Revised

FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING

August 6, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Lake Guntersville State Park

Guntersville, Alabama

BEFORE:
Nancy S. Holland
CSR

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christopher M. Blankenship, Commissioner, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

MR. JAMES "MICKEY" CHILDERS

MR. ZACH CONLON

MR. JAKE HARPER

DR. HEATHER HOWELL

DR. BRIAN KEENER

DR. CHARLES MARTIN

DR. JAMES McCLINTOCK

MR. RICK OATES

MR. JIMMY PARNELL

MS. KAREN STANLEY

MR. MARK M. TUGGLE

DR. JOHN VALENTINE

ALSO PRESENT:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Good morning. Welcome to the August 6th Board meeting. We're working on getting the -- We've got a few speakers today. We're working on getting all the -- There they are right there. Perfect. I'm Chris Blankenship, a Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and I want to welcome everybody to the Lodge at Guntersville State Park this morning. So glad to have you here and I appreciate the opportunity to meet at the facility. This is a beautiful place and we picked the only room that had no views so that y'all could concentrate and do good work here and not be distracted by looking out the window and wishing that you were on the lake fishing today like I would be if we were out there.

I'll go ahead and call the roll and make sure that we have a quorum. When I say your name, just please indicate your presence.

Christopher Blankenship is here.

Mr. Childers.

MR. CHILDERS: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Conlon.

MR. CONLON: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harper.

MR. HARPER: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Howell.

DR. HOWELL: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harris.

MR. HARRIS: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Keener.

DR. KEENER: Here.

MR. CHILDERS: Dr. Martin.

DR. MARTIN: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock.

DR. McCLINTOCK: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Oates.

MR. OATES: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Parnell.

MR. PARNELL: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Ms. Stanley.

MS. STANLEY: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Tuggle.

MR. TUGGLE: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine.

DR. VALENTINE: Here.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: So we have 14. We have a quorum. I would like to express appreciation to State Parks Director Matthew Capps and the staff for allowing us to meet here at this hotel. It's a beautiful part of the state. I know that we have -- I've seen the mayor of Springville here. Do we have any other elected officials that have joined us today? Good to have you here, sir.

And we had a ribbon cutting yesterday or a dedication at the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve in Jefferson County on two acquisitions that the Board has made down there over the last few months. One was the -- They call it the Shepherd property. We call it Red Hollow Road and then the Bell property, both of those additions, so it was a great event yesterday, well attended there in Jefferson County around Pinson. The mayor was there and some other folks. It's a beautiful piece of property.

I do want to share the sad news

and I think that most of you got the email that Dr. Saloom who served on this Board for many years and was a fantastic Board member and besides that just a very good person passed away recently and they'll have a memorial service for him tomorrow and then something, another larger event in November. We sent that information out. If you didn't get that, if you need some more information, please let me or Patti or Doug know and we'll make sure that you have that information. We appreciate his service and hate to see that he passed recently.

I don't think that I have any other announcements before we get started and we'll just move right into the public comments.

We have quite a few speakers today and I appreciate the interest. Every time that we have a meeting in this part of the state, we seem to have a pretty good bit of speakers and interest. That's why we try to move this meeting around to different parts of the state

throughout the years so that we can make sure that everybody has ample opportunity to attend and I appreciate seeing such a good crowd here today.

The first speaker -- When I call you up to speak, if you'll give the Board just minute so that they can find it in their book so that they have what you're speaking on. I appreciate it.

Our first speaker is Jesalyn Wilson on the Cooper Branch Tract, Tab 3B Page 4. 3B Page 4. Go ahead.

MS. WILSON: Good morning, everyone. My name is Jesalyn Wilson and I have the pleasure of serving as the Deputy County Manager for Shelby County and on behalf of the Shelby County Commission, I'm here to express our support in the purchasing of the Cooper Branch Tract.

The Shelby County Commission has verbally committed to purchase 62 acres of this property leaving 838 for Forever Wild.

The reason that we're purchasing

the 62-acre parcel is because it has a residential component to it, and so our access would begin at the county road -- or our purchase would be at the county road access and then stretch across the residential area.

Also, as part of this partnership, we would also provide a pavilion, restroom and parking as well as a trailhead. They're located by the road access very similar to what we did at the Belcher property at Oak Mountain State Park.

So we're really excited about this potential partnership. It's a beautiful piece of property and I'm here to take any other questions.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? Thank you, ma'am.

The next speaker is Jerry Joe Ingram on that same property. Good morning, Jerry Joe.

MR. INGRAM: Good morning. I won't take up much of your time because Jesalyn pretty much said everything. I'm

just trying to be her bandit this morning.

But I think that the main thing to point out is this is the Oak Mountain Tract. This is the new trailhead and parking area that has been put in on the Belcher Addition. And if you cross Highway 11, you can go right down the County Road 36 right-of-way and access from one property to another, so even though they're not touching, they are essentially one -- they'll be managed as one unit as far as the Oak Mountain Park and the mountain biking and all that.

Any questions?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

The next speaker is Stefan Tomlinson.

MR. TOMLINSON: You can't read that very clearly.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: This is not one that you have in your packet. Go ahead, sir. This is for a new property.

MR. TOMLINSON: Thank you for allowing me to come in. My name is

Stefan Tomlinson. We have a real estate management group in Northwest Alabama. In that area, we manage property for a family that Forever Wild and the State has -- we have had several transactions over the years. Some of those family members are on what we call Waterfall Valley. We have managed for seven of our clients and an additional one that has property that is between the two other main pieces. Together there's about 4200, a little over 4200 acres in what is a dramatic piece of property. It's two miles from -- I don't know if y'all are familiar with Cane Creek, the Lacefields property in Colbert County. It is two miles from that. It has similar geography. It is one that -- I just brought this -- Cheri and I brought this package down and handed it -- I'm not sure if Patti has seen it yet, but we have put the nomination in when we came down, so this is just to put it under your radar. I think that it will be one that you'll be very interested in. At

least we hope so. That was the intent.

You've got the package and hopefully we'll be sending a lot of information and answering questions over the next three months, but I appreciate y'all's attention.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: How many acres is it?

MR. TOMLINSON: 4225, I think. Those are the acres that the county has. This is a large parcel that has been -- Forty-three percent of it is down in the canyons and the valleys. The rest are up on plateaus that have had an intensive hunting -- I'm sorry, a timber lease on. That lease expires in a year. There's some reasons that we have to be sort of pushing to do this. Hopefully this transaction -- and there's some personal reasons with the clients that has sped this up, but otherwise, we'd wait until the lease terminated. Y'all have done -- We have done swaps with your Board before and you have land that you received that's part of your Freedom Hills that we

retained the lease on. Y'all bought the land and then that is subject to basically the same lease that this is being presented with. But there's only a year left, but we have some -- a few of the members need quick resolution as fast as they can.

I've explained. There's probably no quick resolution with the process, but that's why we are bringing it to you now. The lease is fairly straightforward.

MS. McCURDY: It's a timber reservation.

MR. TOMLINSON: It's a timber reservation.

MS. McCURDY: I didn't want to confuse by the term "lease," anyone thinking that it was a hunting lease. It's a timber reservation.

MR. TOMLINSON: That's correct.

MS. STANLEY: My question was I thought that I heard you say families plural. So how many families are you representing over the 4200 acres? That's a lot. And if it were disaggregated.

I'm just curious.

MR. TOMLINSON: That's a good question. There are seven family members that are of the same family, so they have individual ownership in these properties, but collectively those are our clients that we've been managing their timber for decades.

MS. STANLEY: So there's seven tracts are you saying, seven personal or --

MR. TOMLINSON: No. It's --

MS. STANLEY: With seven cousins? I'm just trying to understand.

MR. TOMLINSON: There are four siblings that were the children of John Martin, Sr. He had four children. One of those children has three children that own interest there as well.

MS. STANLEY: An interest. My other question, is this truly one parcel or are there seven owners? You did say families and now you're saying individuals.

MR. TOMLINSON: We have

agreements with every one of them where they have -- and as a real estate transaction, we have listing agreements with every one of the seven and then also the additional one in the middle which is --

MS. STANLEY: So it's one tax parcel in the county?

MR. TOMLINSON: No. There's several, but that's in the package that Mrs. McCurdy has and we'll be glad to send as much information. But there's a lot of people, but they're absolutely acting as one, and this is a unique opportunity.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: We will evaluate as with all the other nominations. You may see this again at the next meeting.

Dr. McClintock, did you have a question?

DR. McCLINTOCK: No. I was just wondering about public access to this.

MR. TOMLINSON: Public access, it has been -- the lease, the timber lease,

that has almost been 60 years now. It has an excellent road system. We are negotiating with the leaseholder to get that road that they've been -- that goes across them to get into this property to get a permanent easement on that. I don't think that there will be any issues with that. But we should have that answer by the time that the Board looks at it three months from now to consider it, so --

MR. CHILDERS: Question. In your contour map, there's a square in there that looks like about 40 acres maybe or more.

MR. TOMLINSON: It's 160.

MR. CHILDERS: Is it out?

