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MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
Lake Guntersville State Park
Guntersville, Alabama
June 19, 2014

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Gayle F.
Watson, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR No. 573, and
Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, at
Lake Guntersville State Park, Guntersville,
Alabama, on Thursday, June 19, 2014, commencing at
approximately 10:05 a.m.

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1 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- 2 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
- 3 Dr. Richard D. Holland
- 4 Mr. Raymond A. Keller
- 5 Dr. John Valentine
- 6 Dr. Robert O. Lawton
- 7 Dr. Gary Hepp
- 8 Mr. Frank "Butch" Ellis
- 9 Mr. H.E. "Sonny" Cauthen
- 10 Mr. Leo Allen
- 11 Dr. Michael Woods
- 12 Mr. Greg Pate
- 13 Dr. Warren Strickland
- 14 Dr. Patricia Sims

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13 COMMISSIONER GUY: At this time I'd like to
 14 call to order the Forever Wild Board
 15 Meeting for June 19th, 2014. We'll
 16 welcome everybody for being here at Lake
 17 Guntersville State Park, a beautiful
 18 venue to have this meeting. We
 19 appreciate everyone, both the public and
 20 the board members, being here.

21 And the first thing I would like to
 22 do is call the roll so that we can
 23 assure ourselves that we have a quorum

1 present and can conduct business. So if
2 you would just indicate your presence
3 when I call your name.

4 Mr. Pate?

5 MR. PATE: Here.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Porter?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Holland?

9 DR. HOLLAND: Here.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

11 DR. WOODS: Here.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

13 DR. HEPP: Here.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

15 DR. VALENTINE: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cooper?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

19 MR. CAUTHEN: Here.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

21 MR. ALLEN: Here.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ellis?

23 MR. ELLIS: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton?

2 DR. LAWTON: Here.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Keller?

4 MR. KELLER: Here.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland?

6 DR. STRICKLAND: Here.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims?

8 DR. SIMS: Here.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. The quorum requires
10 nine members present. We do have a
11 quorum and, therefore, can conduct
12 business today.

13 The first thing I would like to do
14 is introduce one of our new board
15 members that I think did not have a
16 chance to come to our last meeting but
17 is here today, Mr. Greg Pate, who is our
18 new state forester. Greg, glad to have
19 you with us.

20 MR. PATE: Glad to be here. Thank you,
21 Commissioner. Patti and her staff did a
22 great job of orientation. Glad to be
23 here. Thank you very much.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Look forward to working
2 with you as a board member and also with
3 your -- your agency and doing whatever
4 we can to assist you.

5 MR. PATE: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Certainly.

7 I'd like to take a minute before we
8 get into public comments. Always, if
9 y'all will bear with me, I want to
10 recognize our great Parks staff, what
11 they do for us, this great facility.
12 And the first person I want to call on
13 and recognize is Mr. Greg Lein, our
14 Parks director.

15 Greg, will you come forward. I know
16 you have a few remarks maybe to say.
17 Appreciate it.

18 MR. LEIN: Good morning and welcome, everyone,
19 to Guntersville State Park. I just want
20 to remind everyone that this is our 75th
21 anniversary of the State Parks system
22 here in Alabama. A lot of special
23 things happened in 1939, including the

1 creation of Guntersville Reservoir in
2 the State Parks system.

3 When you visit the parks, you'll see
4 a lot of our banners that talk about
5 "Partners Paying the Way." And the
6 take-home message that we want to give
7 to everyone is that if you love the
8 State Parks system, the way you can help
9 it is by using it. When you visit
10 parks, you stay in the cabins, the
11 cottages, the lodges, the campgrounds,
12 you're funding your State Parks system.

13 So thank you everyone for loving the
14 state parks and being a customer and a
15 good customer. And go home today and
16 share that message with 10 of your best
17 friends.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks, Greg.

19 MR. LEIN: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: You know, Greg's doing a
21 great job as our new Parks director. I
22 guess he's not really new anymore. He's
23 getting gray hairs. But he's doing a

1 fantastic job, and we really appreciate
2 that. The Governor and I do
3 particularly and I know each of you do.

4 We had a really nice social here
5 last night that the Parks put on for
6 some of our board members just so we
7 could have a minute to talk with each
8 other socially and not have to always
9 talk about business. And that was a lot
10 of fun for those who attended and
11 certainly are very thankful to the staff
12 and everybody who put that together.

13 And, particularly, I want to -- I
14 want to recognize Mr. Michael Jeffreys,
15 our Parks superintendent.

16 Michael, are you here right now?

17 MR. JEFFREYS: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Stand up, Mike.

19 Thanks. Michael does a great job.

20 I think you've been here, what, about a
21 year now?

22 MR. JEFFREYS: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: So he's -- I rode around

1 the parks this morning -- the park this
2 morning. It looked -- it looked
3 fantastic. You think about 2011 when I
4 came up here with the tornadoes and how
5 far it's come in such a short time. You
6 and all the staff, who I want to also
7 thank -- all the Parks staff. There's a
8 lot of Parks staff here.

9 Raise your hand if you're -- if you
10 work with the Parks staff. There's a
11 lot of folks. Thank you so much.

12 Ken?

13 I see Ken is here, our
14 superintendent at DeSoto. Ken, stand up
15 too. Thank you for being here.

16 Another beautiful -- Another
17 beautiful park. We don't quite have the
18 facilities maybe to go up there and have
19 a meeting. We're going to figure that
20 out somehow, Ken. We're going to come
21 up there and maybe have to put a big
22 tent up or something. We'll just stay
23 in tents. But it's another beautiful

1 park up here that I always enjoy going
2 to.

3 You know, we have a lot of park
4 volunteers. And I don't know if any of
5 them are in here. But I met some this
6 morning. They work free of charge. You
7 know, a lot of people don't realize
8 that. You see somebody with a Parks
9 shirt on or something -- and I met a few
10 this morning -- and they were just
11 talking about how great it was to work
12 here and to give their time. And I just
13 want to publicly acknowledge those types
14 of -- we have them at every park in the
15 state. We couldn't hardly do what we do
16 without them. And I know Greg would
17 join us -- I see him shaking his head
18 back there. They're essential to the
19 operations of the park and it's just so
20 nice to have them.

21 We have a lot of local park partners
22 that we -- that we often don't recognize
23 that work with us in various ways and

1 work with Greg and his folks. The City
2 of Guntersville and the surrounding
3 communities that certainly help us out
4 and promote what we do here, I want to
5 thank them for what they do.

6 I want to recognize just a couple of
7 folks on the staff in our conservation
8 department that are here today. And I
9 don't know -- is Curtis here, our deputy
10 commissioner? I think he's out there at
11 the sawmill. He had to go check that
12 out. But our Deputy Commissioner Curtis
13 Jones does a lot, works -- you know,
14 helps me out tremendously. He does a
15 lot -- just a lot of things to help make
16 our agency better.

17 Our Wildlife and Freshwater
18 Fisheries director is here, Mr. Sykes.
19 Chuck, where are you? Stand up. Thank
20 you, Chuck, for being here.

21 Most of you know Patti Powell, our
22 Lands director, is here. And, of
23 course, we have a lot of the Lands and

1 Forever Wild staff that are here that do
2 a whole bunch of work. Will y'all stand
3 up, please. Please. I know y'all don't
4 like standing up, but stand up so we can
5 recog -- thank y'all.

6 Okay. A lot of hard work goes into
7 not only these meetings but what goes
8 on. So I know everybody appreciates
9 that very much, and thank you for
10 allowing me to recognize you even though
11 I know you didn't want to stand up.
12 Ashley.

13 Okay. So at this time is there any
14 other comments by any board members or
15 anything that they wish to make at this
16 time?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We'll get into
19 our public comments for those who have
20 signed up to speak. And I will call
21 your name. And probably a lot of you
22 have done this before. If you would,
23 just come up to the microphone. And we

1 have a court reporter here who -- who,
2 you know, will take down the minutes
3 that we post online after every meeting.
4 So it's important, of course, that you,
5 you know, speak in a way that she can
6 get that down. So if I have to ask you
7 to speak slower, that's only because of
8 the court reporter or something maybe is
9 nodding at me to say, hey, I don't know
10 what they're -- what they're saying. I
11 can't keep up with them.

12 So our first speaker, Walter Ernest.
13 Walter, you've been here before. I know
14 you know the deal. How are you doing,
15 Walter?

16 MR. ERNEST: Doing well, Commissioner. Thank
17 you, Commissioner.

18 I'd like to speak about the Benton
19 Tract today. It's in Baldwin County.
20 It's a 407-acre tract in the Weeks Bay
21 Coastal Zone. It's been nominated to
22 Forever Wild. And this tract is very
23 special because it not only has access

1 to Bon Secour Bay, but it has a maritime
2 forest and it would be a great site for
3 future restoration activities.

4 It joins the Swift Tract. I've got
5 a map of the tract in the back of the
6 room. And there's a --

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you want to pull it up
8 here for a second, Walter?

9 MR. ERNEST: That would be great.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. Can everybody hear
11 all right? Does that microphone sound
12 like it's on?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not on.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can somebody check that?

15 Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. ERNEST: I'll just, if it's all right,
17 walk by y'all with the map.

18 The Weeks Bay Reserve received a
19 million-dollar NOAA grant, an
20 acquisition grant, that could go towards
21 acquisition of this tract, but it does
22 require a match, a 50/50 match.

23 And I'm here today to ask you if you

1 could order -- vote to order an
2 appraisal on this project and then move
3 forward on it.

4 Also, the Coastal Resource Advisory
5 Committee, which is a governor-appointed
6 committee to Alabama's Coastal Zone
7 Management Program, at our last
8 meeting -- I chair that committee -- we
9 voted to submit a letter of support on
10 this project. And that's been submitted
11 to you guys. And I've been told the
12 Weeks Bay Advisory Board has submitted a
13 letter of support and the Mobile Bay
14 National Estuary Program as well has
15 submitted a letter of support.

16 But this would be a great tract to
17 acquire. And the fact that we have a
18 willing seller -- they were not -- they
19 were not a willing seller in the past.
20 It's been owned by this family for, I
21 want to say, 60 or 70 years, maybe
22 longer than that, the former sheriff of
23 Baldwin County about 50 years ago,

1 Sheriff Benton, their heirs, you know.

2 But it's a great tract, and I hope
3 y'all can consider to help acquire this
4 tract. Thank you. And I'll be happy to
5 answer any questions.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Walter, the first thing to
7 do -- and you may have said it, but for
8 those members of the board who don't
9 know you as well -- and for everybody
10 else, when you come up, state who you're
11 with, if you're with a group or
12 something. So if you would, Walter.

13 MR. ERNEST: Yeah. I did earlier when the mic
14 wasn't working. I apologize.

15 I'm the director of operations of
16 the Pelican Coast Conservancy. We're a
17 land conservation organization in
18 Mobile. And I also serve as chairman of
19 the Coastal Resource Advisory Committee
20 of Alabama. I chair that committee.

21 But thank you, Commissioner. And if
22 you have any -- Yes, sir.

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Is it designated as wetlands?

1 MR. ERNEST: Yes, sir. A big portion of it
2 is, yes, sir. But it does have --
3 what's really unique is there's a road
4 that was put in many years ago that goes
5 from the uplands to the bay, so -- And
6 during the upswing, some guy was going
7 to put like a 20-story condo on the
8 site, you know, a few years back.

9 Any other questions?

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Walter.

