr. Tuggle.

2 MR. TUGGLE: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

4 Dr. Valentine.

5 DR. VALENTINE: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

7 Mr. Childers.

8 MR. CHILDERS: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
10 right. It is 10:15. We'll now be in
11 Executive Session. We hope to return in
12 about 20 minutes. Thank you.

13 (Proceedings were in recess)

14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
15 All right. We are back at 10:47, back
16 out of Executive Session and back to the
17 meeting. We'll pick back up on the
18 program status report. Ms. McCurdy, I
19 think that you are up on Tab 2.

20 MS. MCCURDY: I am. If the Board
21 will turn to Tab 2 as I am getting my
22 stuff back in order and if you would --
23 also, as always, you have some updated
24 numbers in your green folder. So a
25 couple of the items that I will be

1 running through are in your green
2 folders. You all give me just a moment.

3 All right. We're going to start
4 with financial information as we always
5 do, so if you will look at your Tab 2a.
6 and if you will pull your slightly yellow
7 Tab 2a.

8 All right. So this is the
9 portion of the meeting for the benefit of
10 the public that I want to remind the
11 Board and update the public on the
12 properties that have been previously
13 motioned by the Board for closing, so
14 staff is in various stages of our closing
15 process on the following tracts. Another
16 thing that I do as I go through that is I
17 want to remind the Board of the funding
18 that is available and they should proceed
19 to take additional action and the
20 funding, the balance that I will mention
21 takes into consideration the presumed
22 closing of everything that you have
23 instructed us to close. As I say, it's
24 like checks that you've written, but they
25 haven't been cashed yet, but you've got

1 to keep up with them in your checkbook,
2 so I want to run through that now.

3 The tracts that are currently
4 still in the closing process in various
5 stages include Beaverdam Swamp - Lowe
6 Addition. That was the land donation
7 that we received. Davidson Creek Tract.
8 I'm sorry. Beaverdam is in Limestone
9 County. Davidson Creek Tract, Coosa
10 County; Turkey Creek Nature Preserve -
11 Bell Addition in Jefferson County; Turkey
12 Creek Nature Preserve - Red Hollow Road
13 Addition in Jefferson County; Dugdown
14 Corridor Phase II, Cleburne County and
15 Graham Bayou in Baldwin County.

16 Taking all of those closings,
17 potential closings into account, you have
18 a remaining unencumbered balance of just
19 over 33 million.

20 Also, I want to just update you
21 on the closings that have taken place so
22 far this fiscal year. As you may recall,
23 the fiscal year began October 1st. We
24 have closed on the Dugdown Mountain
25 Corridor Phase I Tract and the West Fowl

1 River Tract. Those account for over a
2 thousand acres closing by Forever Wild
3 that allowed for the leverage purchase of
4 an additional almost 2,000 acres. That
5 was related to the Dugdown Corridor Phase
6 I and the Alabama Forestry Commission was
7 the benefit of that leveraging
8 opportunity. The Forever Wild Land Trust
9 provided the required State match for the
10 Federal grant for that tract.

11 Are there any questions on 2a?

12 If not, we'll keep moving. And y'all
13 speak up again. I just read out, so I'm
14 looking down. If you have any questions,
15 speak up so that I don't miss you.

16 If you would, let's now look at
17 Tab 2b. Sorry. I am slow today. I have
18 got my pages crossed up. All right. Tab
19 2b reflects information regarding the
20 financial status of our stewardship fund,
21 the funds that the Board has authorized
22 the staff to spend for various land
23 management activities across our
24 properties. The Board had authorized \$3
25 million expenditures for this fiscal

1 year. We're still well under that,
2 although we are about to hit the time of
3 the year where we have a lot more
4 expenditures, but we're fine. We've not
5 identified any concerns with that.
6 Between Tab 2b. and 2c., you will see the
7 information that the State Treasurer's
8 office provides to us for each quarterly
9 meeting regarding the investment of those
10 stewardship funds and the current net
11 asset value. That was as of the end of
12 the calendar year and is just over \$53
13 million.

14 If there are no questions on Tab
15 2, I'm going to move on to Tab 3. This
16 is the point in the meeting where again
17 for the public and also to remind the
18 Board of the status of appraisal work
19 that this Board has motioned for staff to
20 complete at prior meetings. I always
21 account for every appraisal that you have
22 motioned for as well as any other
23 appraisals that might have been provided
24 by another entity for potential
25 consideration by the Board, so let me run

1 through all of that.