MR. TOMLINSON: It is. I had lunch with the owner of that a couple of days ago. She lives in Asheville. She inherited that from her grandfather when she was one. That's been 41 years ago. She is interested in hanging on to it. I explained that -- I think that it might have been Drew that told me this. She

said well, the State is patient, they have time, but she's not interested at this point in including that in there, but it does not -- there's no roads that go across her that would put any incumbrances on it.

MR. CHILDERS: What's her access point? How does she access it?

MR. TOMLINSON: The same way. The same way that we do. There's another that comes in to that one from the west side that goes through our property into hers.

MR. CHILDERS: So we'd have to have a right-of-way through her property.

MR. TOMLINSON: I mean, it would make sense, but right now it's just a historic access for that property and more.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any other questions?

MR. CONLON: I have one. Being kind of familiar with this area, Waterfall Valley Hunting Preserve I'm assuming leases the property at the time.

MR. TOMLINSON: Yeah. Zach, don't tell them yet.

MR. CONLON: So the access from the east side would be through them?

MR. TOMLINSON: Actually, the easement that we are working on goes through -- it's on International Paper property. It's just right below their property. Tomorrow we -- This has been happening. We're under some deadlines. This has been happening pretty quickly. Tomorrow we'll sit down with the head of that club and have these conversations because they have been loyal. They have been excellent stewards of that property. The landowners are to the point that -- I mean, they're all -- I'll put it this way. They're older than I am, and so it's inevitable that these decisions have to be made, but we'll -- we're meeting with the club tomorrow.

MR. CONLON: I'm looking forward to seeing more about it. Thank you.

MR. CHILDERS: One question. The last page on the contour map, you've got

dots all over. What do they represent?

MR. TOMLINSON: Those are waterfalls.

MR. CHILDERS: Okay.

MR. TOMLINSON: Which is -- Now, most of these are wet weather waterfalls and they're not just little cascades. These are waterfalls that are just coming down. One of them is -- The main one is 70 foot, but there's some hundred foot just sheer walls in here. It is a truly unique property.

MR. CHILDERS: Then you've got purple trails or streams or what is that purple?

MR. TOMLINSON: Those are the roads. That's the road system that's in there.

MR. CHILDERS: Thank you.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Richard Palenski. And this is on another County Road 56 tract. It's not one that you have in your packet.

MR. PALENSKI: Good morning,

everyone. Give out these handouts. I really appreciate the opportunity to speak today as a nominee of this tract because others in the community that thankfully are here with me today have an opportunity to preserve the tract of this kind and here's why.

When you think of the Bankhead National Forest, you know, nature ignores Federal boundaries. In this case, these appear right on north Smith Lake on this tract, and if you were to be placed on this property without a map, you would be squarely right in the Bankhead National Forest because you would find bluffs, coves and valleys all throughout the property, diverse old growth, hardwood forest and a huge variety of wildlife species and it just gets better and better because you're looking at 78 acres and 4,600 feet of undisturbed shoreline. So it's one of the largest remaining tracts left on north Smith Lake and the property owner has expressed his interest in selling it and the best part about all

this is it is adjacent to the existing Bankhead National Forest and nearby there's been development pressure as they combine all of these tracts throughout the years it's been getting less and less. That's why we're here before y'all today. Just wanted to make sure that this was put on your radar. It's also Forever Wild with some of the properties, especially in Shelby County. I see an incredible opportunity for this tract because you've got all kinds of recreational opportunities that could be present here such as wildlife viewing, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, educational opportunities and you've got legal access to it from County Road 56, so it really checks off the boxes nicely. And all said and done, we really appreciate your attention to this tract. I don't know if it's on the short list or not, but we wanted to bring it to your attention.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. Again, this is one that we'll be getting

more information on and making a nomination. Thank you, Richard.

MR. CHILDERS: Question. Is this parcel contiguous to Bankhead National Forest? Does it have common landlines?

MR. PALENSKI: So if you see in the map on this photo, what's in green is the Bankhead National Forest. That peninsula right across the channel -- I outlined it in red.

MR. CHILDERS: Separated by water.

MR. PALENSKI: Separated by water.

MR. CHILDERS: Landlines are not contiguous. Okay.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Mayor Austin Phillips from the City of Springville to speak on the Big Canoe Creek Nature Preserve, 4b Page 3. 4b Page 3.

MAYOR PHILLIPS: I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this body. I just wanted to come on behalf of the City of Springville and express our desire,

our interest in seeing this 72 and a half acres to be nominated to Forever Wild. This would obviously be in addition to our existing Big Canoe Creek Nature Preserve.

I would encourage each of you to come out and visit and see the things that have been done on that property. The city has invested in not only trails and ongoing learning opportunities. We spent the time and the money to put positions in place to help with the education, the outdoor education, so much so that we've actually created a -- Mr. Doug Morrison is in the mix of creating an outdoor nature preserve, an outdoor education center in Springville, downtown Springville where kids can come. They can do additional field trips. They can talk about some of the things they may see out in the nature preserve. Our community has bought in to what this is. The investment of a community our size with a budget, annual budget of somewhere around $8 million, but since 2023 we have

spent upwards of a million dollars to try to ensure we can operate effectively, maintain and improve on the things we've been blessed with.

So the City of Springville has bought in to what's going on here. We're bought in to the education. We're bought in to the conservation. We're a rural community and we remember where the roots are, so we look forward to being able to expand and give ourselves a greater buffer around what we have already built on and then maybe be able to expand it on from there.

So we would really appreciate the nomination of this additional 72 and a half acres. It would move that facility leaps and bounds and give us some outstanding opportunities as we go forward.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? Thank you, Mayor.

The next speaker is Steven Brewer on the Coon Gulf Flat Rock. That's at Tab 4b Page 5. 4b Page 5.

MR. BREWER: Good morning. I want to begin by telling a little story about how I came across this particular tract.

My son and I back in the early 2020s were going to a place called Wheeler Cave which is currently part of Forever Wild, I believe, and we were going down there just to explore the cave. I'm a caver, so that's my interest. My son is also a caver as well and we went down to Wheeler Cave and after we got done looking at it, we thought well, let's go upstream a little ways and check some Lidar reads. I'm not going to go into the explanation of what Lidar reads are, but basically it's an indication of what might be a cave.

So we went upstream. There were not any "No Trespassing" signs and we found the cave that we explored and surveyed, created a map of and it's over 800 feet long, and we named it after my son. We called it Barefoot John because he took his boots off. He didn't want to

get his boots wet.

So anyway, this cave is spectacular. It's got rooms and passages as large as this room that we're meeting in, a big stream passage, just an absolutely beautiful cavern. Then we went further upstream and found another very nice stream cave as well.

The particular tract that I nominated originally was just Section 26 which is further south of the Section 6. And I guess when they contacted the landowner which is Garner Properties, they determined that they were also willing to sell the other tract which is to the northeast of Section 26 and then somewhere along the way, there's also a tract to the north that is called King's Bend Addition.

I'm speaking primarily for the Flat Rock Creek Addition because that's the one that I've been to and I'm familiar with it. It's a very rugged gorge, spectacular views. As I said, there's some really nice caverns there,

potentially some threatened or endangered species, wonderful hunting land. Like I said, it's rugged. I've hiked from the top down and it's quite a hike, but it's absolutely beautiful. It's got streams in the middle of it that whitewater kayakers and people like that like to run. It's got a lot of springs. Just a really beautiful gorge in there.

It also adjoins the current Coon Gulf Wildlife Management Area which I was told that was a major plus because as far as management taking care of it, it's already going to be connected to an existing Forever Wild property.

I think that that's all that I have to say. Questions?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? I was at Coon Gulf yesterday. It's a beautiful place.

MR. BREWER: It is. I love it.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

The next speaker is Dave Milton on the Doss Mountain Tract. That's at Tab 4b Page 9. 4b Page 9.

MR. MILTON: I talk loud, so I'm just going to stay down here if y'all can see this. I'm Dave Milton with Southeastern Land Group in Tallapoosa County from the Auburn area originally.

The genesis of this potential project was with our folks and I sat down a few years ago and talked about kind of a void in the east central part of the state. There's so many places like Auburn and Lake Martin where I'm from, and so I kind of went on the hunt me being a land broker looking for a large parcel.

I do a lot of work with institutional timberland owners. They're really hard to find. So after a couple of years, a company I worked with had a 7,100 -- there's a couple of discrepancies in the tax map. The GIS property has never been surveyed. It was part of a 15,000-acre historic plantation north of Camp Hill, Alabama, the Pearson Plantation when I was young and then it went into institutional holdings and this

is the biggest part of it. A very interesting feature. But you can see here this kind of a void, relatively close to the Georgia line. I think it would be a really really good opportunity.

Zooming in a little closer, you can see as the crow flies that it borders to the south and Auburn University Research Station just south of Camp Hill on Highway 50 and from that southernmost southeastern corner as the crow flies is the Auburn city limits and the Gold Hill Area North Auburn. It's ten miles. From the southwestern corner to the easternmost part of Lake Martin the closest is five miles.

Very, very unique opportunity. A growing part of the state, booming part of the state and the state can really need some public use land.

Zooming in a little closer, we get into -- you can see that the lighter shades are areas that the timber company is cutting. The property is actually

owned by the State of Hawaii Retirement Systems and managed by Manulife that I do business with and there's significant timber assets.