13 MR. ERNEST: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Forrest Bailey?

15 MR. BAILEY: I might have to take this up a
16 little bit.

17 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen
18 of the Forever Wild Board, Commissioner
19 Guy. For those of you that do not know
20 me, my name is Forrest Bailey. I'm
21 chief of the natural resources section
22 for the Alabama State Parks Division,
23 and I'd just like to give a brief

1 overview this morning to you.

2 Pertinent to the success of the
3 Forever Wild Land Acquisition Program,
4 in State Parks' history I'm just here to
5 tell you that it's working and it's
6 worked very well. It's given us very
7 many opportunities to leverage
8 recreational opportunities on the lands
9 that have been acquired.

10 One of the great -- many great
11 things that I have noted in my work over
12 the last 20 years with the division is
13 the user group participation and the
14 volunteer opportunities that we have
15 pertinent to the expansion of different
16 recreational opportunities and
17 activities -- horse trails, mountain
18 bike trails.

19 The mountain biking community, the
20 horse community within the state has
21 grown exponentially along with these
22 opportunities that we've provided for
23 them. The groups have certain goals.

1 They're more goal-oriented today than
2 they were, say, 10 to 12 years ago.
3 That's given us an opportunity to work
4 with them in a better, more-efficient
5 manner.

6 Having said that, also on the short
7 list that you have in front of you in
8 the active-nominated properties, the
9 sun, stars and moon seem to have lined
10 up in 2013 and 2014 to produce some very
11 nice opportunities for the State Parks
12 Division pertinent to the acquisition of
13 large acreages.

14 We appreciate the time and
15 opportunities and -- and commitments
16 that you ladies and gentlemen have put
17 into this and have in the past and just
18 want to say thank you for that
19 opportunity.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Michael Jeffreys?

21 MR. JEFFREYS: Good morning. I'd like to
22 introduce myself again. I'm Michael
23 Jeffreys. I'm District Superintendent,

1 Northeast Alabama State Parks. I want
2 to thank you, Commissioner and the
3 board, for being here. I hope you
4 enjoyed your stay last night. Hope you
5 enjoy today and take in the beauty of
6 what Alabama has to offer here.

7 I'm fortunate to stand in front of
8 us today and present the Stubblefield
9 Mountain Tract. This tract is a unique
10 piece of land that would be a vital
11 resource here to this state park. You
12 can step out on this balcony today and
13 look north, and you can see it 1.2 miles
14 from this balcony. It's a critical
15 component to preserve this beautiful
16 piece of property that surrounds this
17 area of the Tennessee River for
18 generations to come.

19 Every year Lake Guntersville State
20 Park has 300-plus-thousand people
21 visit -- visit our premises. And on
22 this corridor from town out to Jackson
23 County, there's over 1200 campsites,

1 public or private, located at several
2 different resorts. And I think this is
3 a key component to offer additional
4 recreational opportunities for not only
5 our park guests, but the guests of the
6 county, the city and surrounding areas.

7 The majority of our guests come from
8 the state of Alabama within two hours or
9 within the region, the Southeast. There
10 is a higher demand for outdoor
11 recreational opportunities. And for me,
12 personally knowing this tract and the
13 beauty and the serenity of it, it's the
14 perfect tract to fit together the final
15 piece of the puzzle for us to protect
16 this property surrounding this state
17 park.

18 In closing, I would like to just say
19 I hope that we have a chance to get
20 approved for a first appraisal and the
21 possibility of purchase because, again,
22 it's a piece of property that I think
23 that needs to be protected and has all

1 the potential in the world for --
2 whether it be mountain biking, hiking,
3 horse riding, repelling -- for
4 generations to come.

5 Again, thank you for your time.

6 MR. JEFFREYS: Thank you. Any questions for
7 Mr. Jeffreys?

8 MR. ALLEN: Did you say how many acres it
9 was?

10 MR. JEFFREYS: 600 acres.

11 MR. KELLER: What's the name of the tract?

12 MR. JEFFREYS: Stubblefield Mountain Tract.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

14 MR. KELLER: Is it all wooded?

15 MR. JEFFREYS: Yes, sir, it is. There is one
16 portion that was recently cut within the
17 last two years.

18 MR. KELLER: How many -- How many acres were
19 cut?

20 MR. JEFFREYS: It's right at 80.

21 MR. KELLER: Was it clearcut or --

22 MR. JEFFREYS: Yes, sir.

23 MR. KELLER: Reforested with pine?

1 MR. JEFFREYS: I do not think it was
2 reforested. I could refer that question
3 to one of the family members.

4 DR. HOLLAND: Is this the tract with the
5 bluebells on it?

6 MR. JEFFREYS: Yes, sir. And that's -- I know
7 the family probably smiles when I talk
8 about the bluebells. It's the largest
9 natural tract of bluebells I've ever
10 witnessed in my life. It's absolutely
11 beautiful. And it has two access roads
12 that's been maintained and can
13 automatically be used for access.

14 DR. STRICKLAND: If acquired, do you think
15 this can be annexed, a part of the
16 existing park?

17 MR. JEFFREYS: Yes, sir. And we have
18 dedicated staff and a large group of
19 volunteers. And I will personally see
20 that it is utilized for the guests in
21 the future to increase our outdoor
22 recreational opportunities.

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Does it border the lake now?

1 MR. JEFFREYS: I'm sorry, sir?

2 DR. STRICKLAND: Does it border the lake?

3 MR. JEFFREYS: It borders the state park on
4 three sides. It does not touch the
5 lake, but it touches the state park
6 property that does touch the lake.

7 MR. KELLER: Would it entail more employees
8 for you to handle this, or could you
9 handle it with the people you have?

10 MR. JEFFREYS: No, sir. I have enough
11 volunteers. And we recently established
12 a BHA horse-riding group that has about
13 30-something members that would be
14 dedicated to extending the equestrian
15 opportunities which directly ties into
16 the horse trail, parking lot and trail
17 system we have now that is immediately
18 adjacent to this property.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: Could you ask one of the family
20 members about the --

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have Mr. Morrow. Is
22 that one of the family members?

23 Mr. Morrow, you want to come up and

1 that way we can -- maybe you and
2 Mr. Jeffreys both could probably be
3 answering all your questions.

4 MR. MORROW: I'm happy to do it. I'm Will
5 Morrow. I am the son of one of the
6 owners -- one of the partial owners and
7 the nephew of the rest of them.

8 So part of the story of the tract is
9 it's been through a couple of
10 generational divides to get to the
11 Stubblefield piece that Mike's just
12 described, and it's pending one more
13 generational divide as we come down.
14 There's been some estate planning
15 discussions.

16 So the family sees this as an
17 opportunity to protect and preserve the
18 piece of property as a whole as it was
19 when it was passed from my grandmother
20 to my mother's generation. One more
21 generation and we're going to have about
22 20 owners in there, and you start to get
23 divided beyond the ability to hold it

1 together for a single use.

2 So we're enthusiastic about the
3 process and will be happy to answer any
4 questions.

5 MR. CAUTHEN: What's the status -- What's the
6 status of that 80 acres that was cut?
7 Is it just cut over or has it been
8 reforested?

9 Ray asked Michael if it had been
10 reforested. Do you know what the status
11 of it is, the current --

12 MR. MORROW: I have not walked -- That's my
13 Aunt Sarah's piece. She cut the back
14 side of the mountain, so you cannot see
15 it from the road. I have not walked it
16 to see whether it was reforested or not.

17 MR. CAUTHEN: Can you see it from here?

18 MR. MORROW: You can see the property. You
19 cannot see the cut piece. But I've
20 looked at it on Google Maps. It looks
21 to me like it was a clearcut, and I did
22 not see any evidence of replanting.

23 MR. KELLER: Was it a -- was it a hardwood

1 stand before it was clearcut?

2 MR. MORROW: It was. The property, the end
3 closest to the highway down on the far
4 end, was reforested about 20 years ago
5 with pine because it is a good pine
6 reforesting zone. The rest of it is
7 fairly hilly. And so the reforesting
8 that was done is limited to hardwoods
9 and in some places it was just natural
10 growth.

11 MR. KELLER: If it was hardwood, it would
12 naturally come back.

13 MR. JEFFREYS: There was a hundred acres that
14 was replanted in pines several years ago
15 and the 80 acres was not planted. I
16 just got confirmation on that.

17 MR. KELLER: But it was hardwood size?

18 MR. MORROW: Yes, it is.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any other
20 questions?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank both of you so much.

23 MR. MORROW: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Appreciate it.

2 Mr. Ken Thomas?

3 MR. THOMAS: All right. Good morning. My
4 name is Ken Thomas. It is my good
5 fortune to be the superintendent of
6 DeSoto State Park in DeKalb County, one
7 of the five resort parks. And I guess
8 if you combine our day-use visitors with
9 our overnight guests, we're looking at
10 about 175,000 to 200,000 visitors per
11 year.

12 In previous history we've
13 obtained -- purchased additions of River
14 City Tract; most recently, Knotty Pine.
15 We've taken this property, and we've
16 added multi-use trails -- hiking,
17 biking, geocaching. Trail running has
18 gone through the roof at the park, and
19 we have a back-country campsite.

20 On these previously-purchased
21 properties, I'm real excited to tell you
22 guys we're also getting ready to
23 introduce the endangered green pitcher

1 plant, giving it another foothold on
2 Lookout Mountain. There's a bog out on
3 the Knotty Pine Tract.

4 I wanted to share that with you for
5 two reasons, really. I wanted to give
6 you guys validation of your good
7 decisions to give us that property. And
8 I wanted to give you the confidence that
9 DeSoto State Park is using these
10 additions to fulfill your mission, which
11 is almost hand-in-hand the mission of
12 Alabama State Parks with the outdoor
13 recreation, conservation and
14 preservation.

15 So before you, you have the Gray
16 Road Addition, which, if we purchase
17 that, would give DeSoto State Park a
18 really high degree of protection. For
19 some reason, beyond my knowledge,
20 Chalet 24 at the park was built about
21 10 feet from the boundary line. We
22 are -- we're actually manicuring and
23 mowing the private landowner's property

1 at this point. So the Gray Road
2 Addition would give me a really nice
3 buffer zone. It's also enough
4 property -- it's a hundred acres -- that
5 we could stem off of that in our current
6 trail system, adding some more mountain
7 biking, some more hiking trails.

8 The other piece of property that you
9 guys are going to be looking at
10 considering is the Steward Gap property.
11 It's about 250 acres. This is in a
12 really neat geological place. It's kind
13 of common to Lookout Mountain. It's the
14 headwaters of Straight Creek, and it
15 kind of forms kind of a long, shallow
16 canyon. So we're really interested in
17 getting our hands on that. We want to
18 continue to supply our park guests with
19 what they want. They're wanting hiking,
20 biking, back-country campsites, all the
21 things I've previously named.

22 In closing, I just want to tell you
23 guys we appreciate what you've done for

1 us so far. We look forward to the
2 future. We're excited about fulfilling
3 your mission while we're fulfilling our
4 mission in giving the folks that visit
5 our parks what they want.

6 If you don't have any questions --
7 Or if you do have any questions, I'll do
8 my best to answer them.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

10 Did you say what the acreage was
11 on --

12 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. The Steward Gap
13 property is about 250 acres. The Gray
14 Road Addition is approximately 100.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Any other
16 questions?

17 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Keller?