2 The tracts that we had appraisals
3 in hand for and would be available for
4 further motion include the Coon Gulf -
5 Craze Bend Addition, Jackson County;
6 Cooper Branch Tract, Shelby County;
7 Desoto State Park - Oakhill Road
8 Northeast Addition, DeKalb County; Double
9 Oak Tract, Shelby County and Sipsey River
10 Swamp - Kellytown Addition, Tuscaloosa
11 County.

12 Now, I need to update the Board
13 as to a couple of other matters. You had
14 a motion at the prior meeting to get a
15 first appraisal on the Little River -
16 East Fork Addition in Jackson County.
17 However, we had had discussion at that
18 meeting that there were some conservation
19 easements on that property and I had
20 assured the Board that I would hold off
21 on spending money on the appraisal until
22 I was comfortable that the easements
23 would not inhibit any of our usual
24 management activities or appropriational
25 needs and we have finished our review of

1 those and been in consultation with the
2 easement holders and we feel good about
3 that, so I went ahead and initiated that
4 appraisal, but I didn't have that done in
5 time to have it for you at this meeting,
6 but we'll have it for the next meeting
7 and I'll present all of the information
8 related to that tract at that meeting.

9 Then an update on a tract that
10 you had motioned previously for appraisal
11 that we had appraised, but that was the
12 Dugdown Corridor Cleburne County Tract.
13 Now, this is not the Phase I or Phase II
14 tracts that were -- had grant awards.
15 This was the one that didn't have any
16 supporting funding. If you'll remember,
17 right as our meeting started last time, I
18 learned that the landowner had sold that
19 acreage, and so I told you to hold on
20 that one because I did not know if we had
21 a confirmed willing seller selling
22 through our normal process on that tract.

23 Since that meeting, we have
24 determined that we do not believe
25 currently the new landowner has an

1 interest in selling that acreage, and so
2 that has been removed from the tracts
3 that were available to you for
4 consideration, but I do want you to know
5 that that had happened and why you're not
6 seeing that one.

7 Any questions on the tracts that
8 we currently have appraisals for? I will
9 say of those tracts that you asked for
10 the first appraisals on, all of that,
11 costs related to that stewardship fund,
12 if you move on all of those, you would be
13 over 12 million on those, but that's just
14 the current status of Tab 3a.

15 If there are no questions on 3a.,
16 kind of moving out of that financial
17 information, then we will move to your
18 Tab 5a.

19 At this point in the meeting, I
20 always want to take a minute to just
21 update you on any grant opportunities,
22 leveraging opportunities, basically any
23 funding that either would offset Forever
24 Wild acquisition cost or mitigate some of
25 our land management cost, so I want to

1 just give a brief update of that and also
2 note that after the packet was mailed and
3 actually, after I prepared your green
4 folder, figured out and I want to thank
5 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
6 Division Director Lewis for taking time
7 to put an extra eye on this. They have
8 identified the potential for a 20 percent
9 contribution of Pittman-Robertson funds
10 related to the Inland Lake Tract, so that
11 is not in your information. I'll mention
12 that again as we get to that in your
13 short list tracts so that you'll see
14 which one I'm talking about, but that is
15 your traditional Pittman-Robertson
16 opportunity that requires State-based
17 match, but that would be a 20 percent
18 contribution of those funds that Forever
19 Wild would have if you decided to have
20 any interest in moving forward on that.
21 That's not in your material, so I wanted
22 to mention that.

23 The current Dugdown Corridor
24 Phase II acquisition which is pending in
25 the closing process and we'll talk more

1 about later, but that tract was a tract
2 benefitting from U.S. Forest Service,
3 forest legacy grant funding that the
4 Alabama Forestry Commission acquired.
5 Thanks to Rick Oates and all of his staff
6 for pursuing that grant. We talked about
7 that tract in the past. That one is
8 pending in our closing process.

9 A couple more of the land
10 management grants. I wanted to note that
11 we finally did hear back on the NFWF
12 Longleaf Landscape grant program. That
13 application we put in. Thanks to the
14 Alabama Forestry Foundation for helping
15 us with that. We were awarded some
16 funding from NFWF to be applied to the
17 Coosa Wildlife Management Area Tract.
18 The total of that funding is about
19 \$64,000. That would be matched 50/50
20 with our stewardship fund, but that
21 funding was divided into two categories,
22 some of the funding to benefit the
23 longleaf pine restoration over a hundred
24 acres and then some of the funding to
25 provide funds for prescribed burning on

1 about 1300 acres at the Coosa WMA. And
2 so again, we will be matching that 50/50,
3 and so we just got that award the end of
4 November, I believe, and so we are --
5 we're getting moving on that one.