I have asked the managers if they would be open to potential timber reserves in the future to maybe bridge the gap if that was necessary. About 3900 acres of pine plantations. That's a little less without their -- This is a couple of months old. They are cutting some pine timbers and softening the mountain.

1,700 acres in the process of being replanted or have been replanted recently. There's some really beautiful big wide hydric soil areas, large creeks, a lot of the headwaters of Chattasofka Creek that flows to the Sandy Creek. A lot of the water that flows to Lake Martin comes from this Doss Mountain area. Beautiful water.

And then Doss Mountain itself. You can see the tighter topo lines here to the east would be Doss Mountain.

There's an old road up at the top. It was a tower at one time. The tower stood over a thousand feet. It's come down the mountain. The mountain is about 970 something feet. It needs the tower put back over a thousand feet so that we can get it back like it used to be.

It's a fantastic property, gently rolling and then this mountain just rises up. It looks like the mountain belongs in the Talladega National Forest quite frankly.

The last one is a picture. A picture speaks a thousand words and this is -- I'm sitting on the Piedmont Plain here which was probably cotton land years ago and then it went into pasture land and then timberland. And you can see Doss Mountain just rises up out of this plain. It's really very stunning. Extensive road system to the property, public access to the east and the west, but not too much open access which is great. Most of the old county roads have been shut down, been well managed by a

hunting club.

Chris Oberholster has been out there, spent a bunch of time, got really interested in the project. He couldn't be here today. He actually had to travel to South Africa to see some family, but he wanted me to present on his behalf like I did at the last meeting. But he noted extensive cane breaks, giant cane. When you rise up on Doss Mountain itself, unusual geology like short leaf pine, Virginia pine, things that you would find again like in the Talladega National Forest and his organization, Southeastern Grasslands, supports the projects.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? Thank you, Dave. I think that Mr. Oates owns the southernmost 1,000-foot peak in the State of Alabama.

MR. MILTON: I don't know if this is south or north of that. It's close.

MR. OATES: We're not going to let it get any taller.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: That was just a joke.

Our next speaker is Ben Whitaker on the Colbert County Tract and it's at Tab 4b Page 23, Riverton Community Hunting Addition. Tab 4b Page 23. 4b Page 23.

MR. WHITAKER: Good morning. Thank you. Good to speak to everyone this morning. I was very sad to hear the news about Dr. Saloom. I actually met him for the first time on his property at a continuing ed event where we were catching minnows in nets in his creeks, and so I have a lot of good memories there.

My name is Ben Whitaker. I work at Regions Bank. I'm here to present to the Board this morning a property in Colbert County, 146 and a half acres. It's owned by W. Land Enterprises, limited partnership. There are two general partners. Regions Bank is one of the general partners and then the family is the other general partner, but it's held in one entity.

This 146 acres adjoins an

existing State property, so it's -- I think that it's known as the Happy Hollow Addition and the property that I'm nominating this morning has about a quarter mile of shared property line on the west side of the existing State land. It overlooks Bear Creek. It's a beautiful mixed natural hardwood stand. In the wintertime, you can look over Bear Creek and look into Mississippi and look into Tennessee and it's very scenic. It joins the existing State land like I said and I think that it would be a good addition for the State to consider.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? Thank you, sir.

The next speaker is Bradley Harvey on the Inland Lakes North Tract, Tab 3b Page 8. 3b Page 8.

MR. HARVEY: Good morning, everybody. I'm Bradley Harvey. I'm Chairman of the Blount County Commission. I'm happy to be here today. We were kind of brought in late to this project, but I'm beyond excited.

If you're familiar with the area, it's just a few miles north of the North Birmingham Belt Line that's coming through that's taken 50, 60 years to build, but it's still going. It's still moving.

We see Blount County as Shelby County four years ago. We know the growth is coming. We're still somewhat a rural county, but we have all these natural features we would like to preserve for further generations, and this particular property -- and I don't know what map y'all have, but this is contiguous to the Central Alabama Waterworks Watershed area which they have about 1800 acres on a 1500-acre lake, and this would be a very large tract with 3800 acres being proposed for acquisition, but put all together, this would preserve that watershed area which is Central Alabama Waterworks fresh drinking water reservoir. It's also the Blackburn Fork watershed which flows into the Locust Fork which is the second

longest free-flowing river in Alabama flowing into Warrior and that is all in Blount County.

So this project would open up the doors for a broad spectrum of recreation. There's current hunting on this property right now, but opening it up to the public would be a vital resource for the local hunters. I think that the next few tracts are either Talladega or over in Bankhead, but this -- Blount County has kind of adopted a tourism approach where we're in between Huntsville and Birmingham and both of those municipalities are growing and we want to be that weekend destination, we can get away for everybody that's moving to the cities and we cannot think of a better location to have this tract to help with bringing people to those areas, but also preserving what we have. I think that it's just vital for us. It's vital for the State, vital for the region.

If y'all have any questions. I don't have a lot of the technical

answers. Mr. Northcutt will have a few of those, but at least from the governmental approach, I'd love to entertain any questions.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? No questions. I just want to take the opportunity to publicly thank you for your partnership at Rickwood Cavern State Park. Built a new road up there that your crew built for us and worked to provide that access to the interstate interchange right there on Highway 31. That's been a great project and a great partnership and I look forward to more opportunities to partner with Blount County on our State Park as our goal as discussed and turn that cave park into a wonderful State park that has a cave, a lot of opportunities to do other things there, so thank you very much for your partnership.

MR. HARVEY: Thank y'all.

MR. CHILDERS: Question. There's a parcel here adjacent to that parcel that we were talking about, Inland Lake,

that's in red. What nomination is that?

MS. McCURDY: I believe what you're seeing, this is a tract that the Wildlife Freshwater Fisheries Division has offered to -- 20 percent of value using their Pittman-Robertson funds, so about 20 percent of their grant funds that would be titled to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division at DCNR and then the 80 percent is the necessary State match that you have to have for that Federal program. So what you're seeing is the split map. It would all be managed as one by the wildlife division, Director Lewis' division, but we show you what acreage would be titled to Forever Wild and then what acreage would be titled to Wildlife. It's called a split map for that grant. So that's what you're seeing, but it would all be DCNR and Forever Wild ownership.

MR. CHILDERS: That tract that is in nomination, it has not been bought yet, what's the name of it?

MS. McCURDY: It's all one. The

red outline is the entire nomination. All you're seeing in different colors would be the end results split map of the DCNR/Forever Wild adjacent ownership.

MR. CHILDERS: So I'm looking at red, green and clear.

MS. McCURDY: What is not red or green is not part of the nomination and not owned by the Department.

MR. CHILDERS: Red and green are part of the nomination.

MS. McCURDY: All one, yes, sir.

MR. HARVEY: There are two other tracts that are under Georgia Alabama Land Trust that are contiguous to this property that fill in some of these squares. It's around 120 acres. It's slowly growing. I think that it's a big thing. Thank y'all.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

The next speaker is Steve Northcutt on that same tract.

Good morning, Steve.

MR. NORTHCUTT: Good morning, everybody.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Good to see you.

MR. NORTHCUTT: Good to see you at Turkey Creek. So The Nature Conservancy's role in this property started a few years back.

The timber investment management organization that either owns or manages this Inland Lake Tract did some work with our Virginia chapter, so that's how we became familiar with this property. They offered other properties to The Nature Conservancy to consider and when we saw this, it was a perfect compliment to the work over the years of HC services tried to do with freshwater systems and especially protecting drinking water sources for the City of Birmingham with Cahaba River being one to work for us.

So what we did was we ordered an appraisal of their entire ownership of this site which is about 4400 acres, but when we went to look at the property with some of the staff from Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, they took a look at

the property and they kind of whittled it down to -- I think that it's 3862 acres that's a more cohesive management and appropriate size.

So the company is willing to cut out that particular piece of the property and not sell the rest of it, so that's what's being offered.

You're right to see that it's shown as different portions because of the 20 percent of the Pittman-Robertson funds that Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is willing to contribute to this.

The Commissioner brought out a lot of points that I would normally bring up. You know, you can drive to this property from my house in 52 minutes. I live in Homewood. There's not a lot of hunting areas in this part of the state, so you would have the hunting. You could do mountain bike riding. There's fishing at Inland Lake that's available to the public. It's a nice intact hardwood mixed pine forest, has a good road

system, so it's excellent for nature photography, for hiking, a lot of recreational opportunities. And I don't think that I've ever seen the opportunity for the Forever Wild Board to acquire property that did such watershed protection for the major drinking source of a metropolitan city like this, so you get the recreational components. You get the drinking water. And over the years, there has been efforts to take part of the watershed of drinking water sources for Birmingham and develop it, so I think that this is a rare opportunity to do two things that are very important and I'm glad that we see the support of the county and I hope that Forever Wild will consider today a motion to do -- They've done a first appraisal. Hopefully they'll do a second appraisal and vote to close. I'll be glad to answer any questions.

MR. CONLON: Are there any residential properties now on Inland Lake?

MR. NORTHCUTT: There are a few farms there, but it's mostly rural. And I will mention that -- he Commissioner said that there was an inholding that we're actually looking at acquiring and Ben from Regions has a tract that we've looked at and we're looking at trying to -- It's always nice to be able to take a property that is managed and owned by the State and take out inholdings, so we're prepared to look at acquiring some of those inholdings.