18 MR. KELLER: Is that two separate tracts?

19 MR. THOMAS: It is, sir.

20 MR. KELLER: Are they contiguous to the one
21 we're already --

22 MR. THOMAS: They do adjoin the park. The two
23 tracts are actually located at two

1 different ends of the park, but they --
2 they do adjoin. The Gray Road Addition,
3 we adjoin it on two sides -- Let me
4 correct that. The state park adjoins
5 the Gray Road Tract on one side. Little
6 River Management Area adjoins it on
7 second side, which -- which is all
8 within the legislative boundaries of
9 Little River Canyon National Preserve.
10 The Steward Gap property, we have two
11 sides -- we adjoin two sides of it,
12 which is a previous Forever Wild
13 purchase.

14 MR. KELLER: What was the other tract
15 besides --

16 MR. THOMAS: Steward Gap Addition and the Gray
17 Road Addition.

18 MR. KELLER: Is this wooded area or --

19 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. The Gray Road Addition
20 is some open -- It's an old family farm.
21 It's been bush-hogged and manicured over
22 the years.

23 MR. KELLER: Is this open to -- Besides

1 swimming, would this be open to horse
2 riding and other activities for folks
3 that don't --

4 MR. THOMAS: Absolutely. We're looking at --
5 We're looking at everything -- every
6 recreational opportunity, the ones I've
7 named, the ones that you just named,
8 absolutely. We're looking into that
9 stuff to see if it could fit what we
10 have and what we're getting.

11 MR. KELLER: Do we already have this on the --
12 proposed to look at it or --

13 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. It's -- It's on your
14 short list, both of these tracts.

15 MR. KELLER: I lost my packet.

16 MR. THOMAS: Sir?

17 MR. KELLER: I lost my packet.

18 MR. THOMAS: Okay. Yes, sir, both of those
19 additions are on your list today.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Wait a minute, Raymond.
21 You said you lost your package?

22 MR. KELLER: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Come on, Raymond. That's

1 like a school kid saying he lost his
2 book assignment, now. Hold on.

3 MR. CAUTHEN: He lost his homework.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: He lost his homework. I'm
5 sorry. No, that's okay.

6 All right. Go ahead, Raymond. Who
7 else had a question?

8 MR. CAUTHEN: Ken, I want to ask one more.

9 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

10 MR. CAUTHEN: What you need is a -- is a first
11 appraisal?

12 MR. THOMAS: That's absolutely what I would
13 like to hear from you guys.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: Is that appropriate if somebody
15 proposed a --

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: That would be later. That
17 would be later when we have -- we'll
18 have a motion time.

19 MR. THOMAS: I'll be glad to remind you.

20 All right. Thank you guys very much
21 for your time.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. And don't
23 worry, Ken. We're going to work on your

1 reluctance for public speaking; okay?

2 Mr. Charles Yeager?

3 While they're getting ready, I see
4 our Deputy Commissioner did enter the
5 room. Mr. Jones, glad to have you with
6 us.

7 MR. JONES: Had to take a tour of the park.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. YEAGER: Hello, my name is Charles Yeager,
10 and I have the honor of managing the
11 Turkey Creek Nature Preserve in Pinson,
12 Alabama. I'm here today to provide you
13 guys with a quick overview of the
14 Shepherd Addition as well as a summary
15 of some of the activities of the Turkey
16 Creek Nature Preserve this year.

17 As the manager of the Turkey Creek
18 Nature Preserve, I provide day-to-day
19 maintenance and security, direct
20 educational programming for school
21 groups and the public.

22 2014 has shaped up to be another
23 very busy year at -- at Turkey Creek.

1 We estimate that over a hundred thousand
2 will walk or drive through our gates
3 this year. Many of these visitors will
4 come to enjoy a variety of activities
5 offered at the preserve including
6 swimming, fishing, hiking, biking and
7 bird-watching.

8 Additionally this year over 3,000
9 participants have visited Turkey Creek
10 to take part in our programming. So far
11 this year we have provided 11 public
12 programs which include nature hikes,
13 tree giveaway and a storytelling event.
14 We have also hosted numerous
15 bird-watching and wildflower groups.
16 Later this summer we will host our 5th
17 annual summer festival called Float Your
18 Boat which annually draws over 1200
19 visitors.

20 We also have a kids' fishing
21 tournament, high school cross-country
22 meet and a Living History Program
23 scheduled for later in the year, all of

1 which would not be possible without the
2 help of strong community volunteer
3 support.

4 Our education programs have also
5 grown this year with already 60 school
6 groups visiting the preserve. We have
7 also coordinated the efforts of 30
8 service groups that have helped to keep
9 Turkey Creek clean and beautiful.

10 Whatever the reason may be, each
11 year the public visitation and support
12 increases at Turkey Creek, and along
13 with it so does their interest in more
14 opportunities for outdoor pursuits. One
15 of the most common requests I receive
16 from the public is for the addition of
17 more hiking and biking trails. While
18 the 4.5 miles of trail through the
19 preserve have become very popular, the
20 space and topography limit the
21 possibilities for additional trails.

22 Luckily, adjacent to the southern
23 border of the preserve is a tract of

1 undeveloped land which is owned by the
2 Shepherd family who are willing sellers.
3 Earlier this year we nominated the
4 Shepherd Addition which is composed of
5 two tax parcels for a total of 242
6 acres. The acquisition of this land is
7 the best way to address the concerns of
8 the visitors seeking more space as well
9 as a fantastic opportunity to see a
10 biologically and historically important
11 tract preserved for future generations.

12 It's an absolutely stunning property
13 that contains some incredible potential
14 for acquiring expanded outdoor and
15 nature business. The tract's slopes
16 contain a rich diversity of plant life
17 and animal life including old-growth
18 hardwoods and montane longleaf pine. In
19 fact, these forests contain stands of
20 persimmon trees that might be some of
21 the largest in the state. The one up in
22 the top left-hand corner, I think,
23 measured at around -- over 60

1 centimeters in diameter, so a very large
2 persimmon.

3 A large rock formation that runs
4 diagonally through the western parcel
5 has caught the eye of the rock-climbing
6 community which has pinpointed over 60
7 prospective climbing routes along this
8 outcrop.

9 This summer we are working with a
10 student intern from Birmingham Southern
11 College and the Southeastern Climbers
12 Coalition to develop a management plan
13 for these rock outcrops. The
14 development of this plan will help us to
15 better understand the potential human
16 impact in the use of these outcrops and
17 how to best protect the botanical life
18 that inhabits them.

19 In preparation for this nomination
20 and in an effort to better understand
21 this tract's recreational potential, I
22 have consulted with the Birmingham Urban
23 Mountain Pedalers, who happen to be a

1 part of the same organizations that
2 worked with State Lands to develop the
3 highly popular trails at Coldwater
4 Mountain as well as those at Oak
5 Mountain State Park and Tannehill.

6 Their initial investigation of the
7 property has led to a concept that
8 includes 11 miles of multi-use trails.
9 The concept was developed to follow the
10 natural contours of the property
11 along -- allowing for three distinctive
12 loops that gradually increase in
13 difficulty from the trailhead providing
14 easy access to beginner trails and a
15 great warm-up for more expert hikers and
16 riders on their way to the advanced
17 loops.

18 If these trails were to be
19 developed, they would provide a perfect
20 complement to those at Coldwater
21 Mountain and help support a statewide
22 network of biking trails that already
23 brings in visitors from all over the

1 country. I believe that this is only
2 the tip of the iceberg when it comes to
3 the possibilities for this tract.

4 Since the inception of the Turkey
5 Creek Nature Preserve, we have strived
6 to enhance the appeal and opportunities
7 for visitors, and I believe that we have
8 created a unique and popular
9 destination. I hope you decide to move
10 forward with this property as I am
11 looking forward to adding the
12 maintenance and stewardship
13 responsibilities to this addition to
14 those that I already hold at Turkey
15 Creek.

16 We are lucky to have a large group
17 of supporters, including, you know, some
18 groups -- Birmingham groups -- hiking
19 groups, climbing groups, biking
20 groups -- that all really see the
21 potential of this property, and I hope
22 you guys do as well.

23 Today we have -- The Shepherd family

1 is here. So if you guys have any
2 questions, I'll be happy to address
3 those and I'm sure they would as well.

4 Any questions?

5 MR. ALLEN: Did I understand you to say that
6 the access was pretty good?

7 MR. YEAGER: Yes. So it's actually -- the --
8 it actually directly adjoins the
9 existing Turkey Creek Tract, and there's
10 a right of way at our exit gate that
11 would provide a perfect trailhead and
12 access to the property.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Could you go back to that
14 picture right there?

15 MR. YEAGER: Sure.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: What highway is that at the
17 bottom right-hand corner?

18 MR. YEAGER: That's Highway 79.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Does it -- Does it
20 have access from Highway 79 there or is
21 it --

22 MR. YEAGER: Not direct access. It would come
23 from --

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: The other side?

2 MR. YEAGER: -- the other side -- Well, there
3 is a -- There is a road where you can
4 access a side road there.

5 MR. CAUTHEN: So the property -- the property
6 touches the road, but there's no access;
7 is that right?

8 MR. YEAGER: Oh, no. There is -- Let me show
9 you this.

10 So our exit gate is right here, and
11 there's access there. There's also
12 another road that comes through here, so
13 there's access from the back side of the
14 property as well.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Yeager, thank you, sir.

18 MR. YEAGER: We also have Nelson Brooke here
19 from the Black Warrior Riverkeeper that
20 wants to say something also.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: That was the next person on
22 my list. Mr. Brooke.

23 MR. BROOKE: Good morning, I'm Nelson Brooke

1 with Black Warrior Riverkeeper, and I
2 just wanted to tie in the bigger
3 picture.

4 The Black Warrior Basin is, of
5 course, a very significant river basin
6 for the Birmingham region, and public
7 access in close proximity to creeks that
8 feed out into the river is very limited.
9 Turkey Creek is -- The Turkey Creek
10 Nature Preserve is the key place that we
11 encourage families and teachers who want
12 to get kids out to experience the
13 outdoors and to see a nice, pristine and
14 local creek that's spring-fed where they
15 can go out and get in the water and not
16 worry about pollution. It's the perfect
17 place for them to go.

18 And, of course, an addition to the
19 tract would bring out more possibilities
20 for school groups and families in the
21 Birmingham region. As you can see, they
22 have a lot of people coming there. It's
23 in very high demand.

1 And so I'm just here to support the
2 proposal for the Shepherd Addition to
3 the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. And I
4 wanted to highlight the importance of
5 Turkey Creek which runs through the
6 existing tract. This is a high-quality
7 spring-fed stream that's a tributary to
8 the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior
9 River. It is home to several very rare
10 species, one of which, the vermilion
11 darter, lives in Turkey Creek and
12 nowhere else in the entire world.

13 So this is a key place for outdoor
14 education and for future generations to
15 understand the importance of
16 biodiversity in Alabama and how a
17 particular habitat such as Turkey Creek
18 can be so special right there in the
19 backyard. And ultimately we hope to see
20 it continue to thrive.

21 Thank y'all for your consideration.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Charles, can you come back?

23 I want to ask you a question, please.

1 So on our nominations list, this has
2 already been nominated; correct?

3 MR. YEAGER: Yes, sir.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. There's also on our
5 nominations list like just a small 8.35
6 acres.

7 MR. YEAGER: I'm not familiar with that.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. That's what I was
9 going to ask you. I'm sorry I didn't
10 ask you when you were standing up there.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. YEAGER: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: But this is part of that
14 242.8?