6 The Bon Secour River - Wetlands
7 Addition, that was money under a National
8 Coastal Wetlands Conservation program
9 grant. That tract, Bon Secour River
10 Wetlands, is in Baldwin County. We are
11 now at the stage if you recall that
12 provided acquisition money, some land
13 management money and some funding that we
14 could then use to do some trail work and
15 trail head installation. We'll be moving
16 forward with the burn as our next step at
17 the end of February on that tract.

18 We continue working on the
19 Mobile-Tensaw Delta Bartram and Perdido
20 River Canoe Trails improvement. As you
21 recall, we had over 1.9 million awarded
22 by Governor Ivey as a GOMESA grant
23 program, and so we are doing three things
24 along those two canoe trails. We are
25 adding, constructing and adding new

1 land-base shelters in the places. We
2 have some platforms going in and we are
3 also doing the repairs and enhancements
4 to the existing structures. Overall,
5 that project is about 30 percent
6 complete. We have had the contractors
7 concentrating first on constructing the
8 new shelters. He's doing two to three at
9 a time and mobilizing them, installing
10 them. They're on the waterfront, and so
11 we're excited to actually see some of
12 that work in the ground. I included one,
13 just one photo for you to see what we're
14 talking about when we talk about those
15 shelters. So that is really the status
16 of everything that we have had in the
17 works for utilizing grant funding for.

18 If there are no questions, I will
19 move on into the short list, review of
20 the short list. That's your Tab 4. So
21 if you'll take time to go to Tab 4 in
22 your packet. I'd like to remind some of
23 those, I know this is -- we have here
24 today, this is their first Forever Wild
25 meeting that they've been to and I

1 appreciate the public's participation in
2 these meetings, so I wanted to take just
3 a minute to remind everyone how we
4 develop what we call the short list
5 called the priority list under the
6 Constitutional amendment that formed the
7 program.

8 We receive nominations of tracts
9 from the public. We confirm willing
10 seller status. If we're able to do that,
11 then we proceed to evaluate and score.
12 Each tract is scored across four
13 categories, general rec which includes
14 hunting, but also wildlife management
15 areas, SOAs, public hunting type areas
16 that is its own category and then State
17 park addition acreage and nature
18 preserves. So each tract is scored
19 across all four.

20 To make the short list, the
21 tracts have to score in the top three of
22 at least one of those categories in the
23 district that they're located, the
24 northern, central and southern, and they
25 compete with each other by district sort

1 of like the Olympics. You've got to make
2 the podium, top three of those categories
3 to get on the short list, so those are
4 the tracts that are available to the
5 Board for a motion for first appraisal or
6 other questions for staff that you want
7 us to be working on.

8 I'm going to run through those
9 fairly quickly because you have that in
10 your packet. As always, speak up. I
11 won't see your hands, so please speak up.

12 The tracts that are currently on
13 the short list include the Certain Tract
14 - Sunset Cove Addition, Madison County;
15 Dead River Island, Pickens County; Doss
16 Mountain Tract, Tallapoosa County.
17 You'll notice that I had a couple of
18 questions on the map that is adjacent to
19 the Auburn University Piedmont Research
20 Unit and that's part of their
21 agricultural experimentation stations and
22 I have a couple of questions on what that
23 was. Fort Pierce Tract, Baldwin County;
24 Freedom Hills WMA - Heard Addition,
25 Colbert County; Geneva State Forest -

1 Flat Creek Addition, Geneva County; Hells
2 Swamp Branch Tract, Mobile County.

3 Now, I will tell you that this is
4 another one, the conservation easement
5 that we're still waiting on a little bit
6 of information on, so don't necessarily
7 have a concern, but I don't have all of
8 the information that I need to tell you
9 that we've cleared that conservation
10 easement quite yet, but we're close.

11 Inland Lake North Tract, Blount
12 County. This is the tract that I
13 mentioned that Wildlife and Freshwater
14 Fisheries Division was able to calculate
15 and figure out yesterday that they would
16 be able to contribute 20 percent of
17 acquisition through Pittman-Robertson
18 funding. Yes, sir, Dr. Keener.