But it's mostly rural farms and just recreational property.

MR. CONLON: Are there easements to those farms through this property?

MR. NORTHCUTT: I don't know the details of that.

MR. HARVEY: I can answer that. This project was -- Inland Lake itself was a Wertz (phonetic) project back in the 1930s. It was eminent domain. They tried to do it back during the Roosevelt years. And the housing that was there at the time entered into a 99-year lease

which will eventually revert to Central Alabama Waterworks and that is all of the housing that is currently around the lake itself. I don't know how many properties, but those are all on a 99-year lease that will revert to Central Alabama Waterworks that I think are pretty much on the outside of this proposed tract. It will not be part of it.

The county does have a road called Seven-Mile Road that goes through the majority of this. It goes through a hunting camp right now that's being leased from it and then there is Boat Landing Road which is on the north tract. It's a paved road. We try to keep it paved because of the access for the water and for the fishing and everything.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. The next tract is the Forks in the River Tract. Alyssa Prater is the speaker. Tab 4b Page 17. 4b Page 17.

MS. PRATER: Good morning. I'm Alyssa Prater. I'm with the Nature

Conservancy. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the Forks of the River Tract which has already been scored.

This is a 62-acre tract, beautiful, forested wetlands in Baldwin County, Alabama. It's an inholding and State land. It's surrounded on the northeast and south by the Upper Delta Wildlife Management Area and bordered on the west by the Alabama River.

Currently the legal access is only by water. This property is located in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta which is now widely referred to as America's Amazon, an area of rich diversity and high conservation value.

Last year Cooper Marine & Timberland reached out to us about some tracts in the area that they wanted to see in conservation. We saw that one of the tracts, Forks of the River, was an inholding in State land, so along with a large tract that we acquired to add to one of our preserves, we acquired Forks

of the River in the hopes that Forever Wild would be able to add it to the surrounding WMA.

By acquiring this tract, Forever Wild would gain half a mile of river frontage and consolidate the ownership and management of this protected area.

TNC has a history of working with Forever Wild to help conserve properties that become State land and we are dedicated to conservation where it's happening in the Delta.

As you can see in your packet, we are offering this property at a discounted price of $50,000. Protecting this tract contributes to the work being done to create a network of conserved land for gain, native species and migratory species in the Delta.

So in conclusion, we are requesting that the Board move forward with the first appraisal.

Any questions?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: No questions. Thank you.

MS. PRATER: Thank you.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker is Jonathan Goode on the Little River-East Fork Addition, Page 9 Tab 3b. Tab 3b Page 9.

MR. GOODE: Good morning. Thank y'all for the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Jonathan Goode. I'm with Farm and Forest Brokers. I'm here with Austin Ainsworth and we represent the sellers in this transaction.

We're asking that the Board would move forward with a second appraisal and move to purchase on this property. We were real close at the last meeting to moving forward with the purchase of this property. And just before your notebooks came out, I believe that there were some concerns with State Lands that the Department had. I think that Ms. McCurdy is going to speak to that, but essentially we are -- my understanding is that the sellers are willing to work together to find a solution to -- The public road access, County Road 663,

stops about 1400 feet before it hits this property, so it's never been a problem and it won't be a problem when some private individual owns it. We've just got to figure out a solution for the public to get there.

So like I say, this all recently came up. I went and met with the Cherokee County Road Department yesterday to see what their solutions are. I believe that the sellers have put forth the idea of potentially building a road. It has county road access on two roads that we've looked at. I went and walked yesterday in a thunderstorm over there trying to see where a potential road could go in to create an access, so the sellers want to find a way to solve this and make sure that it works, but for Forever Wild this will not be an issue if a private individual purchases the property, so we just really need to know if Forever Wild wants to acquire the property. And so what we're asking for is a nomination for a second appraisal

contingent on satisfactory access to y'all. And so when we had the first nomination on this property, the property was -- it's under two conservation easements. You made the first nomination for appraisal at Ms. McCurdy's request subject to approval from the conservation easement holders. We got that worked out and now we're here, and so we're asking to take the next step forward so that we can work through the access. But there is no impetus for the sellers to try to solve it for a private individual because it's not a problem. It's only a problem for public access.

So that's what we're asking for today, if you'll please consider to move forward with the second appraisal and purchase.

MS. McCURDY: I don't have much to add. You did a great job. You do have two memos, Tab 5c, and then in your green folder 5k. But it does boil down to a situation where again, we -- as staff would have as any landowner would

have access. For management purposes that is not a problem. It is just having the public -- going a step further, ensuring public access in that situation.

So the road where it stops, if you cross a couple more landowners, there has been discussion, I think, about the possibility of speaking with them, but not for a while. But Jonathan might speak with them about the possibility of either nominating their parcel or granting a formal easement across the property, so I think -- And we're willing to continue looking at whether it's through that solution or a road construction so that we would have that access which can be handled by motions with contingencies, but as Jonathan said, as a landowner in the private market, this really would not be a concern and taking additional steps of spending money for them prior to understanding the Board's desire to move toward a purchase. That's kind of where we are and where they are. So we can discuss more in the

general discussion session of the agenda, but that's kind of where we are on this one.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? Thank you.

The next speaker is Sam Tate on the Lake Lurleen, Tab 4b Page 13. I think that he's also going to speak about another recent nomination from what I understand. You won't have that in your packet. Go ahead on Lake Lurleen to begin with on Tab 4b.

MR. TATE: Good morning. My name is Sam Tate. I'm an agent with True South Properties out of Opelika, Alabama. And on behalf of the Griffith Family Foundation, I bring to you deeded acreage of 162 acres that is adjacent to the Lake Lurleen State Park in Tuscaloosa County. This is roughly 14 miles northwest of the University of Alabama. It would expand the footprint of the State Park expanding the trails, wildlife and hunting and future timber revenue. This would be accessed from the State Park entrance.

Any questions?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any questions? Just for the Board's information, you'll notice that there was an Item 5l in your green folder that removed the northwest portion of the nominations that were 255 acres to 162 acres. That was the difference between your original packet and the 162.

MR. TATE: There were access issues on the other tract.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. Our last speaker that I have a green slip for is going to be Matthew Capps, State Parks director. Is there anybody else that wanted to speak that didn't get a chance to fill out a green slip or a slip that came in a little bit late that wanted to speak?

All right. I don't see any hands. Matthew, you're going to wrap this up. Matthew is going to speak on -- There are multiple nominations that go with State Parks -- Tab 3b Page 9, 4b Page 19 and 4b Page 15. Go ahead.

MR. CAPPS: I'm sorry for -- I feel like I'm being a little bit of a preacher telling you to flip to multiple pages, but the first one that I'll talk to is the Lake Lurleen project which is on Tab 4b Page 13. The last speaker just spoke about it.

It's 162 acres. It is right adjacent to Lake Lurleen State Park. We at Alabama State Parks look at Lake Lurleen State Park as an entry point to all that Alabama has to offer. So being so close to the university, it allows all of the students that go to Tuscaloosa to visit Lake Lurleen and then hopefully build a good memory around that State Park visit and then ultimately when and if they leave Tuscaloosa, they can go and experience another State Park and have a great memory there as well.

Just like the last speaker was talking about, it allows us to have additional trails, additional access to the back side of the lake.

And I will just point out that

recently we did renovate Lake Lurleen State Park with about a $14 million project. It was fully renovated, so we have more RV sites there. We're looking to build an activity center there, so those are just some avenues that we're working through on Lake Lurleen.

So since those improvements, we've definitely seen an uptick in our visitation and then we've also partnered very closely with Visit Tuscaloosa to help promote that park and we're seeing that become wildly successful right now for us.

The next property that I wanted to talk about was Tab 3b Page 9 and that's the Little River - East Fork project. So this is part of DeSoto State Park. It's adjacent to what we call DeSoto. There's also a WMA that's right there as well. This would allow us to have more trails, again, more hunting opportunities and it has two miles worth of riverfront access, so we're really excited about that property and we feel

like we could do a lot of good things with having that access to that tract.

And then the last one that I'll mention is the Pritchett Tract which is on Tab 4b Page 19. This one is again adjacent to Frank Jackson State Park. It would help us protect that watershed. It would allow us to do more special opportunity hunts at Frank Jackson and it does give home to protected crawfish. I just want to mention that. But that is about 156 acres.

So today if we're able to vote on it, it would be over about 1,600 acres that could go into the Alabama State Parks.

So I'll be happy to answer any questions or just say thank y'all.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Matthew. I appreciate you coming, appreciate the work that you're doing with the State parks. Very good job. Glad to see the additions and the improvements to the park.

I want to let Mr. Tate -- I cut

Mr. Tate off before he had a chance to speak on the Rattlesnake Bend. I got so excited about the Lake Lurleen nomination that I ran right past it.

So Mr. Tate is back up to talk about Rattlesnake Bend which is not one that you have in your packet. It's a new nomination. Go ahead, sir.

MR. TATE: Sam Tate, True South Properties, Opelika, Alabama. So the Buchanan Timber Company is wanting to bring this to you as a potential nomination of 1,410 acres located in Sumter County, Alabama. It's on an island. It's bottom land hardwood. It's very unique. It has an access point by a public ramp at the north bank. We feel like this would be a great SOA for Forever Wild. Potentially waterfowl mainly, but also plenty of deer and turkey hunting opportunity.