15 MR. YEAGER: That's correct.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, sir.

17 The next speaker is -- it looks like
18 we have Mr. Gary Kolb and Keith --

19 MR. TASSIN: Tassin.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- Tassin. Sorry.

21 MR. TASSIN: I have some maps in here.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

23 DR. KOLB: Good morning.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

2 DR. KOLB: Thank y'all for being here. I
3 mean, I can't tell you how much I
4 appreciate what you do for the state of
5 Alabama. I'm a private landowner. I
6 live in Bay Minette. This is the first
7 time I've ever been to a meeting like
8 this, so I hope you'll bear with me.

9 I'm here to speak on behalf of the
10 Splinter Hill Bog Addition. The map is
11 called the Kolb Tract. Ms. Powell has
12 graciously called it the Splinter Hill
13 Bog Addition.

14 I think this is a rare opportunity
15 to almost double Splinter Hill Bog.
16 It's my understanding -- and I can't
17 really confirm this -- that it was
18 originally -- this piece of land was
19 originally to be the Splinter Hill Bog,
20 but it couldn't be worked out. I'm like
21 the third or fourth owner since that
22 time occurred.

23 There's a lot of advantages to this

1 property. There are approximately 511
2 acres left on it of the original part.
3 There's been three parcels sold, and one
4 parcel went -- for a hundred acres has
5 been optioned to a developer, but he
6 lost his \$40,000 option because he
7 couldn't come up with financing.

8 The elevation -- What makes this
9 thing really nice compared to the
10 adjoining bog is that it has a higher
11 elevation of almost a hundred feet. It
12 has 12 miles of groomed trails suitable
13 for biking, suitable for hiking. We've
14 been hunting some. It has eight
15 elevated platforms with viewing areas,
16 otherwise known as shooting houses.

17 There are two-and-a-half miles of
18 paved road through the property which
19 would really enhance the access to this
20 property and to the -- the existing bog.
21 It has some of the prettiest pitcher
22 plant bogs that I've ever seen to
23 include the Splinter Hill Bog.

1 And so I think there are 12 miles of
2 groomed paths, trails, which could -- I
3 do some mountain biking, and I've
4 actually wandered from my property onto
5 the Splinter Hill Bog. I understand why
6 they with call it a bog, because I got
7 bogged down in it.

8 This is pretty much all
9 naturally-forested longleaf pine. There
10 are about 37 acres that had been
11 reforested due to an uncontrolled burn.
12 We've been control-burning it every year
13 for about eight years. In fact, we make
14 it a big family celebration. I have
15 four children and seven grandchildren,
16 and we have an annual what we call
17 "burn, boil and shoot," which consists
18 of control burn in the morning, a
19 crawfish boil at noon and a little
20 trapshooting in the afternoon.

21 So I think there's a lot of not just
22 accessibility, but recreational
23 opportunities. So there's these plots

1 that could be used for primitive
2 camping. They're all pretty level.
3 There's turkey. And I'm going to hand
4 out, when Keith's talking, a little bit
5 more of a detailed description to y'all.

6 We originally purchased this land
7 with the intent of building homes and
8 having it as -- as a home. But
9 daughter-in-laws and wife ended up
10 vetoing that, said they didn't want to
11 live in the beautiful woods; they wanted
12 to live in the crummy town.

13 I guess one of my real motivations
14 towards coming to talk to you is that --
15 I mean, I'm willing to do less than this
16 because we love this land. And by
17 Forever Wild having it, it will afford
18 my family still access. We -- We've
19 been enjoying the Forever Wild land for
20 20 years, and we'll continue to enjoy
21 that land. And so I hope this land will
22 become part of everybody's land. Thank
23 you.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Did you speak to this at
2 the February meeting?

3 DR. KOLB: No, sir, I didn't.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. But it has -- Has it
5 been nominated?

6 MS. LEWIS: Yes.

7 DR. KOLB: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's on the short list;
9 right?

10 DR. KOLB: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Just wanted to make
12 sure I was clear. Thank you, Jo.

13 Thank you, sir. Any questions?

14 MR. KELLER: Do you have a price?

15 DR. KOLB: Sir?

16 MR. KELLER: Do you have a price?

17 DR. KOLB: We have a price that we've sold.

18 We've sold acreage from anywhere between
19 3500 an acre and 7500 an acre.

20 MR. KELLER: You don't have a price list?

21 DR. KOLB: I think I do, but I don't have it
22 here. I'm thinking it's probably in the
23 area of about 1.8 million.

1 MR. CAUTHEN: For 36 acres?

2 DR. KOLB: No, sir. 511 acres.

3 MR. CAUTHEN: Okay. Well, I'm on the wrong
4 end.

5 DR. KOLB: Yes, sir. Right here (indicating).

6 MR. CAUTHEN: Yeah, I see it.

7 DR. KOLB: A lot of Auburn graduate students
8 have done some graduate work on it
9 because of diversity of the bio things,
10 and I'm going to hand you out some
11 information about that as well.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Maybe -- there's a couple
13 of questions about -- I'll go ahead and
14 maybe -- on your maps. It's the -- in
15 yellow it says -- in the yellow it says
16 State-Protected Lands.

17 MR. TASSIN: Yeah. I'm going to explain that.

18 DR. KOLB: He's going to explain that.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, sir.

20 That would be good.

21 MR. TASSIN: My name is Keith Tassin. I'm the
22 director of terrestrial conservation for
23 The Nature Conservancy.

1 As Dr. Kolb mentioned, this tract
2 was actually the first tract The Nature
3 Conservancy tried to buy, and this was
4 the tract that everybody used to visit.
5 This is where really the name Splinter
6 Hill Bog actually came up originally.

7 When we tried to buy this property
8 from the Small family, we never could
9 make a deal, and we ended up working
10 with the state -- in partnership with
11 the state to acquire some -- some bank
12 land, which you can see by the map. Our
13 lands are the lands in green, and then
14 the state lands are the orange-ish color
15 on the map.

16 This is obviously still a big
17 priority for The Nature Conservancy to
18 expand this preserve. And the piece
19 that you see there in yellow is called
20 the Legette Tract. That's actually a
21 tract that we're closing on in July.
22 And we also have a verbal agreement on
23 another 420 acres on the south end of

1 our property which we hope to close on
2 sometime later this year.

3 Basically, we're here just to say
4 that we strongly support this
5 acquisition and urge you to move forward
6 with a first appraisal. Obviously, we
7 think this is a very important tract for
8 a number of reasons. It's a large -- As
9 you can see from the surrounding
10 parcels, it's the largest natural tract
11 still contiguous with this property. It
12 increases -- improves the access to the
13 property. As Dr. Kolb mentioned, it's
14 higher ground than most of the current
15 property that the state owns, and it has
16 a lot of paved road frontage on the
17 north side there.

18 It also has the headwaters of Dyas
19 Creek, which is one of the major
20 tributaries of the -- of the Perdido
21 River. And, obviously, the state has
22 invested quite a bit of resources into
23 acquiring land along the Perdido River.

1 Also, this property will greatly
2 increase the ability to manage this
3 property in the future, I think, if this
4 property were developed. As many of you
5 know, Splinter Hill Bog is a
6 fire-dependent ecosystem. If we ended
7 up with a lot of houses backing up to
8 the preserve there, it would make it
9 pretty difficult to manage the property
10 in the future.

11 Obviously, The Nature Conservancy
12 and Forever Wild and State Lands
13 Division have invested a lot of
14 resources here, and we feel that this is
15 a critical tract to secure those
16 resources for the future. I'll be happy
17 to answer any questions.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Any questions
19 for Mr. Tassin?

20 MR. PATE: I do. I noticed on the right up
21 here you've got at the bottom 120 acres
22 of a conservation cut. What is that
23 going to look like? What does that look

1 like?

2 DR. KOLB: Say again, sir?

3 MR. PATE: I noticed on the bottom of your
4 write-up you handed me, Dr. Kolb, that
5 you have a conservation cut being
6 planned for 120 acres as recommended.
7 What would that -- What would that look
8 like, I guess, is my question.

9 DR. KOLB: I think the intent is, is to take
10 out a lot of the trash sycamores and
11 trash trees and preserve the longleafs
12 that are there. My son says we should
13 get rid of all the hardwood, but I kind
14 of like the hardwood, so I've asked that
15 they be preserved. And there are
16 about -- I think, probably about 80
17 acres of hardwoods.

18 The beauty of this is it's -- this
19 is tall timber. I mean, most of this on
20 the existing bog is loblolly, which is
21 being cut and reforested. But that's
22 going to be a long way away before that
23 becomes the beautiful woods that this

1 is.

2 MR. PATE: Well, us foresters have different
3 terminology for cuts. And I haven't
4 heard that one, so -- but it fits in
5 with something that I do know, so --

6 MR. TASSIN: There are some portions of the
7 property that were more fire-suppressed
8 in the past than others, and they have
9 hardwoods.

10 DR. KOLB: My son is a forester, too, and
11 so -- so we go through this argument.
12 I'm going for beauty. He's going for
13 economics.

14 MR. PATE: We can have both.

15 DR. KOLB: I think so.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any more questions of
17 Mr. Tassin and Dr. Kolb?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

20 Mr. Glenn Phillips? Good morning.

21 MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning. Appreciate you
22 giving me the opportunity to speak to
23 you today, and I'm speaking on behalf of

1 the Battelle property. And I'm a
2 farmer, property owner and a community
3 supporter. And I have -- I appreciate
4 the people that are here supporting
5 Battelle. Will you raise your hands to
6 let them know?

7 Okay. The Battelle property is a
8 very isolated piece of property in
9 natural state. And it's gotten -- Its
10 entire watershed is completely free of
11 industrial waste and farming runoff.
12 All of the watershed is wooded land,
13 which is very unique. The water streams
14 are fed by springs -- one large spring.
15 It's got caves. It's got a large
16 wetland, a natural wetland that's --
17 that's attractive. And it is remote,
18 one of the most remote areas in
19 northeast Alabama.

20 Historically, it was a mine site.
21 Right after the war, they came in, mined
22 iron ore, coal, and kaolin clay. And
23 once that resource was gone, the town

1 was abandoned. It was a large town at
2 that time. It's located near Mentone,
3 which, of course, Mentone is a resort
4 town and have summer camps. A lot of
5 people visit Mentone, and they're
6 equipped to handle the housing, the food
7 and, of course, the horses, which would
8 be a private concern. But it's closely
9 related to Fort Payne. There would be
10 housing there in that area which would
11 be private.

12 I don't see any people that are not
13 supported in our community, and I think
14 it would be a wise investment for
15 Forever Wild. It is a remote area, and
16 it's distinctively natural -- caves, a
17 large spring, wetlands, etc. I'd be
18 happy to answer any questions for you.

19 DR. HOLLAND: How large is it?

20 MR. PHILLIPS: 1200 acres, approximately.

21 DR. STRICKLAND: How about access?

22 MR. PHILLIPS: Sir?

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Access. You said it's fairly

1 remote.

2 MR. PHILLIPS: Access from U.S. 11. It is
3 remote, but it does have county road
4 access.

5 MR. KELLER: The price?

6 MR. PHILLIPS: Sir?

7 MR. KELLER: Price?

8 MR. PHILLIPS: I don't know what the price is
9 now. I'm a local farmer. My property
10 joins the Battelle property.

11 MR. KELLER: Who owns it?

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Mr. Glover owns the property.