19 DR. KEENER: I noticed on the
20 short list 4300 acres, but on Page -- on
21 the map, it's 3800.

22 MS. McCURDY: We'll double check
23 that right now. I apologize for the
24 discrepancy.

25 DR. KEENER: Page 18.

1 MS. McCURDY: For those of y'all,
2 it's your Tab 4 and it's Page 17. The
3 question from Dr. Keener is that we have
4 differing acreage amounts in the heading.
5 On the map -- I think that I may know
6 what it is, but I don't want to
7 speculate, so y'all give me just a
8 moment. Can I take a minute with
9 Wildlife to be sure that I get the right
10 answer?

11 DR. KEENER: Sure.

12 MS. McCURDY: Hold on one second.

13 Yes. What you have on your map
14 is correct. The acreage figure on your
15 map is correct. At one time, there was
16 additional acreage being offered, but
17 that is no longer being offered, so the
18 three approximately -- they're always
19 approximate until we get to the title --
20 the approximate 3,862 acres in the shade
21 that is reflected on your map at Page 18
22 is correct and what we should be posted
23 on.

24 DR. KEENER: Thank you.

25 MS. McCURDY: You're welcome.

1 And thank you to my staff and everybody's
2 help on that.

3 Okay. The next one is --
4 Commissioner, I'm just going to say I may
5 need some help with this. I always say
6 this wrong. Chacaloochee? I will credit
7 Jeremy Doss, my chief of enforcement, who
8 tried to help me with this just earlier
9 today. That's Baldwin County, so I
10 promise that I'll learn how to say it
11 correct. And I will help the court
12 reporter later.

13 The next one is Riverton
14 Community Hunting Area -- we use the
15 abbreviation CHA -- the Riverton CHA -
16 Rose Trail Addition, Colbert County;
17 Riverton CHA - Walker Chapel Hollow
18 Addition, Colbert County and Yates Lake
19 WMA - Tucker Road Addition, Elmore
20 County. Again, those are the tracts
21 currently on the short list. That
22 changes each meeting because the tracts
23 as we get new ones nominated and scored
24 are always competing with each other.
25 That's our short list for today.

1 If there are no questions on the
2 short list, then Commissioner, I'm going
3 to turn it back to you for general
4 discussion and for the Board, this is
5 either a time for motions or possibly you
6 have requests of staff, so Commissioner,
7 I turn it back to you.

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
9 right. I'll entertain any motions.
10 Anybody have any questions on the short
11 list? I'll entertain any motions that
12 anybody might have on any of the
13 properties.

14 MR. HARRIS: I've got one.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
16 Mr. Harris.

17 MR. HARRIS: I move the staff to
18 proceed with the second appraisal and
19 proceed with the purchase of the Double
20 Oak Tract contingent on Shelby County
21 contributing 25 percent of the appraised
22 value.

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Is
24 there a second?

25 MR. PARNELL: Second.

1 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
2 Mr. Parnell. Thank you. So the motion
3 is for a second appraisal and move to
4 purchase on the Double Oak Tract
5 contingent on Shelby County providing 25
6 percent of the purchase price. Is that
7 correct?

8 MR. HARRIS: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
10 questions about that? Everybody clear?
11 All those in favor please raise your
12 hand.

13 MS. McCURDY: Twelve,
14 Commissioner. It passes.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
16 opposed raise your hand. Motion carries.
17 Thank you. Dr. Keener.

18 DR. KEENER: I'd like to make a
19 motion for the first appraisal of the
20 Inland Lake North Tract.

21 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So the
22 motion is for a first appraisal on the
23 Inland Lake North Tract.

24 MR. VALENTINE: I'll second that.

25 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: That's

1 seconded by Dr. Valentine. Dr. Keener
2 makes a motion seconded by Dr. Valentine
3 for a first appraisal on the Inland Lake
4 North property. Any questions? All
5 those in favor please raise your hand.

6 MS. McCURDY: Ten, Commissioner.
7 That passes.

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
9 opposed please raise your hand. Motion
10 carries. Thank you.