So with that, any questions? It's just north of Demopolis.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: I look forward to seeing more information about that at

future meetings. Thank you, sir.

That's the last of our public speakers. Now it's time for us to go into Executive Session to discuss tract appraisals.

By regulation, appraised values are confidential during periods of negotiation. Accordingly, in order to discuss tract appraisal values, the Board will need to go into recess for an Executive Session.

Is there a motion for the Board now to recess to attend an Executive Session?

MR. CONLON: So moved.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Conlon moves. Is there a second?

DR. McCLINTOCK: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Second by Dr. McClintock. As I say your name, state your position on whether to recess for an Executive Session.

Chris Blankenship is yes.

Mr. Childers?

MR. CHILDERS: Yes.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Conlon?
MR. CONLON: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harper?
MR. HARPER: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harris?
MR. HARRIS: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mrs. Howell?
DR. HOWELL: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Howell. I apologize. Mr. Harris?
MR. HARRIS: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Keener?
DR. KEENER: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Martin?
DR. MARTIN: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock?
DR. MCCLINTOCK: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Oates?
MR. OATES: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Parnell?
MR. PARNELL: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Ms. Stanley?
MS. STANLEY: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Tuggle?
MR. TUGGLE: Yes.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine?
DR. VALENTINE: Yes.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: That is unanimous. We are now in Executive Session. It's 11:02. We hope to return in about 20 minutes.
(Proceedings were in recess)
MR. BLANKENSHIP: We are back from Executive Session. It's 11:28 and we'll resume our regular meeting agenda.
The next, Number 5, program status report, Ms. McCurdy.
MS. McCURDY: Thank you, Commissioner. And I apologize in advance. I've got a lingering respiratory infection, so if I break out into cough, don't worry. I will recover, but I apologize in advance.
As usual, I would like to start with a review of -- kind of an update on where we are as to closings related to motions that the Board has made in the past for staff to work toward purchasing properties, so I want to give you an update. That's your Tab 2a.

I did have a little bit of an update that was provided, so the final version is in your green folder, sort of the yellow colored, 2a, but I'm about to run through it.

The Double Oak Tract is in closing. That is Shelby County as well as the Dugdown Corridor Phase II Tract in Cleburne County and Graham Bayou in Baldwin County. Taking into account those properties and the required 15 percent transfer to the stewardship account, all of that totals approximately $12 million and leaving you what I call an unencumbered cash balance, meaning that it's not currently committed for something, of just over $40 million.

If you look at Page 2, you will see the tracts that have closed this fiscal year so far which will end September 30th and those include -- and I'm going to also give you -- Let me run down the ones that have closed and also let you know the ones that have been declined.

Beaverdam Swamp - Lowe Addition closed. That was a donation tract. Davidson Creek Tract closed. Dugdown Mountain Corridor the Phase I project closed. Sipsey River Swamp - Kellytown Addition was declined by the owner. Both the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve - Bell Addition and Red Hollow Road Addition as the Commissioner mentioned earlier are formally closed and the West Fowl River Tract closed.

With that so far this year for the program in the fiscal year, we've closed just over almost 3500 acres that also provided close to 1500-acre additional leveraged acreage, so that is the status of the properties that we have been in the process of closing.

Any question on those?

All right. Let's move now to Tab 2b. Tab 2b is where I give you a report on where we are on stewardship expenditures. You will see a balance, an available balance to us of just over $1.5 million. We do have in the system, our

accounting system to the State, an additional about 1.2 million. As I said before, this is the time of year where a lot is going on. We're still fine. We have it all planned out with a spreadsheet of everything that we need for the rest of the fiscal year. So we are in good shape, but we've been utilizing that money, so we appreciate the ability to use it for our management activities.

You will also see on Tab both 2b, but then also looking at Tab 2c our usual update from the State Treasurer as to the stewardship fund, that asset.

I met with Treasurer Boozer about two weeks, three weeks ago and talking through again the performance and their management strategy and I believe that depending on how November goes, he would like to come and give us another full report as he's done in the past discussing their management strategy on behalf of the Alabama Trust Fund and our fund.

Any questions on 2b or 2c?

All right. If you'll keep moving. Let's go to Tab 3a. This is the portion of the meeting where both the Board and the public -- I want to update where we are as to appraisals. These are tracts that had been on the short list. The Board has made a motion for a first appraisal. I want to update you as to appraisals that we have in hand and a couple of additional updates.

The appraisals that we have -- staff has received and reviewed include the Coon Gulf - Craze Bend Addition; Cooper Branch Tract; DeSoto State Park - Oakhill Road Northeast Addition; Freedom Hills WMA - Heard Addition; Inland Lake North Tract, Blount County; Little River - East Fork Addition, Cherokee County; Riverton CHA - Walker Chapel Hollow Addition in Colbert County.

As a rough overview between appraised value and necessary stewardship transfers, that's about 18 million in appraised properties.

Two additional updates that you previously mentioned for us to move forward with an appraisal on the Fort Piece Tract. I mentioned in a prior meeting that I was holding off on that appraisal because the agent on that tract was actively discussing a potential purchase with another private sector buyer, and that sale did go through, so that tract is no longer available to the Board, and so it will be removed, but I did want to update everyone.

And then also, we have the Certain Tract - Sunset Cove Addition in Madison County. That's a tract that you motioned for a first appraisal, but we continue to be unable to get the deed and additional information that we need from the landowner despite several attempts, and so I had sent a letter establishing July 15th as a deadline for that information which is necessary to proceed. We have not received anything to date, and so due to that lack of interest on behalf of the seller, we will

be removing that one from our appraisal nomination list as well.

MS. STANLEY: Question, Mr. Chair.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

MS. STANLEY: Thank you. Just before we remove it, how did that come to us? Did it come from the seller? Were they not aware of what would be required to move through the sale?

MS. McCURDY: Well, it was a public nomination, but we did get our standard willing seller letter from the landowner which states that basically we're going to process, it will be discussed at our meeting, it will be evaluated, et cetera, et cetera.

So they were aware. There's no commitment there, but they were aware of our process. So I don't really have an explanation for why that one dropped off with them.

MS. STANLEY: Okay. And when you say "public nomination," what does that mean?

MS. McCURDY: It was not a landowner nomination. Under the Constitutional amendment, anyone can nominate a tract. You don't have to be the landowner which is why we are pretty strict about our willing seller. Getting executed and returned is our first step before we spend any time on it.

So we did have that. And I don't really know why there's not an interest. That tract, also next to it is some ownership by the Land Trust of North Alabama. I want to --

MS. STANLEY: I am a Board member of the Land Trust of North Alabama and I thought that a contiguous property would be a great thing. And if by public nomination you mean that the Land Trust nominated it --

MS. McCURDY: The Land Trust did not nominate it. I believe that we have been in contact with the Land Trust to see if possibly they had a relationship and that has not -- they were not able to get any real contact or discussion

either. And we can leave it on if you'd like to look into that yourself.

MS. STANLEY: Thank you. I was absent last time, so thank you for leaving it on.

MS. McCURDY: We just haven't been able to find a pathway to the landowners to make any progress. So thank you. So we'll leave that one on.

Any other questions on the appraised nominations list? I have 3a and 3b.

All right. I would now like to go to -- skip a little bit and go to Tab 5a as we normally do. I do have an update. So that one is another yellow memo in your green folder.

So this is the portion of the meeting where I update you on various -- where we stand on various grants and other leveraging opportunities, so I will run through those.

You're familiar from past meetings with the progress and the underlying U.S. Forest Service grants on

the Dugdown Corridor Phase II Tract that's in closing.

Under our appraised nominations, again, Tab 3a, we have the Inland Lake North Tract. This is the tract where the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Director Lewis has offered to partnership with the program using Pittman-Robertson funds. This is one that we discussed earlier. That contribution for them would be 20 percent of grant funding. The remaining 80 percent of funding would be provided by Forever Wild and satisfy the matching funds that have to be there to be able to utilize the Pittman-Robertson Federal funds.

Also, another appraised nomination as a leveraging opportunity is the Cooper Branch Tract. The landowner is offering a ten percent value donation for that tract meaning that they would take a ten percent discount off of appraised value if this property moves forward and that work is of course in

addition to the assistance that Shelby County spoke on earlier.

Now looking at our short list nomination, Doss Mountain Tract is another tract where Director Lewis has offered to contribute a million dollars of Pittman-Robertson funds towards an ultimate purchase.

Since that one is a short list, obviously we haven't done the appraisal yet, so I can't exactly tell you what percentage that would be. We would need the appraisal done and at that point, we could also provide a split map. But they are offering a million dollars of the Pittman-Robertson funding.

Those are our contributions and leveraging and grant opportunities. I did want to just mention that we continue work at the Coosa Wildlife Management Area Tract. We had partnered with the Alabama Forestry Foundation on a grant application, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under their longleaf landscape grant program, and so we were

able to get those funds and they will be utilized 50/50 with Forever Wild stewardship funds.