13 MR. KELLER: Freddy Glover?

14 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, there's two Freddy
15 Glovers up there in that part of the
16 state.

17 MR. CAUTHEN: His name is --

18 MR. PHILLIPS: Alex.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: What's his name?

20 MR. PHILLIPS: Alex Glover.

21 DR. STRICKLAND: You said it was mining. What
22 kind of mining?

23 MR. PHILLIPS: Iron ore in the ridges. It's

1 got both mountain and valley property,
2 about 50 percent of each. And they
3 mined iron ore in the ridges there in
4 the valley, did coal-mining up under the
5 bluff and made coke and, of course, did
6 the pig iron through -- through that
7 process.

8 And then there is a kaolin clay mine
9 there on the property, too, and it went
10 hand in hand with that old historic
11 town, Battelle. And, of course, it's
12 known throughout north Alabama. It's
13 been one of the largest towns and now
14 it's gone. So it's a very historical
15 site in our community.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: Is there any evidence of the
17 mining now?

18 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes. Not anything like a
19 strip mine or anything. It's all grown
20 up now and --

21 MR. STRICKLAND: Okay. There's no hidden
22 mines, no pits or anything?

23 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, there's some -- there's a

1 tunnel through the ridge approximately
2 200 yards long that could be made into a
3 hiking trail, you know, through that
4 ridge part. And it's all rock through
5 the ridge there.

6 Yes, sir?

7 MR. CAUTHEN: What is kaolin clay?

8 MR. PHILLIPS: Kaopectate. Do you know --
9 familiar with that drug?

10 MR. CAUTHEN: Somewhat.

11 MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah. There's some other uses,
12 too, for it, but that's one of the main.
13 It's a white chalky clay, and they mine
14 it there in the -- There's a little
15 community there called Kaolin at the
16 north end of the property, and then, of
17 course, in the property there's --
18 there's a mine.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: I can understand why the
20 interest in that got out.

21 MR. PHILLIPS: It joins -- It joins the state
22 line on the north. And it's a remote
23 area, but very pristine.

1 Yes, sir?

2 MR. KELLER: Is part of it being farmed now?

3 MR. PHILLIPS: No. In trees only.

4 MR. KELLER: And you don't know when it's been
5 timbered or anything?

6 MR. PHILLIPS: No. Through the years -- I'd
7 say it's been at least 20, 30 years
8 since it was timbered.

9 MR. KELLER: Is it hardwood or pine?

10 MR. PHILLIPS: Hardwood and pine, both. And
11 some reforestation, but it's mixed.

12 MR. KELLER: Is it natural reforestation?

13 MR. PHILLIPS: Natural reforestation.

14 MR. KELLER: Was this underground mining or --

15 MR. PHILLIPS: Strip mining. And -- And when
16 I say strip mining, it's not -- they did
17 it with a horse and shovel and pick. So
18 it's not -- it's not like you'd just
19 strip it off with a -- with a dozer as
20 we know it today.

21 MR. KELLER: What time period was that?

22 MR. PHILLIPS: Early 1900s. And from what I
23 gather, it probably lasted 10, 15 years.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have several other
2 speakers, so why don't we -- so you
3 don't get all the questions --

4 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay. Sure.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I don't -- You know,
6 everybody can speak. But I know there's
7 a Connie Phillips, Jamie Sledge -- is
8 it -- Angie Shugart, I think, is also
9 speaking on behalf of that property, and
10 Kaye Kiker. So any of y'all -- I mean,
11 you can either do it separately, or if
12 y'all want to come and add, just please
13 feel free to come on up and maybe just
14 take turns.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Can I say something?

16 We are property owners, and that
17 access is through our property. And
18 there's at least two miles of the road
19 that goes through there, and we do
20 object to it.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, let me ask you to do
22 this.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

1 MS. POWELL: I'm sorry. We need a name also.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. Patti, why don't you
3 let them fill out a form and then --

4 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- please.

6 So would just state your name,
7 please, sir.

8 MR. SLEDGE: Commissioner, I'm Jamie Sledge.

9 I'm here to speak on behalf of
10 Battelle. I'm a former -- I'm a retired
11 federal judge and currently a board
12 member of One World Adventure, who is
13 the nominator of this project.

14 I have a charge here today to bring
15 you the words from former Commissioner
16 Jim Martin, who was a client of mine
17 when I was in law practice in Gadsden
18 until he went to congress and I went and
19 got on the federal bench. And a year
20 ago when I left Washington to come back
21 to Gadsden in retirement, I've been
22 associated with Commissioner Martin
23 again. And he was going to be here

1 today. But then he looked at his
2 calendar and saw that he's coming back
3 here in two weeks -- or coming here in
4 two weeks to address the State Park
5 Rangers in their meeting, so he
6 couldn't -- didn't feel like he could do
7 both.

8 After reviewing the project in depth
9 with Commissioner Martin, he asked me to
10 please convey to you his full support of
11 this project. He said that some of you
12 may not remember his name. But he said
13 you tell them I'm the one that created
14 Forever Wild so that they'll -- they'll
15 remember me. And he said this is very
16 consistent with what they planned when
17 the whole concept was created back in
18 the beginning, after he left congress.

19 This project primarily fits in with
20 the Gateway project that Angie Shugart
21 is here to speak to, which is the entire
22 area around Fort Payne, Albertville,
23 Mentone to develop a project consistent

1 with the national standards of opening
2 our area more to the public and more to
3 use.

4 The trail systems that will tie in
5 here with what we already have on
6 Lookout Mountain will be entirely
7 consistent with that and the trails
8 leading up from Fort Payne to Lookout
9 Mountain. And I urge your support.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Judge. And
11 please give our regards to Commissioner
12 Martin, please.

13 MR. SLEDGE: I sure will.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Anybody have any questions
15 for the judge?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

18 All right. Let me -- Was it -- Let
19 me just get the ones that I think are
20 here for -- Is it Ms. Phillips?

21 Ms. Phillips, would you ...

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Mine is not very lengthy. But
23 speaking for Battelle, I wanted to give

1 you a copy of a book that was authored
2 by Jay Clark. I don't know if any of
3 you are familiar with him. But he -- I
4 want to go over some of his credentials
5 because he went into the Battelle area
6 in the past two weeks and emailed me
7 pictures of some really neat things over
8 in the Battelle area that I wanted to
9 share with you.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am. All
11 right. We'll pass that around. Thank
12 you, ma'am.

13 MS. PHILLIPS: And Jay is a graduate of the
14 University of Tennessee, and he had
15 research grants in ecology. And he was
16 a certified teacher in physics,
17 chemistry, biology, geology, math, you
18 know, all of these areas. He's a
19 volunteer with the Georgia Natural
20 Resources and he works with wildlife
21 habitat management projects. He's a
22 member of the National Wildlife
23 Federation and Botanical Society. So

1 with all of this, I'm just saying he's a
2 real naturalist and has been his whole
3 life.

4 And I only have one copy of these
5 pictures to give you but -- for you to
6 share. But he has pictures of a large
7 wetland area, a spring over there, a
8 cave, the kaolin mine, and then various
9 flowers and plants that are in that area
10 right now that are very nice plants.
11 And, you know, he is very knowledgeable
12 about all the botanical areas over there
13 and just wanted to back up that it's a
14 very expansive area that has so many
15 different kinds of opportunities for
16 people to share.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I ask you a question,
18 please, ma'am?

19 Forgive my lack of knowledge. But
20 could you just give tell me a little bit
21 about y'all's organization, Progressive
22 Ladies of Northeast Alabama?

23 It would be probably helpful just,

1 you know, for us to know since we're --
2 some of us may not be --

3 MS. PHILLIPS: We have just formed in, I
4 believe, like two years. We have been
5 in existence for about two years. And
6 we've just gotten together to try to
7 promote things that are interests of
8 ladies -- not just democratic ladies,
9 but all ladies' health issues,
10 economical issues, anything -- the
11 environment and any kind of issues that
12 ladies would have in our state.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you for that. Thank
14 you, ma'am.

15 Any other questions?

16 I've got a question for you. Sorry.
17 She tried to sit down quickly. I don't
18 blame her for that.

19 MR. KELLER: It's been stated that these
20 people -- people object about the road;
21 is that correct?

22 MR. JOHNSON: If you would allow me to speak,
23 Commissioner.

1 I'm Lynn Johnson. And we had been
2 looking for a piece of property, my
3 family, for several years. And the
4 Battelle property --

5 MR. ALLEN: Would you speak in the mic,
6 please.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought I --
8 I'm sorry.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: I know. Well, Mr. Keller
10 kind of called you out. We're going to
11 have some people speak against it. Can
12 you --

13 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. I'll make this quick.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. I don't want to cut
15 you short.

16 MR. JOHNSON: My interest here is letting you
17 know -- letting you know that I do
18 support Forever Wild. My family fell in
19 love with this property. We bought it
20 last year about this time of year. And
21 it's a total of about 1100 acres. The
22 access -- and because of that we're
23 here -- cuts through our property, and

1 that's what I want you to consider, to
2 look at; that it would interrupt what
3 we're trying to do, plain and short.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: No problem. Will you state
5 your name one more time.

6 MR. JOHNSON: I'm William Lynn Johnson.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Does anybody have any
8 questions for Mr. Johnson?

9 MR. KELLER: What are you trying to do?

10 MR. JOHNSON: We bought this property just for
11 retirement. We restored a cabin. We
12 have dozers, backhoes, tractors trying
13 to get the property back up. It's
14 Timber property is what it was in the
15 mining camp down there where Battelle
16 was.

17 MR. KELLER: Is there any other way in?

18 MR. JOHNSON: No. No. That's the reason I'm
19 here. There's 1.8 miles that has to go
20 through our property. I'm not very for
21 sure exactly the legality of what and
22 where the road was closed on the county
23 road and what access that we have; okay?

1 MR. KELLER: Is the county maintaining the
2 road?

3 MR. JOHNSON: No.

4 MR. KELLER: Is it on the county map, has been
5 in the past?

6 MR. JOHNSON: You know, we got into this when
7 we purchased this property because of
8 the people that have access. Alex
9 Glover and another landowner has access
10 through our property. It's kind of
11 complicated, and that's the reason I'm
12 here.

13 You know, Forever Wild is a great
14 program. We're doing the same thing.
15 We use it. We love the wildlife, love
16 the mountain. We're right at the foot
17 of the mountain, so ...

18 MR. CAUTHEN: So let me be sure I understand
19 what your purpose is. You oppose
20 Forever Wild buying this property?

21 MR. JOHNSON: I don't oppose Forever Wild
22 buying this. I encourage them. But I
23 oppose them using access through to open

1 it for the public. If there's other
2 access or other ways to get through,
3 then I'm all for it because it is a
4 beautiful piece of property.

5 MR. KELLER: You just said there was no other
6 way through it.

7 MR. JOHNSON: There's not that I know of.
8 Now, I'm -- I'm -- I'm only a year of
9 owning this property, so I really am not
10 for sure exactly what's on the Georgia
11 side -- on that side what's available.
12 And there may be some people here that
13 can answer that better than I can.

14 MR. KELLER: There's no easement then, a
15 written easement for the property?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Just an easement through our
17 property to the landowners. There's
18 only two other landowners, as far as
19 that property goes, in the valley.

20 MR. KELLER: So there's not a written easement
21 to the Battelle?

22 MR. JOHNSON: Just an easement for Alex Glover
23 and another landowner through our

1 property. I don't know if I've answered
2 your question or not.