11 MS. STANLEY: Mr. Commissioner, I
12 move to appraise the Certain Tract -
13 Sunset Cove Addition in Madison County --

14 MR. HARRIS: Second.

15 MS. STANLEY: -- on the short
16 list.

17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
18 Ms. Stanley makes a motion to have the
19 first appraisal on a certain tract
20 seconded by Mr. Harris. I think that I
21 heard that correctly. Any questions on
22 that? All those in favor of a first
23 appraisal on the certain tract please
24 raise your hand.

25 MS. McCURDY: Ten, Commissioner.

1 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
2 opposed raise your hand.

3 MS. McCURDY: Three.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Three.
5 Thank you. Motion carries.

6 MS. STANLEY: Mr. Commissioner, I
7 move to appraise the Freedom Hills WMA
8 current addition in Colbert County.

9 MR. CHILDERS: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
11 Seconded by Mr. Childers. Motion by
12 Ms. Stanley. Let me make sure that I get
13 the right one. The 80 acres of the Heard
14 Addition?

15 MS. STANLEY: Eighty acres of the
16 Heard Addition.

17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
18 Freedom Hills Heard Addition. Motion by
19 Ms. Stanley seconded by Mr. Childers.

20 MS. STANLEY: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
22 right. Any questions? All those in
23 favor of the first appraisal on the
24 Freedom Hills Heard Addition please raise
25 your hand.

1 MS. McCURDY: Nine, Commissioner.

2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Motion
3 carries. Thank you. Dr. Neumann.

4 DR. NEUMANN: I'd like to make a
5 motion for first appraisal on the Fort
6 Pierce tract.

7 DR. MARTIN: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: A
9 motion for a first appraisal on the Fort
10 Pierce Tract by Dr. Neumann seconded by
11 Dr. Martin. Any questions about that?
12 First appraisal for the Fort Pierce
13 Tract. All those in favor please raise
14 your hand.

15 MS. McCURDY: Keep them up for
16 me. Nine, Commissioner. It passes.

17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Motion
18 carries. Thank you.

19 DR. MARTIN: Commissioner, I
20 would like to motion to move for a first
21 appraisal of the Chacaloochee Bay
22 Addition.

23 DR. VALENTINE: I'll second that
24 one.

25 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So the

1 motion by Dr. Martin is a first appraisal
2 on the Chacaloochee Bay. All those in
3 favor please raise your hand.

4 MS. McCURDY: Eight,
5 Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Motion
7 fails.

8 MR. CONLON: Commissioner, I'd
9 like to make a motion for a second
10 appraisal on Sipse River Swamp -
11 Kellytown Addition.

12 DR. HOWELL: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Motion
14 made by Mr. Conlon seconded by Dr. Howell
15 on the Sipse River Swamp - Kellytown
16 Addition. That would be a second
17 appraisal and move to purchase.

18 MS. McCURDY: Is that correct,
19 Mr. Conlon?

20 MR. CONLON: Yes, that's correct.

21 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Second
22 appraisal and move to purchase on the
23 Sipse River Swamp - Kellytown Addition.
24 All in favor please raise your hand.

25 MS. McCURDY: Keep them up for

1 me, please. Twelve, Commissioner. That
2 carries.

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
4 right. Motion carries. Thank you. Any
5 other motions?

6 MR. CHILDERS: Mr. Chairman, I
7 would like to move for first appraisal on
8 the Riverton CHA - Walker Chapel, first
9 appraisal.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: You
11 said the Walker Chapel 40-acre addition?

12 MR. CHILDERS: Yes, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Is
14 there a second?

15 MS. STANLEY: I'll second.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
17 Seconded by Ms. Stanley.

18 MS. STANLEY: Can we just have
19 some discussion?

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Yes,
21 ma'am.

22 MS. STANLEY: My question, is
23 this square -- and if I'm reading it
24 right, the red square is what's being
25 proposed, but there's a white square

1 above it. Would that become landlocked
2 or who owns the white square above it?

3 MS. McCURDY: It would be an
4 inholding. Several of our properties do
5 have inholdings. We can only acquire
6 what we have a willing seller for at this
7 time. That is all that we have right
8 there.

9 MS. STANLEY: Thank you.

10 MS. McCURDY: You're welcome.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
12 other questions? All those in favor
13 please raise your hand.

14 MS. McCURDY: Nine, Commissioner.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Motion
16 carries. All right. Nine votes on that
17 one. Motion carries. Anybody else? All
18 right. Thank you all.