Working on longleaf restoration and prescribed burning, that prescribed burning should cover about 1300 acres. We are proceeding with that as we can. We did have a little trouble with the bid we offered, but I think that we're -- timber offer, but we're moving forward on that one. I'm happy to go into greater detail if the Board has any questions.

We're also continuing work on the Bon Secour Wetlands Addition. That was a national coastal wetlands conservation program grant that we received and we were able to -- in addition to helping with acquisition, we were able to get some additional money for prescribed burning. We'll be installing about a mile and a quarter of trail, hiking trail with that money. It will also go to the physical construction of the trailhead parking lot access improvements, so we continue work on that.

And then we also are continuing work on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta Bartram and the Perdido River Canoe Trail project, the one that we mentioned that's providing additional water access. We have paddling trail, canoeing with shelters, overnight opportunities. That overall project that you heard me talk about, we're now about 80 percent complete between construction and placement of the structures and some of the maintenance and repairs and upgrades of some existing shelters.

So that is kind of a status on the various grant and leveraging opportunities that are available.

And now if you would go backward to Tab 4. We'll run through the short list nominations.

Sorry. I'm getting my papers straight just like y'all are.

Okay. I will run through the short list tracts. As I always say when I do this, I'm going to in the interest of time try to just move through each

one. If you have a question, please stop me because I may not see you raise your hand, so just speak up. These are the properties that have been -- we received a willing seller letter. We have scored them according to the four Constitutional categories of evaluation. The nominations then compete within their district, Northern, Central and Southern District, to try to score in the top three of at least one of the four Constitutional categories. They may score in the top three in more than one, but if they score in at least one, they may get on the short list.

It's a living list as we get in nominations that might score higher. Some that you may have seen last time may not be there this time, and so it's -- but I'm going to run through those now and please do speak up if I miss a hand.

We have Big Canoe Creek - South Addition, St. Clair County; Coon Gulf - Flat Creek Addition, Jackson County; Coon Gulf - King's Bend Addition, Jackson

County; Doss Mountain Tract, Tallapoosa County; Geneva State Forest - Black Creek Addition, 165 acres in Geneva County.

I will pause on this one just for a second and I can tell you that you have a green folder Tab 5. I'll tell you what it says.

I mentioned in past meetings that there was a potential that Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and Alabama Forestry Commission might want to utilize that parcel as part of a swap. You'll see on the map that there's some ownership of the Forestry Commission that is in with ownership of DCNR acreage.

After some conversations and another site visit and additional conversations, Wildlife and AFC have decided that they will work on their own swap between themselves to get the -- transfer the acreage necessary if that is necessary, so that parcel is still available on the short list, but now I will clarify.

If acquired, it would be titled

and remain in Forever Wild where you see it on the map. So I just wanted to give you that update that the swap will be worked out outside of Forever Wild now. I've got that right, Mr. Oates? He's nodding his head.

Moving on, Lake Lurleen State Park - Lake Arnedra Road Addition, Tuscaloosa County. You do have in your green folder 51. That has a revised map. The only thing that's revised is that the northwestern parcel has been removed from the nomination, so 5l has the current map.

Also as an update -- This really has no impact, but there was a change in the underlying landowner. We do have -- This all happened recently, but between your packet and today, we have received a willing seller letter from that landowner, so we're in good shape on that one, but I do want to provide you that update.

Mobile-Tensaw Delta - Chacaloochee Bay Addition; Mobile-Tensaw

Delta - Forks of the River Addition; Pritchett Tract - Poley Creek Addition; Red Hills - Beaver Creek Headwaters Addition; Riverton CHA -- that stands for Community Hunting Area -- Happy Hollow Addition; Weeks Bay Reserve - Holley 2026 Addition and Yates Lake WMA - Tucker Road Addition. And that concludes the list of properties that are currently on the short list.

Commissioner, I think that we're ready to move into general discussion if there are no other questions. And this would be the time that if there are any motions to be made or any questions, whatever you have, whatever you want to bring forward. That's why we call it general discussion, but you can make motions at this time.

Turn it back to the Commissioner.

MR. HARRIS: I'd like to make a motion --

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harris?

MR. HARRIS: -- that we move forward with the staff to proceed with

closing whatever is necessary for the Cooper Tract.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Cooper Branch?

MR. HARRIS: Yes.

MS. McCURDY: Cooper Branch. I would say that is a tract where we have a 10 percent landowner donation, so a motion by the Board if you'd like to take advantage of that would be a motion for a second appraisal and proceed with purchase contingent upon the landowner contribution of the ten percent value donation. Is that what you --

MR. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Is there a second to that?

MR. CONLON: I'll second that.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Conlon. Let me see if I can make sure that we all agree on that before we do vote. It is a motion for a second appraisal and move to purchase on the Cooper Branch property contingent upon the landowner donating ten percent of the appraised value. Any questions on that?

All in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: Eleven. That passes, Commissioner.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Motion carries.

DR. KEENER: Mr. Commissioner.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Keener.

DR. KEENER: I'd like to make a motion for a second appraisal and purchase on the Inland Lake Tract.

DR. VALENTINE: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: This is another one that had some offer of matching funds. Would you like to make your motion second appraisal and move to purchase on the Inland Lakes contingent upon the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division providing 20 percent of the purchase price?

DR. KEENER: I would.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Is the seconder okay with that amendment to the nomination?

DR. VALENTINE: Yes.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: So the motion

is for a second appraisal and move to purchase on the Inland Lakes property contingent upon the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division providing 20 percent of the appraised value.

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: I have ten, Commissioner, so that passes.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Motion carries.

MR. HARRIS: I would like to make a motion --

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Harris?

MR. HARRIS: -- to move forward with whatever is necessary, second appraisal and closing of DeSoto - Oakhill Northeast.

DR. McCLINTOCK: I'll second that.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. McClintock. So that is for a second appraisal and move to purchase on the DeSoto State Park - Oakhill Road Northeast Addition, 30 acres in DeKalb County. Any questions on that?

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: We have 11. Math is hard. I'm just going to tell y'all. I need my grandson here.

DR. McCLINTOCK: Commissioner.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock.

DR. McCLINTOCK: I'd like to make a motion for first appraisal of the Lake Lurleen - Lake Arnedra Road Addition.

MR. HARRIS: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Harris for a first appraisal on the Lake Lurleen State Park, 162 acres, provides nomination. Any questions about that? I just want to make sure that everybody is clear on that change that was made, that we're good with that first appraisal.

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: Eleven, Commissioner. That carries.

MS. STANLEY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Ms. Stanley.

MS. STANLEY: I move for the second appraisal and necessary actions to purchase Riverton CHA - Happy Hollow Addition, Colbert County.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: That one would be appraisal based on --

MS. STANLEY: Thank you. First appraisal. Really I was looking at Walker Chapel Hollow. Sorry. Let me move -- I would like to move for second appraisal and move to purchase Riverton CHA - Walker Chapel Hollow Addition.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Let me catch up with you.

MS. STANLEY: It's the last one on the appraised nominations.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

MR. TUGGLE: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Tuggle. To make sure that I'm clear, we're voting on the second appraisal and move to purchase on the Riverton Community Hunting Area - Walker Chapel Hollow Addition in Colbert County, 40 acres.

MS. STANLEY: Yes, sir.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor, please raise your hand.
MS. McCURDY: Twelve, Commissioner.
MS. STANLEY: Mr. Chairman, now I move for the first appraisal of the Riverton CHA - Happy Hollow Addition.
DR. HOWELL: Second.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Dr. Howell. Motion by Ms. Stanley seconded by Dr. Howell for first appraisal on the Riverton CHA - Happy Hollow Addition. Any questions? First appraisal, yes, sir.
All those in favor please raise your hand.
MS. McCURDY: Eleven, Commissioner.
DR. MARTIN: Commissioner, motion for status of procedural second appraisal and closing of Little River - East Fork Addition Tract contingent upon resolution satisfactory to DCNR staff regarding any necessary amendments to any conservation

easements or applicable tract acreage.

DR. VALENTINE: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Do you also want to add to that motion? Because I think that we've gotten satisfactory information on the easements, but did you want to add to that motion satisfactory resolution for public access?

DR. MARTIN: Correct. Yes.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine, do you second that motion with the amendment?

DR. VALENTINE: Oh, yeah.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: So it is for a second appraisal and move to purchase the Little River - East Fork Addition in Cherokee County contingent upon our State Land Division and the Department being comfortable that there will be adequate public access to the property. It's an unusual motion. I want to make sure that everybody understands what we're voting on.

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: Eleven.
MR. CHILDERS: Mr. Chairman.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Childers.
MR. CHILDERS: I'd like to move for second appraisal on the Coon Gulf - Craze Bend Addition and purchase.
MS. STANLEY: Second, Ms. Stanley.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Ms. Stanley. All right. The motion is for a second appraisal and move to purchase on the Coon Gulf - Craze Bend Addition in Jackson County of 80 acres. Motion by Mr. Childers and seconded by Ms. Stanley. Any questions?
All in favor please raise your hand.
MS. McCURDY: Eleven.
DR. McCLINTOCK: Mr. Chairman.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. McClintock.
DR. McCLINTOCK: I'd like to make a motion for first appraisal for the Mobile-Tensaw Delta - Forks of the River Addition.