3 MR. CAUTHEN: It's pretty complicated to
4 unravel these easement and access deals
5 and how long they last. So my -- I
6 expect the staff ...

7 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you for your
8 time.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

10 And I know -- Mr. Keller, if you
11 would, just recognize me if you need
12 somebody to talk because we've got a lot
13 of people that want to speak.

14 And I'm going to tell everybody that
15 the way we operate, if you've never been
16 here before, is if you would like to
17 speak, we want to hear from everybody,
18 for or against. That's -- We're
19 informal kind of, but we're open. We
20 want to hear from you. We want to ask
21 questions. We want you to be able to
22 make your statements.

23 What we do is we ask for you to sign

1 one of these green cards. So there is
2 some formality to this. So, you know,
3 sometimes we get a little ahead of
4 ourselves. But my job is to try to keep
5 us -- keep us in line and keep us
6 formal, as much we can, so that all the
7 board members can get a full
8 understanding of either somebody who's
9 for a project or somebody who's against
10 a project. And we have to respect
11 everybody's opinion in that regard. And
12 just bear with us on that because we do.

13 So if you want to speak because
14 you've heard something you either
15 disagree with or -- please see
16 Ms. Powell, if you haven't already
17 signed up.

18 What I'm going to do -- and I'm
19 going to remind the board -- is I call
20 out the names, so I need to go in order.
21 And what I usually try to do is give
22 everybody for -- it's okay -- I usually
23 try to give everybody for something the

1 opportunity to speak first or somebody
2 against it. It doesn't have to be that
3 way, but it just makes it easier for
4 everybody to have their say without
5 getting into a lot of dialogue.

6 So we do want -- you know, we want
7 to keep it, you know, civil and
8 everything. And, again, everybody
9 should respect everybody's position. So
10 I say that just to kind of give you an
11 idea of how we -- how we operate.

12 So I know there was -- I see a lot
13 of people wanting to raise their hands
14 and they want to say something. And I
15 can't call on you if you have your hand
16 raised because that would just open up
17 for, you know, us not being able to
18 manage the program. But we will
19 recognize you if you want to fill out
20 one of these cards. We ask you to do
21 that at the beginning.

22 But, again, Ms. Powell -- if there's
23 a need for you to say something, please

1 see her. And then recognize that we
2 listen to everybody -- and then I won't
3 say any more about this. So if you say
4 something for something, we're not
5 forgetting what you said. And if you
6 say something against something, we're
7 not going to -- so you don't necessarily
8 have to repeat anything. But,
9 certainly, if there's other information
10 that you can provide or add to somebody
11 else's comments, we appreciate that
12 because it would certainly be helpful.

13 All right. Now that I've gone
14 through that real -- so I would just ask
15 the board members, too, please remember
16 that, you know, let's try to keep it
17 orderly. If you would be recognized,
18 and that way we can always make sure we
19 keep some decorum.

20 All right. Now, I've probably
21 gotten a little lost. But I know
22 that -- I believe there was an Angie
23 Shugart. I saw you had your hand

1 raised, so I'm going to let you speak
2 next, please.

3 MS. SHUGART: Thank you so much. My name is
4 Angie Shugart. I'm with One World
5 Adventure Company. We are the
6 nominating organization for the Battelle
7 property. It was brought to us by some
8 concerned citizens in the Mentone area
9 that the property was being surveyed for
10 fracking and -- or some type of
11 limestone mining.

12 So One World Adventure Company is a
13 not-for-profit organization that teaches
14 outdoor education to youth in DeKalb and
15 Cherokee Counties and surrounding areas,
16 and we also have a program that is an
17 advocacy called the Little River
18 Waterkeeper.

19 And so it raised an eyebrow. We
20 spoke with the landowner, Mr. Alex
21 Glover, Jr., and asked him if this was,
22 indeed, the case, if he was considering
23 mining or fracking the property. And

1 he, indeed, said, yes, that was his --
2 that was -- were his plans, and that it
3 was an investment property; that he
4 was -- he was going through the steps
5 to -- to do so. And we asked him if we
6 could nominate this property to Forever
7 Wild for consideration of an appraisal
8 for purchase. And he said, absolutely,
9 at this point I'm open to anything.

10 And with the significant value of
11 this property, like Mr. Phillips said,
12 that it is a very remote area and it --
13 the springs that are on this property
14 are very pristine. It's the headwaters
15 of the Middle Coosa, and it supplies
16 Valley Head, Hammondville and partially
17 Fort Payne's water supply. So it has
18 great environmental significance to it.
19 So this is why I'm here today in support
20 of this property.

21 Also, it is -- will eventually be
22 part of the Lookout Mountain Gateway
23 Trail, which I am part of a working

1 group that includes the mayors of
2 Mentone and Fort Payne, the Economic
3 Development Board and many other people
4 of the community. And the Lookout
5 Mountain Gateway Trail is an effort to
6 connect the schools, communities and
7 neighborhoods in Fort Payne to our
8 public lands. And with Little River
9 Canyon National Preserve, the wildlife
10 management area in DeSoto State Park in
11 the vicinity of Fort Payne, then we have
12 these great assets that we can -- that
13 we can capitalize on, for lack of a
14 better word, and -- and bring more
15 tourism to our area.

16 Mentone recently lost the oldest
17 hotel in Alabama, Mentone Springs Hotel,
18 by fire last September, I believe it
19 was, and it hit the town pretty hard.
20 So we believe that this land, this
21 property, not only being a good part
22 of -- of the community of Mentone, which
23 is nearby, but also just creating a

1 great circle of -- of interest in
2 recreation and tourism, particularly
3 horseback riding.

4 We have a gentleman who is on our --
5 on our working group for the Lookout
6 Mountain Gateway Trail, and he would
7 love to see more horse trails in our
8 area. And he spoke of the significant
9 economic impact that the horse people
10 are bringing in and -- as well as the
11 other multi-use trails for hiking and
12 biking, possibly even ATV.

13 So we would love to see this
14 property conserved and considered by
15 your board for an appraisal first and
16 then, hopefully, an acquisition.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
18 Ms. Shugart?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

21 MS. SHUGART: Thank you very much.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

23 And then, I believe, Ms. Kiker?

1 MS. KIKER: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

3 MS. KIKER: Hello, my name is Kaye Kiker. And
4 thank you, Commissioner Guy and board
5 members, for giving us the opportunity
6 to speak.

7 I live in Mentone, Alabama. I'm a
8 stained-glass artist and my husband's a
9 poet. We -- We moved to Mentone in 2008
10 from south Alabama. We feel like that's
11 the most beautiful place in the state of
12 Alabama. We live on top of Lookout
13 Mountain.

14 I'm a member of the Progressive
15 Women of Northeast Alabama. And many of
16 us are here. Stand up and you can see
17 we have a large contingency.

18 Our motto is "we dare to think and
19 to act." The preservation and
20 protection of the environment is one of
21 our main interests and -- one of the
22 interests, and I serve as the
23 environmental chair.

1 I'm a long-term environmental
2 activist in the state of Alabama. I've
3 won a Presidential Medal and Governor's
4 Award and other acknowledgements for my
5 volunteer work across the nation. And I
6 love to work on the environmental
7 issues. I've been doing it 31 years, as
8 a volunteer.

9 We come today in support of the
10 nomination of the historic Battelle
11 property. And it is at the foot of
12 Lookout Mountain. It's a beautiful
13 area. The Phillips family live next to
14 it, and I was privileged to see some of
15 the property from their area. And I
16 would like to say that, of course, it
17 was identified as the Glover Family
18 Trust, and I'm going to turn my letter
19 in to you.

20 In the beginning of the 20th
21 century -- I think it was 1902 -- a
22 group of men in Ohio formed what they
23 called a -- let's see. It was a mining

1 company. And because of the -- these
2 resources, they founded Battelle area.
3 But it wasn't called Battelle at that
4 time.

5 There was a Colonel Battelle that
6 was sort of the head of this group. And
7 he moved to the community and he
8 overlooked all the operations there.
9 And people liked him and he would -- the
10 little settlement came together. There
11 were hundreds of homes there, some
12 beautiful, fine homes that were built, a
13 school. There was a water system that
14 piped water to the homes there. There
15 was a commissary, churches all sprung up
16 around in Battelle, Alabama.

17 It's located about five miles
18 northeast of Valley Head. I was on
19 the -- chairman of the water authority
20 for 10 years. And when I was looking to
21 move somewhere, I was looking for water
22 quality, and DeKalb County has it.
23 Battelle area, of course, was already

1 talked about. Their water source there
2 is pristine. And the Valley Head water
3 service is absolutely one of the best in
4 the state of Alabama.

5 Anyway, there's nothing much to show
6 that it was a prosperous town at --
7 there now. But if you want to know more
8 of the history -- and I've got some
9 copies for you -- the Cherokee
10 Historical Society has some
11 documentation, pictures, letters, a lot
12 of information that was provided by
13 Robert N. Mann, who was born in
14 Battelle. There was a hospital there
15 too.

16 Anyway, DeKalb County is pretty much
17 a destination for tourism because of the
18 beautiful mountains and the valley below
19 where Battelle was. It is full of
20 artists. Master artisans live in the
21 woods in Mentone where I live. The
22 group "Alabama" lived there. Their
23 families, their band members live in --

1 near DeKalb -- I mean, in DeKalb County
2 near Fort Payne. Sequoia, the Indian
3 who taught the alphabet, lived in DeKalb
4 County at the time he was doing that
5 work. Anyway, there's a lot of history
6 there and the beauty, of course.

7 I think the Battelle property
8 acquisition would add to the
9 attractions. It's sort of a magnet for
10 tourism anyway in the area. There are
11 11 youth camps up on the Mentone -- on
12 top of Lookout Mountain and some other
13 activities in Fort Payne and other
14 places. So it's a tourism trap anyway.
15 But it's a very lovely area, and I just
16 recommend the Battelle property.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Ms. Kiker. Any
18 questions?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: We'll pass that around.

21 Thank you very much.

22 Any questions?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you,
2 ma'am.

3 And, I believe, there's Toni
4 McGriff?

5 MS. MCGRIFF: Good morning, ladies and
6 gentleman. Thank you for being here. I
7 will be very brief. I did not intend to
8 speak today. But you do see our group
9 of ladies over here. We're the
10 Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama
11 and we represent three counties:
12 Jackson, DeKalb and Marshall County.
13 Our full membership is not here today.
14 Our focus is on issues that affect
15 women. And you might think, well, what
16 would be that be. Well, education is
17 our number one, health is one of our
18 main issues and the environment is one
19 of our main issues. And we are in
20 support of you taking full consideration
21 of this request today on the Battelle
22 property because what it does is
23 preserve it for future generations.

1 I'm pleased to have my 11-year-old
2 granddaughter here today. I don't know
3 that she's too pleased. But she's
4 sitting back here and she's getting to
5 see how these things work. Because just
6 on Saturday we took her up to Little
7 River Canyon, on to DeSoto Falls. And
8 if you've not seen DeSoto Falls, it is
9 breathtaking.

10 This state is full of beauty all the
11 way from the coastal region and all over
12 northeast Alabama as well. I know you
13 know that. And so this group of women
14 have come together to support the
15 acquisition of the Battelle property
16 because it provides a quality of life
17 for our area that's not necessarily
18 available many other places. It
19 protects the environment and it
20 preserves it for the future. Thank you
21 very much.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. All right.