19 We'll move on to the
20 miscellaneous reports. Ms. McCurdy.

21 MS. McCURDY: Give me just one
22 second to get my papers under control
23 here.

24 For the Board members, you can
25 be -- we'll be focusing on the

1 miscellaneous sections and we'll be
2 focusing on Tab 5 of your -- both your
3 mail packet and your green folder.

4 All right. So as usual, this is
5 the point in the meeting where we look at
6 the tracts that have accumulated the --
7 established by policy number of Board
8 meetings without action and the tracts --
9 at this point, there was -- some of the
10 appraised nominations and those on the
11 short list that roll off after they hit
12 that number of meetings, so I always like
13 to identify those for you so that you
14 don't miss it and let you know that after
15 this meeting unless there is a request at
16 this meeting from a Board member, those
17 tracts will roll off and you will not see
18 them again for a while unless they're
19 renominated.

20 So in this meeting, we don't have
21 anything on the short list that will come
22 off. We have two tracts that would come
23 off of the appraised nominations and that
24 is the Coon Gulf - Craze Bend Addition
25 and the Cooper Branch Tract, and so they

1 will move on, but I always like to point
2 that out.

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
4 request that we leave those two on that
5 form.

6 MS. McCURDY: Both of them?

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
8 Uh-huh.

9 MS. McCURDY: And the explanation
10 as you may recall, although that is
11 Chairman, my boss, making it, but it does
12 only take one Board member to request
13 them to remain on for another meeting, so
14 those will remain on the list.

15 All right. We will now move
16 to -- I think that the next item in --
17 this may require a little bit of paper
18 flipping, so I wanted to note some
19 changes that were initiated between my
20 staff and at the request of the Forestry
21 -- Alabama Forestry Commission and
22 Mr. Oates and related to the Dugdown
23 Corridor Phase II Tract. Now, that is
24 one of the grant-supported tracts in the
25 U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Grant

1 Program award on that tract. That is a
2 tract that you will see on your Tab 2a.
3 because that is a tract that you motioned
4 for staff to proceed to do a second
5 appraisal, proceed to closing on. And
6 once you make that type of motion, unless
7 there's a change, we just keep working on
8 it. Unless I hit a glitch, I don't come
9 back to you for more motions, but there
10 were some questions raised by the
11 landowner on this tract due to the very
12 complicated U.S. Forest Service -- maybe
13 they're not listening -- appraisal
14 process. The appraisal for this tract
15 had been completed in 2024. There's
16 significant timber on the tract. The
17 landowner was concerned that a full
18 growing season had been missed. In
19 addition, they sought to reserve some
20 timber as we have on some other tracts
21 and be able to harvest some timber that
22 they had planned to harvest coming up.
23 And so AFC staff, State land staff,
24 talked with the landowner to be sure that
25 we understood their request and AFC using

1 their funds proceeded with obtaining some
2 other -- and they did an appraisal that
3 took into account over that time period
4 the additional calendar 2025 growth of
5 the timber as well as the timber that was
6 being reserved and also the market value
7 of that timber.

8 This resulted in overall an
9 increase -- and we got some comings and
10 goings, some subtractions, but bottom
11 line, an increased appraisal value. That
12 then created a gap in the amount of the
13 Federal grant award that was available to
14 take down the entire acreage.

15 At that point, in talks with
16 Alabama Forestry Commission, we talked,
17 our staffs talked and met with the
18 appraiser and again, we had those updated
19 values. When that gap was identified,
20 AFC continued discussions with the Nature
21 Conservancy and I want to thank the
22 Nature Conservancy for their assistance,
23 but they have committed to a cash
24 contribution that would allow for enough
25 mitigation in the grant award gap that we

1 can proceed.

2 In addition, the Forestry
3 Commission is allowing Forever Wild to
4 benefit from the acreage that would be
5 associated with that cash contribution by
6 the Nature Conservancy to try to reach
7 the updated appraised value and there
8 would -- and that back-to-back would be
9 about 202 acres that now shift. If you
10 look at your Tab 5e., you have a map that
11 shows the final receiver buyout split map
12 allowing that acreage to come to the
13 benefit of Forever Wild and that -- as we
14 try then to reconfigure the split map and
15 to match the valuation of the Forever
16 Wild dollars that would be needed, the
17 TNC dollars cash contribution and the
18 draft money.

19 The reconfiguration with that
20 additional acreage actually allowed us to
21 do a better on-the-ground job of
22 consolidating the footprint of our
23 acreage. Tab 5e. contains a comparison
24 map, the very last page that shows you --
25 helps show where that little bit of a

1 shift occurred.