DR. KEENER: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: There's been a motion and a second, so we had discussion. I am fine to move forward with your motion if you'd like the Forever Wild program to move this through the process, but I think that we've identified some grant funding through the Department that we can acquire this with Department funds, and not have to utilize Forever Wild funds if that suits you. If not, I'm fine to go forward with the --

DR. KEENER: That suits me.

DR. McCLINTOCK: Agreed. Thank you. I have another nomination.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right, Mr. McClintock.

DR. McCLINTOCK: First appraisal on the Big Canoe Creek - South Addition.

DR. KEENER: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: So the motion is for a first appraisal on the Big Canoe Creek - South Addition, 72 acres in St. Clair County, motion by Dr. McClintock and seconded by

Dr. Keener. Any questions?

All those in favor please raise their hand.

MS. McCURDY: Ten.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Motion carries.

MR. TUGGLE: Mr. Chairman.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Tuggle.

MR. TUGGLE: I'd like to make a motion for first appraisal on the Doss Mountain Tract.

MR. CHILDERS: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Motion by Mr. Tuggle seconded by Mr. Childers for a first appraisal on the Doss Mountain Tract in Tallapoosa County.

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: Eleven, Commissioner.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Motion carries.

DR. KEENER: Mr. Commissioner.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Keener.

DR. KEENER: I'd like to make a motion for first appraisal on the Pritchett Tract - Poley Creek Addition.

DR. HOWELL: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Motion by Dr. Keener seconded by Dr. Howell for a first appraisal on the Pritchett Tract - Poley Creek Addition that's adjacent to Frank Jackson State Park. Any questions?

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: Ten, Commissioner.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Any other general discussion? Any other motions?

MR. CONLON: I'd like to make a motion for a second appraisal and proceed to purchase for Freedom Hills WMA - Heard Addition.

DR. HOWELL: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Conlon made the motion and Dr. Howell seconded the motion for a second appraisal and move to purchase on the Freedom Hills WMA - Heard Addition in Colbert County.

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: Eleven. Excuse me,

12. It was 11.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right.
DR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, motion for first appraisal on Red Hills - Beaver Creek Headwaters Addition.
DR. HOWELL: Second.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Martin, seconded by Dr. Howell for a first appraisal on the Red Hills - Beaver Creek Headwaters.
DR. MARTIN: Correct.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: In Monroe County, 480 acres.
All those in favor please raise your hand.
MS. McCURDY: Twelve, Commissioner.
MS. STANLEY: Mr. Chairman.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Ms. Stanley.
MS. STANLEY: Thank you. I move for first appraisal on Coon Gulf, Item 2, Flat Rock Creek Addition, Jackson County.
DR. HOWELL: Second.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: All right. Motion made by Ms. Stanley, seconded by

Dr. Howell for a first appraisal on the Coon Gulf - Flat Rock Creek Addition. That is the 1,135 acres.

MS. STANLEY: Correct.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: There's two Coon Gulfs.

All those in favor please raise your hand.

MS. McCURDY: Ten, Commissioner.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: I don't see any other hands. I think that we're finished with that. We can move to the next item. Thank y'all for your -- This is a lot to keep up with. I appreciate everybody's attention and following that through.

MS. McCURDY: We'll move into miscellaneous items. I know that we're running long, so I'll try to guide us through as quickly as I can.

We'll start with 5b. Each meeting I let you know which tracts will be rolling off due to there's no more action or MBA count. This time it was the Coon Gulf - Craze Bend and Hoover Branch. We had motions on those, so

y'all give me a minute. I'm going to try not to go through anything that is not necessary.

If you will look at Tab 5e in your packet, the August meeting is annually when we present to the Board what we call activity reports. Now, we haven't completed the fiscal year, so they're not complete, but we use this meeting to try to give you some information on what staff has been working on.

It's very difficult to divide up these reports because we're all working together, but I do try to group them in case a Board member has certain interest more so in one than the other. You can kind of look at the ones that you want, but I want to run through those super quick. And I always hate it because I know that what I do doesn't do justice to how much work the staff puts in, but in our -- what we call our land stewardship report, we focus in that one a lot on the true land management work, the

enforcement work, the public outreach work that staff does and a lot of that is performed by my conservation enforcement officers who are really my Swiss Army knife of workers helping on a tractor one minute, working with local law enforcement on a detail the next and then helping the public with their questions about tracts and fielding questions, helping with our timber evaluations and timber management.

And we -- just this year we burned almost 9,000 acres for various purposes, various habitat purposes, some native grasses work, some longleaf restoration, just helped on the property and just general all types of management, wildlife included. They also did a lot of cogongrass work. We struggle with that just as everybody else does. They're working on the feral hogs as everybody else as well and they really -- their efforts also go to specific work on the tracts to improve hunting, whether it's planting food plots.

Just this one example. I will -- We talked a good bit in the memo about our native grass restoration work. That is something that we continue to focus on and we're expanding some of that work in the field trial area, so if anyone would like to come out and look at that and see what we're doing, you're certainly welcome and invited to do so.

And there's just a lot of general -- There's road maintenance dependent tracts as you can imagine, access points, trailhead work. So I really -- Again, I would ask that you kind of read through that memo. I really can't cover any of the memos in detail, but I did want to point out a few things and also thank our other divisions, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and State Parks, because that ground management is often in conjunction with them, especially prescribed burning with assistance from them as needed.

You then have an activity report that's called our recreational programs

report. This is where I just try to give you almost like a statistical overview of what's going on.

We're actively managing about 395 miles of trail. Once our work on the Bartram and Perdido River Water Based Trail systems is complete, we'll be adding almost another 70 miles.

The work that is done, it ranges also from just maintenance of overgrowth and clearing. You have trees that fall. You have crossings, whether it be a foot bridge or a larger bridge that eventually need replacement. We have some local partners that we work with on certain tracts, but that's a lot of miles and a lot of area to cover for our group, so I really wanted to thank them and also identify opportunities where actually the local government is doing the work.

One example is City of Dothan. We talked about Shelby County assists us a lot, but Dothan assists with their own funds. Well, we provide some stewardship funds to help on an erosion issue, but

they did all the work, all of the physical work.

And then they just recently opened -- you had previously approved a small area of that park for a dog park and they recently with their funds repaired that area and opened that. We had a ribbon cutting with dogs and gave out dog cookies, so that was a fun one for me, but I included just a couple of pictures in that memo.

I give you two memos that are specific to both the field trial area and the Wehle Conservation Center. Those are two tracts with partial State Lands Division acreage that we operated for specific purposes. We talked a lot about the field trial area. Again, very quick overview.

So far this year, there have been 26 dog sporting events that have been attended by more than 3,000 dogs and then we've had eight scheduled physically disabled deer hunts that were attended by 16 hunters.

We had 11 youth deer hunting events that consisted of about 21 youth hunters and they also had parents with them as well. We had ten youth duck hunts and two youth dove hunts at the field trial area.

We continue to have daily use that ranges from dog trainers coming and working their dogs on the property on a daily basis. We've actually had -- and I'm sure that we don't have an exact count, but roughly we know of about 225 individual birders that have come because of the richness of the bird habitat there. And so that's in addition to being on the -- I'm sorry. The name of -- the West Alabama Birding Trail. There's a stop there and we also have Audobon that comes for specific tours on occasion.

So I give you some additional detail about the types of dog sporting events at the field trials and the hunt test. You can read that.

So also, we also always update

you on the department's program where we bring in the campus conservation program in partnership with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. They actively utilize our properties because of some of the facilities there including some limited dorm space and overnight space for college students.

You know, a lot of the college programs don't have acreage for the field-based opportunities for students to actually see what we do, see how we manage land and come back and see the results of the work.

We also work with them on just getting them familiar with hunting and fishing. Most all of them have had that background.

So again, you can look at that memo in detail. We are excited about continuing to attract national events. And the reason that we opened Blankenship Event Center really is adding an aspect. The groups that use us have trouble simply finding the acreage, but now they

also have facilities to go with that.

Wehle Land Conservation Center, that's in Bullock County in Midway, Alabama, not too far from Union Springs, but a very rural area that I've been excited how that continues to grow, the number of youth and adults that are benefiting from the programs on that property, and you can read through that. I will note that we are very excited about growing numbers.

We have a program that's targeted for basically fifth through eighth grade and Auburn University, we work with them and there's some programming and they help us get into -- they go into local schools for classroom and then get the students to the Nature Center for again some outs and true build out in the woods experience.

And so I'm also very excited to to say that in January we're actually going to have our first field trial event, a dog event at Wehle. It will never quite accommodate all of the usages

that we have for the field trial area, but that club is very -- is using Union Springs as much as they can to meet their local needs. Union Springs is -- really Bullock County as a whole is very excited about it and wanted to thank the Board for being open to those type of opportunities. It's not just the attendance. They're buying all kinds of things, working with local folks that sort of cater in the area, so we're very excited about that.

I break out also the forest management report. This details our timber management activities some of which resulted in bid-out opportunities, some that were successful and under a contract with the Board, some of which received no bids. Again, like everyone else, every now and then the market is not really working in our favor.

MR. HARPER: Ms. Patti, question on no bids. What is the protocol if you receive no bids on a timber sale? Is it the next six months or y'all just play it

by ear or have you got a protocol?