23 Now, we have a few more. I think

1 there's Mr. Robert Brown? Mr. Brown?

2 MR. BROWN: Hey, I'm here to comment on -- on
3 the Battelle property. And I'll just
4 let you know that I'm not only from
5 Valley Head, but I grew up on the
6 particular piece of property that's
7 being talked about. And my granddaddy
8 sold it to the Glovers back in the '90s.
9 I think there should be some stuff she
10 brought up that I should clarify about
11 the -- the access.

12 First, we declared -- the road was a
13 public road. And in the early '80s,
14 before I was born, we went through the
15 process and had it declared private. So
16 the access to the property is -- there
17 is a private easement to get through
18 there, but to get through there, you've
19 got to go on a portion of the property
20 that I own, a portion of the property
21 that the Johnsons own and then, again,
22 another portion of the property that we
23 own. So I think there's 1.8 miles that

1 the Johnsons own, again, probably half a
2 mile that's going to be on us.

3 And I'm in support of the Forever
4 Wild Program and what's wanting to be
5 done here. I am not in support of
6 turning that back into a public road.
7 And if that -- you know, if that's the
8 case, I don't -- we're not going to give
9 up our easement to have it turned into a
10 public.

11 There are a couple other things I'd
12 like to clarify. The -- The property is
13 probably 80 percent on the side of
14 Lookout Mountain with 20, maybe 30
15 percent in the valley. They printed out
16 a topo. I don't have any aerial photos
17 or topo that you can see that.

18 Now, as far as the property not
19 being cut in 20 or 25 years, that's
20 incorrect. The property was clearcut
21 probably six or eight years ago. And it
22 is a high-site index site. And it was
23 in hardwood, but now there's several

1 thousand stems per acre of sweetgum that
2 are about seven years old. So anybody
3 that's familiar with forestry knows that
4 you're not going to be able to establish
5 your firebreaks, conduct an aerial
6 herbicide application, a site-prep burn
7 and a replant. Now you're going to have
8 to get in there on very steep terrain
9 and put in some type of mechanical site
10 prep to get the place back into
11 production.

12 Now, second off, everybody talked
13 about how the property was an old mining
14 town. There's air shafts -- and I don't
15 know all of them, and I've lived there
16 for 28 years -- that if somebody was to
17 be hiking or camping or doing whatever,
18 you get in one of those air shafts,
19 you're gone.

20 Now, there was several -- mention of
21 several -- there were lots of different
22 houses and stuff. And back in the --
23 you know, the late 18, early 1900s what

1 did all those houses have? They had
2 wells. There's dozens of unmarked wells
3 up there that could potentially be --
4 you know, could potentially, you know,
5 cause some type of danger. And if the
6 state wants to go through there and mark
7 every one of those wells, you know, that
8 might would be -- be the case.

9 Now, access -- Like I said, I'm in
10 favor for the property being bought. I
11 just think the board should be aware of
12 some of the circumstances that are
13 there.

14 Now, the wetlands -- The creek that
15 was talked about is the headwaters of
16 Lookout Creek which eventually flows
17 into the Tennessee River, and it is a
18 several-thousand-acre watershed.

19 Now, the wetlands that were
20 discussed is just 20 years of bad beaver
21 control. None of those are natural
22 wetlands. It's just that the beavers
23 won. And if the property is purchased,

1 I highly encourage the state to go up
2 there and kill all the beavers because
3 they cause me one heck of a headache.

4 And with that being said, you know,
5 I believe that -- I didn't -- I
6 didn't -- This is the first meeting like
7 this and I was not prepared. But if I
8 had some -- a plat or an aerial
9 photograph, I believe that the -- the
10 access could be obtained through a
11 couple different ways.

12 Now, there's a few Brow properties
13 that tie into County Road 89 in DeKalb
14 County that actually -- I believe that
15 touch the Battelle property. I'm not a
16 hundred-percent sure on that. But that
17 place was -- The top of the bluff up
18 there was strip-mined for coal in 1980
19 and 1981. And my dad drove a
20 tandem-axle truck from that county road
21 back into Battelle.

22 So there are a couple of different
23 possibilities for access. I mean, we

1 talk about county roads and this and
2 that. A road can be made with a
3 bulldozer. So if you've got access, you
4 know -- I just don't want the access to
5 come through me. And I'm not willing to
6 relinquish that.

7 Yes?

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland?

9 DR. STRICKLAND: How much traffic do you have
10 now?

11 MR. BROWN: Do we have now?

12 DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah.

13 MR. BROWN: Little to none. There's myself,
14 my father, the Johnsons here and that's
15 it. So you're talking, you know, other
16 than two families and then with the
17 exception of deer season. The Glovers
18 have got the property leased to -- to a
19 gentleman who accesses it to deer-hunt.
20 So you're -- You know, every vehicle
21 that drives down that road I know who it
22 is; and if I don't, I'm on my way to
23 find out.

1 DR. STRICKLAND: And one other question.

2 MR. BROWN: Yes, sir.

3 DR. STRICKLAND: What do you feel the
4 potential for recreational development
5 would be for the property?

6 MR. BROWN: Well, you know, the Forever Wild
7 has four categories. It can be turned
8 into a state park, a wildlife management
9 area, a nature preserve or a -- I forgot
10 what the other one is. You know, I
11 believe with the historical value and
12 some of the plants species and stuff
13 that are up there -- I believe it would
14 be more lent toward a nature preserve,
15 you know.

16 Then also -- And my other question
17 is will or will there not be hunting
18 provisions. I know that a lot of -- a
19 lot of -- high percentage of the Forever
20 Wild is, you know, left for hunting.
21 I'm personally opposed to that because
22 I've got property that borders it and I
23 don't want to be coming into a

1 management area.

2 But I believe if the property was
3 purchased for the intent of education,
4 youth education, I believe where it's
5 located at, that would be a high asset
6 to the citizens of Alabama. And I
7 believe, you know, if we could get the
8 access through there that it would -- it
9 would definitely be worth -- worth
10 looking into.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

12 MR. CAUTHEN: I've got one.

13 MR. BROWN: Yes, sir.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

15 MR. CAUTHEN: You -- You indicated --

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

17 MR. CAUTHEN: You indicated that the hunters
18 were there in the -- during the hunting
19 season. How do they get in?

20 MR. BROWN: They've got -- There is a private
21 easement through us that is no longer
22 public. At one point in time that was a
23 public road, but we had it closed

1 through the county. I think we had to
2 put something in the paper for three
3 weeks. And it went from a public
4 road -- We had the road declared closed
5 and private. So, therefore, there is no
6 longer a public easement through that
7 property.

8 MR. CAUTHEN: But those hunters do come
9 through you?

10 MR. BROWN: They do, yes, sir.

11 MR. CAUTHEN: By what arrangement is that?

12 MR. BROWN: There's a -- They come through a
13 dirt road from a private easement.
14 Mr. Glover has an easement through our
15 property, a private easement, not
16 public.

17 So the only problem that I have is I
18 don't want the -- my -- The thing that
19 I'm opposed to is the road that goes
20 through our property and the Johnsons'
21 property being turned public and then,
22 you know, everybody and their brother
23 can go up there whenever and however

1 and -- and that's what I'm opposed to.

2 But, you know, like I said, another
3 possibility would be coming off of 89,
4 you know, that comes through the
5 mountain. You know, that would be a
6 significant development to create a
7 travelable road to get in and out of the
8 property.

9 Now, Mr. Phillips is here, and he is
10 an adjacent landowner. He could
11 possibly sell you or give you an
12 easement to gain access. I would just
13 rather it not go through our property.

14 Yes, sir?

15 MR. KELLER: Do you hunt?

16 MR. BROWN: I do, yes, sir.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Anything else, Mr. Keller?

18 Do you have any questions?

19 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Go ahead. Is that
21 the only one?

22 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Anybody else?

1 Because I have a question.

2 MR. BROWN: Yes, sir.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So you don't
4 need to go into details. But,
5 obviously, I've heard from both sides
6 here, and I know Mr. Johnson is against
7 that access.

8 Have y'all had discussions with the
9 people that have nominated it about the
10 issue of the easement?

11 MR. BROWN: No, sir. I happened to be looking
12 through a "Groundhog," which is a
13 local --

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: No problem.

15 MR. BROWN: -- news outlet and saw it that way
16 and came to the meeting.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. You don't have
18 to stand up. Is that the same -- You're
19 not here -- Okay. So y'all are just
20 here to express that, but you haven't
21 been engaged with the --

22 MR. BROWN: No, sir, we have not.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I think that's

1 helpful to us.

2 All right. Any other questions?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. You did a good
5 job.

6 MR. BROWN: Yes, sir. Appreciate it.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: You didn't need to be much
8 more prepared than that.

9 And then I have, I believe, here one
10 last speaker that has signed up. Is it
11 Ms. Johnson?

12 MS. JOHNSON: I spoke.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, you already -- okay.

14 All right. Did I miss anybody that
15 had signed up for that?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
18 you very much.

19 All right. I appreciate everybody's
20 information and thanks for your patience
21 on that. And I think -- Does anybody
22 have any follow-up questions just
23 since ...

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Very good.

3 Steve Northcutt? Is Steve here?

4 Yeah, there he is.

5 MR. NORTHCUTT: I've got a few handouts
6 that -- I'm going to start with Ray
7 here.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Steve, before you get up,
9 can I ask you a question?

10 MR. PHILLIPS: Sure.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: I've noticed, for the folks
12 that nominated the last tract, other
13 than -- you gave out some -- some
14 information about the tract, but we -- I
15 don't think any of us have seen an
16 aerial or some kind of real property
17 map. Could y'all get that to our --
18 some of our staff?

19 MS. JOHNSON: Sir, I have some in my car.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So I'll let anybody
21 that wants to provide that to our staff
22 and make sure that the board has -- has
23 a copy of that. So if you'll see

1 Ms. Powell or Ms. Lewis there or
2 whatever. And I appreciate that very
3 much.

4 I'm sorry for interrupting you,
5 Steve.

6 MR. NORTHCUTT: So thank you. I know it's
7 been a long meeting and I'll try to be
8 brief. My name is Steve Northcutt. I'm
9 the director of protection for The
10 Nature Conservancy. And I'm bringing up
11 the property that is in the Coosa
12 Wildlife Management Area. I think
13 you're very familiar with the history of
14 land acquisition in this WMA. It's one
15 of the oldest WMAs. It's been part of
16 the WMA system for 62 years.

17 As most people know, wildlife
18 management areas are sometimes owned in
19 fee simple and sometimes lease. So
20 sometimes property within those WMAs can
21 be removed. And if you look at the map
22 that -- at one point you had multiple,
23 thousands of acres. 32,000 is what

1 the -- the map shows. You've actually
2 lost almost 11,000 acres of WMA at that
3 site.

4 So my map on this handout shows the
5 ownership, that Forever Wild has made
6 two acquisitions there from Hancock.
7 One tract was about 9700 acres. The
8 other tract was about 900 acres.

9 This property that is being
10 nominated is 877 acres and it adjoins
11 the property. It has road -- It has
12 frontage along Hatchet Creek. It's one
13 of the few areas in the state that
14 actually has active red-cockaded
15 woodpecker colonies. And Hancock has
16 done a really good job of managing this
17 property. About half of it is longleaf
18 pine, mature longleaf pine, because
19 that's what these RCW, or red-cockaded
20 woodpeckers, look for.