2 But all of that being said, that
3 is -- there would be -- when I say no
4 cost acreage, the Board would still be
5 contributing 15 percent of our total
6 acreage that we would gain into the
7 stewardship fund, so that approximate 202
8 acres would still have cost of that 15
9 percent. So when I say no cost, I mean
10 acquisition to appraised value cost.
11 You're still going to have your 15
12 percent.

13 For the benefit of the public,
14 for any acquisition, whether by donation
15 or by purchase, if the Board receives
16 acreage by the Constitutional amendment,
17 we have to move 15 percent of the
18 appraised value of that acreage into the
19 stewardship fund to provide funding for
20 longterm land management and maintenance
21 actions.

22 Okay. So all that being said,
23 because of the change in the cost to
24 Forever Wild, those changes to the split
25 map, if the Board wants my staff to

1 continue, pick back up and move forward
2 with our closing process under the
3 revised split map and the numbers, the
4 cost of Forever Wild reflected on your
5 yellowish green folder Tab 2a., I would
6 need a motion.

7 The last thing that I'll say is
8 your tab 5e. contains a sample motion.
9 That's all it is. You can make your own,
10 but because this is complicated, I
11 provided you a sample motion. If you
12 want us to proceed, I would need a motion
13 and I would need the standard nine-member
14 vote for us to keep working on it to get
15 it through the closing process and
16 closed. I will take a breath now because
17 that was a lot.

18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
19 right. Any questions about that? Is
20 there a motion?

21 MR. TUGGLE: Mr. Chairman, I'll
22 make a motion --

23 MR. HARRIS: Second.

24 MR. TUGGLE: -- for staff to
25 proceed with closing on the Dugdown Phase

1 II nomination resulting in Forever Wild's
2 acquisition of approximately 2,674 acres
3 contingent upon availability of the
4 Forest Legacy grant award funding and the
5 TNC cash contribution in accordance with
6 the memorandum dated February 5th 2026.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
8 you, Mr. Tuggle. Seconded by Mr. Harris.
9 Any other questions?

10 MS. STANLEY: Mr. Chairman, I
11 just want to comment to say that although
12 this is a large piece and it got
13 complicated and the maps change, what
14 looks great to me is the collaborative
15 nature of this proposed transaction in
16 that it is, I believe, 75 percent Forest
17 Legacy, 25 percent Forever Wild and the
18 Nature Conservancy kicked in the gray
19 area. So I want to commend staff or
20 whoever is in charge of negotiating
21 collaboration.

22 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
23 you. I couldn't have said that better
24 myself. I'll give Mr. Oates and the
25 Forestry Commission credit on that.

1 MR. OATES: I, too, would like to
2 thank the Forever Wild staff. However
3 the vote turns out, I appreciate all of
4 the hard work from your staff and our
5 staff yesterday.

6 MS. McCURDY: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
8 those in favor of the motion please raise
9 your hand.

10 MS. McCURDY: And please keep
11 your hands up for me.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: One
13 more time.

14 MS. McCURDY: Commissioner, 13,
15 so it passes.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
17 Thirteen. Motion carries. Thank you
18 all.

19 MS. McCURDY: Commissioner, give
20 me one more second. I've got a couple
21 more items. For the Board, I will just
22 point out -- I won't go into great
23 detail, but you have your usual quarterly
24 update as to the feral swine remediation
25 efforts that are ongoing with the staff.

1 We continue to (unintelligible) over
2 staff efforts and additional equipment
3 purchases as well as contractor efforts
4 to make progress. Numbers were down as
5 are always expected, but you have to
6 account for the public on the tract
7 during hunting season as well as trying
8 to get in some dormant season burns on
9 some of the tracts, but I want to thank
10 both my State Land staff and Wildlife and
11 Freshwater Fisheries staff for ongoing
12 efforts and for staff keeping up with the
13 stats that we report to the Board each
14 meeting. And that's your Tab 5d.

15 I will -- I wanted to update the
16 Board and I included Tab 5g. in your
17 green folder. Just a little bit of an
18 update. I don't have a ton of
19 information, but I didn't want it to go
20 by without letting you know that we were
21 working on it.