MS. McCURDY: What we do is go back to try to talk to who we think might have bid. Normally bids are folks that we've worked with in the past to try to understand why there were no bids, and we bid it out as soon as we believe that we can get interest. So it's not a specific number of months. If you've had a bill close or one open back up or we found a buyer that was like I was really busy, so I didn't bid, I am interested, but I was too busy to bid, if you'll put it out again, I'll bid on it.

So it's more of a communication protocol trying to figure out what happened. That's pretty much it.

MR. HARPER: But it doesn't happen often, does it, no bids?

MS. McCURDY: I won't say that it's often, but it's gotten better. We had a period where we were having trouble. But again, in the market and depending on where a harvest is occurring. I mean, we suffer sometimes

like everybody else does having trouble. And I'll be frank, too. Not everybody wants to take the job from the State, so you do really have to build a relationship.

MR. HARPER: Thank you.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: I do want to point out -- You mentioned about Wehle and seeing the dog trials. The success that we've had at the Forever Wild field trial area and investments that have been made over at that facility in West Alabama has really drawn a lot of attention and we're almost maxing out our ability to do things there, and so the overflow from that has easily translated over to Wehle where we have the opportunity to do something similar, maybe not on the same scale.

But I want to commend our staff and all of the work that this Board supported to be done at the Forever Wild field trial area because that has paid great dividends for West Alabama already. Now it's going to also pay dividends for

Union Springs and the things in that county that needs to take advantage of the opportunities that they have in those counties that do some economic development type things and the dog trials and be able to use Wehle like we've been able to use the Forever Wild field trial area in West Alabama.

I'm excited about the future of that and how we can really grow that, so thank y'all for your support in the work.

MS. McCURDY: And Commissioner, there's a club that will be coming to Wehle that's actually based in Florida and they already run events in the field trial area, but they were really looking for an additional option. This particular type of field trial was a combination of walk-ride field trial, a little slower than some others. So we were able to accommodate that. And the club is really hoping to do more there, but this one will be a -- We'll see how it goes, but I really do want to commend staff. They are continually looking for

opportunities to expand usage and that's relationship building with these clubs.

So I'll have more information on that and some other potential national attention that we receive at our next meeting.

I do want to ask you, though, if you will look at Tab 5f. I noted that in the activity report I've kind of given you an overview of the timber management activities and efforts for the current fiscal year.

We come to the Board and want to be sure that you have information regarding where we're planning to go as far as timber management in the next year. That is set forth in Tab 5f that you received in your packet.

They're grouped in the memo by thinning activities and then by property with a brief description of what and why. Some of it is continuing activity. It's underway or we might have something that's under contract and the contract is in the works, but will really be

occurring physically in the next fiscal year.

So we have thinnings. We have final harvest. We have some reforestation activities that we expect to follow this year. Excuse me, in the next fiscal year, so we usually ask for a pretty flexible motion from the Board. As you know, managing land, we don't always know what to expect, but we do like to bring forward the anticipated activities and ask for the Board to give us your support in the form of a motion for what we have planned.

DR. McCLINTOCK: Do you want me to read the motion?

MS. McCURDY: If you'd like to make a motion, that would be great.

DR. McCLINTOCK: I motion for the Board to authorize the State Lands Division to implement a ten-year applicable forest management activity for the February 2027 fiscal year as described in the memorandum dated August 6, 2026.

MR. TUGGLE: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: I knew that Mr. Tuggle would second that as a forester. Motion by Dr. McClintock and seconded by Mr. Tuggle to approve the list of forest activities that are included in this memo dated August 6.

All those in favor please say "aye."

(Aye)

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed? None opposed. Motion carries.

MS. McCURDY: All right. If you will now look at your 5g memo. That's actually a cover memo. It has attached to it two management plans. As I mentioned in the past, within a year of closing an acquisition, we develop a management plan for the property. Sometimes we are able to include a recently closed tract into an existing plan because it's either directly adjacent or very closeby and it makes sense to manage it cohesively as one tract.

So at this meeting, the two management plan actions that I brought forward include the West Bow River Tract in Mobile County being added to the existing Grand Bay Savanna Forever Wild Complex management plan and then, you know, the recent closing of the Dugdown Mountain Phase I Tract really created a need for just a new management plan, and so I wanted to -- and there may be some additional work through the U.S. Forest Service that would occur on these tracts, but this management plan is -- we'll work with that and the forest tract.

So if the Board is okay with these actions, I would need a motion. I provided a motion for you if you'd like to make it.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Oates.

MR. OATES: I motion for the Board to approve adoption of the Dugdown Mountain Corridor management plan and inclusion of the West Fowl River Tract into the existing Grand Bay Savanna Forever Wild Complex management plan as

set forth in the memorandum dated August, 6, 2026.

MR. HARRIS: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Harris.

All those in favor please say, "Aye."

(Aye)

DR. HOWELL: Any opposed? None opposed. Motion carries.

MS. McCURDY: Just a couple more items. If you will look at Tab 5h in your packet. 5h relates to a prior request that we discussed a few meetings back about a request from the Bon -- Let me get their name right. Bon Secour Volunteer Fire Department. They were in desperate need of finding some acreage to place some additional facilities in that area and were having difficulty locating it. We were able to work with them as we discussed in a prior meeting and suggest a location.

In trying to find a solution, the Board had asked me to continue working

with them because we were all supportive if we could make it work of working on a transaction for them. We were able. The fire department paid as all do paying for the appraisal work and survey costs that were necessary to fully develop the proposal.

We will be able to do a value-for-value land swap with them and you'll look at your map and find that you can visually see what the swap would look like.

So we'll do a value-for-value nomination as they had additional ground work and survey work and professional -- their professionals on site. They needed a little bit more acreage, and so it really -- the really only way to accomplish that was through a purchase, and so we're proposing a combination value-for-value land swap and the volunteer fire department purchasing additional acreage that -- if you'll look at Tab 5m, the very last one, you will note that the appraised value for the

purchase of the acreage at .57 acres was $14,000.

So if the Board is comfortable with the map that we provided with the end result transaction and are supportive of moving forward so that the fire department can add the facility, I would need a motion, and I provided one for you. The fire department will pay the appraised value of the land and are paying the appraisal and survey costs necessary to get to the closing table.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Is there a motion for 5h?

MR. PARNELL: I'll make that motion.

MR. TUGGLE: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Motion is for the Board to approve proceeding with closing the value-for-value swap and additional acreage purchase for the Bon Secour Volunteer Fire Department at the Bon Secour River Complex as described in the memo dated August 6 contingent upon the Fire Department paying the appraisal cost and the survey cost and the appraised value of

Forever Wild, motion by Mr. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Tuggle.

All those in favor say, "Aye."

(Aye)

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed? None opposed.

All right.

MS. McCURDY: They will be very excited. They've been appreciative of the State's willingness to work with them on that.

All right. Moving through your packet, some items we've covered during the course of the meeting, so I think that really all I have left to mention -- I'm going to double check, but you also have in your packet the standard quarterly update on feral swine efforts. That is 5i.

I will note that it sort of happens that we now -- I have a two-year report on the work and we're over 2,000 hogs, and so it's continuing between staff and contractor efforts and we're about to add some additional contractors, so that's moving forward, but I wanted to let you

know that was in your packet.

And Commissioner, with that, give me one minute, but I think that is all that I have.

I do want to take just a second because we did go through the activity reports, and I would like everybody on my State Lands staff, if you'll just -- if you're not already standing, stand up just for a minute.

And this is certainly not everybody, but as you will see, we have foresters and biologists.

I also want to take just a second. There's a tremendous administrative burden that goes along with that. A lot of that is borne by our legal section, so I do want to give special thanks to our general counsel and deputy Commissioner Charlanna Skaggs all on the staff and also Deputy General Counsel Jennifer Weber. They do a lot of work in helping us find solutions. I want to thank them.

Commissioner, I think that that's all that I have.

DR. McCLINTOCK: Do we have to approve the minutes?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: We're fixing to do that, yes, sir.

The minutes are in your materials that went out. Are there any corrections or additions to the minutes? If not, is there a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7th meeting?

MR. OATES: So moved.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Is there a second?

SPEAKER: Second.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor please say, "Aye."

(Aye)

MR. BLANKENSHIP: The minutes are approved.

The next meeting will be in November at the new Chewacla State Park, the new event center at Chewacla. I hope that you'll be as excited to meet there as we were when we met in West Alabama. It's a very similar facility, used the plans from the West Alabama facility to make that addition at Chewacla State Park. It would

be nice if we had the road paved by them. I'm not sure if we will, but we're working on that so that we can drive on smooth pavement to get back there. If not, there will be smooth pavement shortly thereafter.

But with that, I will take a motion to adjourn.

MR. CONLON: So moved.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor for adjournment please say, "Aye."

(Aye)

MR. BLANKENSHIP: We are adjourned. Thank you.

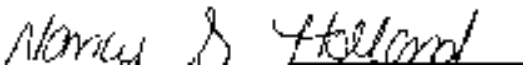
(Proceedings adjourned at 12:30 p.m.)

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.



/s/Nancy S. Holland
Nancy S. Holland, Commissioner
ACCR #185 - Expires 9/30/27
Notary Commission Expires
2/12/27