22 Staff has been evaluating any
23 concerns as to timber damage from the
24 recent -- I say winter storm. We had ice
25 up in the northern area, northwest,

1 northern area and then we had some
2 straight line winds and suspected tornado
3 damage across the Black Belt and in
4 Southeast Alabama.

5 Right now we've seen no real
6 concern from the straight line winds and
7 tornado activity. We had some ice issues
8 up in Lauderdale County, Lauderdale WMA
9 and then Colbert County both at the
10 Riverton CHA complex and the Freedom
11 Hills WMA. We had a lot of trouble
12 getting in. We had -- Most of the damage
13 looks to be associated with the internal
14 roadways and a lot of the trees didn't
15 have canopy cover, but still clearing
16 through. We do not at this time believe
17 that we had what I will call a true
18 significant impact with timber, but we're
19 continuing to look. I'll update again.
20 If I find anything that we need to
21 report, I'll let you know at our next
22 meeting.

23 We had additional -- Other than
24 continued monitoring as to our Southern
25 pine beetle efforts and our needs, and so

1 we continue to monitor, but I didn't have
2 any actions, any timber actions I needed
3 to bring you up-to-date on as to that.

4 And Commissioner, if you'll give
5 me a second. I think that the only
6 remaining item would just be the Forever
7 Wild annual report if you wanted to talk
8 about that. While you're doing that, I'm
9 going to double check my notes.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Tab
11 5f. is our annual report that we always
12 under the Constitutional requirements
13 provide to the governor, Lieutenant
14 Governor and Speaker of the House. It's
15 just a synopsis of all of the properties
16 that were actioned on last year to match
17 the properties that are on the short
18 list. It's just a good synopsis that we
19 do every year and obviously a very
20 important historical document to be able
21 to capture the work that takes place
22 every year, so you can read that if you'd
23 like when you're available.

24 I would like to now ask for
25 approval of the minutes from the November

1 6th meeting. Is there any corrections or
2 additions to the minutes or a motion to
3 approve those?

4 DR. NEUMANN: I'll make a motion
5 to approve.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
7 Dr. Neumann.

8 MR. OATES: Second.

9 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
10 Seconded by Dr. Oates. Any corrections?
11 Any changes? All those in favor of
12 approving the minutes please say "aye."
13 Any opposed? Motion carries.

14 The next meeting will be in
15 Mobile on May the 7th at Bishop State
16 Community College. As you may recall,
17 two of our Board members have something
18 every -- the first -- the same day as our
19 May meeting in Mobile that they need to
20 be there for that afternoon meeting, and
21 so we have -- we're trying to have the
22 meeting in Mobile this year to
23 accommodate those two Board members, and
24 so I just wanted that to be noted. We're
25 trying to take care of you,

1 Dr. Valentine.

2 And then one last thing. I said
3 earlier in the meeting that I did not see
4 any dignitaries here, but I was wrong. I
5 see the mayor of Lowndesboro, Mr. Ed
6 McCurdy, is here and I want to recognize
7 the mayor. Thank you for joining us today,
8 sir.

9 MS. McCURDY: I'm not sure if he's
10 here in his official capacity or just as a
11 husband. I don't know, but most
12 importantly, I'm the First Lady of
13 Lowndesboro.

14 One thing for the public as well,
15 the annual report that The Commissioner
16 mentioned, I know that there are reports
17 that we deliver every year. That will be
18 posted to our website at the conclusion of
19 this meeting today, so it will be available
20 online as well.

21 MR. HARRIS: Are you sure that the
22 mayor is here to take you to lunch or take
23 you shopping?

24 MS. McCURDY: I think that shopping
25 is dinner, but thank you for bringing that

1 up, Mr. Harris.

2 MR. PARNELL: Commissioner, I'd like
3 to ask the staff to spend some time to do a
4 study of the property to see if we could
5 improve our woods roads, better manage the
6 land owned by Forever Wild with a focus on
7 being able to get in to do something about
8 all those. We've got stewardship.
9 Improved woods roads would be a big help.

10 MS. McCURDY: Yes, sir. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank
12 you. If there's nothing else, I'll
13 entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All in
16 favor say "aye." We are adjourned. Thank
17 you.

18 (Proceedings concluded at 11:38 a.m.)
19
20
21
22
23
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25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ALABAMA)

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing proceedings were taken down by me in stenotype and was reduced to computer print under my supervision, and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of the above proceedings.

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

Nancy Holland

/s/Nancy S. Holland
Nancy S. Holland, Commissioner
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