21 And so you would have the amenities
22 of the water, great hunting and an
23 addition to the property that you would

1 own in fee simple to be able to use for
2 the citizens of Alabama forever. So I
3 think this is a property that is kind of
4 obvious in terms of benefits to the
5 state.

6 And the only other thing I was going
7 to ask is -- I checked with Chuck before
8 I did this, and I was just going to have
9 like a one-minute quick overview from
10 Drew Nix, who has actually been on the
11 property and known about it for years.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Drew.

13 MR. NIX: As Steve said, my name is Drew Nix
14 with the Wildlife and Freshwater
15 Fisheries. The tract that's been
16 nominated does have RCWs on it, a good,
17 natural stand of native longleaf timber
18 on it. The rest of it is composed of
19 loblolly pine plantations and hardwood
20 drains and frontage on Hatchet Creek.
21 It's a good tract there for the WMA.

22 MR. NORTHCUTT: So that's really the main
23 focus. If anybody has any questions,

1 we're here to answer any questions you
2 have.

3 DR. WOODS: I see from the photograph that
4 there appears to be a lot of clear area.
5 You can see ground. What is that? Is
6 it clearcut?

7 MR. NIX: There might be a few small areas of
8 clearcut on that property. I haven't
9 seen the photo that you're particularly
10 looking at. I do have one that's in the
11 package, if it's the same.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: I've got it.

13 MR. NORTHCUTT: So this has been scored. And
14 you're going to get some better maps
15 when you go into your meeting. So you
16 may be able to get a better idea of
17 that.

18 I had Drew come up because I've
19 actually never been on the property.
20 But for years we've known about this
21 property for the RCW. The U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife has been out there monitoring
23 that. And of all the groups we've

1 worked with, these TMOs, Hancock has
2 done a wonderful job of managing that,
3 keeping that cluster alive.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: So while he's looking at
5 that and maybe for the board's -- I
6 never know what the board might know --
7 but what I'm understanding is this --
8 this is part of that WMA that was
9 withdrawn. This adjoins it. Is that
10 right, Chuck? Where's Chuck?

11 Chuck, is that part of that?

12 MR. SYKES: It's on the bottom portion of it.
13 We still have access to the land it
14 adjoins. We've lost the center of it.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right. That's the center
16 part here that's outlined?

17 MR. NORTHCUTT: So here -- here's a better
18 map.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: I was just trying to
20 explain to the board there was a part of
21 it -- Chuck, you correct me, just so the
22 board understands. The Coosa WMA was a
23 privately-held piece of property that

1 allowed us to manage that as a WMA. And
2 as -- we have a lot of those, a lot more
3 than people think. And that particular
4 company, or owner, decided that they
5 wanted to take that out of our WMA
6 system, which was about how many acres?

7 MR. SYKES: It was 11,000.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: 11,000. So, if I
9 understand what you're -- what you're
10 saying here, that you've got Forever
11 Wild property up here that we'd already
12 purchased that adjoined it, and this is
13 an additional purchase that you're
14 nominating here?

15 MR. NORTHCUTT: Yes, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: And that's -- So that
17 people aren't confused by the map, the
18 other part is the part that's been
19 withdrawn?

20 MR. NORTHCUTT: So the northern portion is the
21 portion you're referring to.

22 MR. NIX: That is currently in the WMA under a
23 lease agreement through 2016.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

2 MR. NIX: The property that we lost was
3 actually north of the Forever Wild
4 Cahaba Tract, the original Cahaba
5 purchase.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: So this is still in a
7 lease, though?

8 MR. NIX: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is that privately held in
10 the lease, I assume?

11 MR. NIX: Yes, sir. It's adjacent to the
12 Hancock Phase II purchase that Forever
13 Wild completed last year.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, I don't know if that
15 helped anybody. But, anyway, so that
16 WMA is smaller because of our loss of
17 that, just for information purposes.

18 Any questions? Yes, Mr. Cauthen?

19 MR. CAUTHEN: Who are the owners of Hancock
20 Timber -- No.

21 MR. NORTHCUTT: So Hancock Timber Resource
22 Group is a TMO, and they manage
23 portfolio assets, a lot of the pension

1 funds. And so this -- this property, I
2 really have no idea who owns it, but the
3 people that do own it have said they're
4 willing to sell it.

5 MR. CAUTHEN: All right. What I really want
6 to know is who owns Cahaba Forests, LLC.

7 MR. NORTHCUTT: Hancock Timber Resource Group
8 hires that entity to manage the
9 property. So they -- they manage the
10 timber on that.

11 MR. CAUTHEN: So you don't have a name of any
12 single soul that --

13 MR. NORTHCUTT: Well, to give you an example,
14 we're working with Hancock right now on
15 a piece of property, 1400 acres, in
16 Chilton County to acquire. We've been
17 working through them. But the LLC is a
18 multiple name -- it's actually owned by
19 General Electric.

20 So this -- this property could be
21 owned by the Pension -- Retirement
22 System of California. We really don't
23 know. Until you get an appraisal and

1 when you enter into an agreement,
2 they'll tell you the exact entity
3 ownership. But they manage it and they
4 manage all the acquisitions. I mean,
5 you've done two acquisitions here
6 previously.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. And so, Mr. Cauthen,
8 if it helps, sometimes you get with
9 those TMOs -- you might have private
10 owners that are -- you know, that have
11 that --

12 MR. NORTHCUTT: That's right.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- group together or it
14 could be a company or could be -- But we
15 can get that information if you have an
16 interest or the board has an interest in
17 nominating it. They would have to come
18 forward and provide information about
19 that.

20 MR. NORTHCUTT: Right.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Correct?

22 MR. NORTHCUTT: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right, Patti? Am I correct

1 on that?

2 MS. POWELL: I'm sorry?

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. I was just saying
4 if -- where a TMO owns this, that we're
5 going to have to get that information,
6 provide it to the board; is that right?

7 MS. POWELL: Correct. At this point the --
8 the -- for scoring purposes and to move
9 on in the scoring, we just have to know
10 the willing-seller status, and so that's
11 what we -- at this point, yes, that
12 information just to --

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm not trying to
14 discourage the question. I just wanted
15 you to know that you will be able to get
16 that before you move forward on that.

17 MR. NORTHCUTT: In fact, we've acquired
18 property from Hancock before, and it was
19 owned by the insurance company. We
20 literally bought it from John Hancock
21 Life Insurance. So you really never
22 know until you get into it.

23 But they're willing sellers. They

1 would like to see this as part of the --
2 the WMA because it would go from
3 potentially being bought by anybody to
4 now being part of the state ownership.
5 So hopefully today, if you consider this
6 opportunity, you would look into getting
7 a first appraisal.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I'm you assuming, Drew,
9 we would look at this as, obviously,
10 bought for hunting purposes --

11 MR. NIX: Yes, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- for part of this WMA?

13 MR. NORTHCUTT: And I've been told it has
14 really good turkey hunting.

15 MR. NIX: Don't tell that to everybody, but it
16 is good turkey hunting on that tract.

17 MR. NORTHCUTT: Thank you so much.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Steve.
19 Appreciate it very much.

20 And our last speaker is -- is it
21 Mr. --

22 MR. ATHEY: Athey.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- Athey?

1 Thank you, Mr. Athey. I'm sorry.

2 Good to see you again.

3 MR. ATHEY: I appreciate it. I've come to
4 speak to the issue of my place, which is
5 in -- on Pintala Creek. It's about a
6 three-mile frontage there. It's about a
7 mile and a half on the Alabama River.

8 I have an interest in moving the
9 place. I've developed some increasing
10 issues with health since I've seen y'all
11 last. My daughter is unable to take up
12 the place and that sort of thing. I
13 would much prefer to see it remain in
14 the similar state that it is now than to
15 see it being cut up and broke apart.

16 I think y'all have had some review
17 of it. I don't know how much. I'd be
18 happy to answer any questions. It's
19 right on the Montgomery County line, 13
20 miles from downtown Montgomery. It's
21 amenable to almost any type of
22 recreation. There's an excellent boat
23 ramp within a couple of miles of it at

1 Gunter Hill Park, that sort of thing.

2 The gentleman on the end likes to
3 ask about prices and that sort of thing.
4 We can talk about that. I would be -- I
5 would be willing to give up some
6 potential profit of it just to see it
7 stay in the same state that it is. You
8 know, money is good and I like money, as
9 most all of us do, I suppose. But I
10 don't think there would be a place like
11 this that will come along too often that
12 close to Montgomery as pretty as it is.
13 I thank you for your time.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Any questions
15 for Mr. Athey?

16 MR. CAUTHEN: What was your name, sir?

17 MR. ATHEY: Athey, Thomas Athey.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: He was at our --

19 MR. ATHEY: February meeting.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- February meeting,

21 Mr. Cauthen. You might remember him.

22 MR. ATHEY: I appreciate it.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir. Appreciate
3 you coming up here.

4 All right. So I thank everybody for
5 their comments and certainly for their
6 patience, and we appreciate hearing from
7 everyone. And I know a couple of the
8 board members want a break.

9 So what we're going to do here is --
10 By regulation, appraisal values are
11 confidential during periods of
12 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
13 discuss tract appraisal values, the
14 board will need to go into recess for an
15 executive session.

16 I need a motion from the board to
17 now recess to attend to an executive
18 session. Do I have a motion?

19 MR. CAUTHEN: I'll make it.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Do I have a
21 second?

22 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. All in favor of

1 the motion say "aye."

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

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So what we'll
7 do, for the public, we will take this
8 executive session, and we'll be -- we'll
9 take about a 20-minute break for that.
10 But we're probably going to take a -- at
11 least a five-minute break before that to
12 go -- before we go into our executive
13 session because I think we could all use
14 that. So I would just say that let's
15 try to be back in here at approximately
16 12:15, which would be a little over 25
17 minutes.

18 So we'll recess at this time, and
19 then we'll come back to go over program
20 status and miscellaneous reports and
21 then any discussions of nominations.
22 Thank y'all.

23 (Meeting adjourned for executive

1 session at 11:45 a.m.)

2 (Meeting resumed at 12:24 p.m.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we'll get started with
4 the rest of our agenda so we can get
5 something to eat here maybe.

6 Okay. So at this time, my watch
7 says we went a little past what we
8 wanted to, but it's about 12:24. We're
9 back from recess, and we'll hear from
10 Chris Smith about program status report.

11 Mr. Smith?

12 MR. SMITH: All right. Thank you,
13 Commissioner. And good afternoon, Board
14 Members. I will begin to go through to
15 update you on your current financial
16 status.

17 If you will look in Tab 1, you can
18 see that your current balance is
19 21,516,000.

20 We currently have seven nominations
21 that are in various stages of closing.
22 And they include the Heron Bay, which is
23 a nomination of 582 acres in Mobile

1 County; the Sipse River Swamp-T.H.
2 Robertson Tract, which is 1,889 acres in
3 Tuscaloosa County; the Riverton
4 Community Hunting Area-Hog Hollow Tract,
5 507 acres in Colbert County; the
6 Riverton Community Hunting Area-RMK
7 Tract, 20 acres in Colbert County.

8 Also, we have the Sipse River
9 Swamp-Springer Tract, which is 939 acres
10 in Tuscaloosa County; the
11 Perdido-Barnhill WMA Tract, 191 acres in
12 Baldwin County; and then finally the
13 Sipse-Pruett, which is a 274-acre tract
14 in Tuscaloosa County. Those seven
15 tracts are in some stage of closing.

16 We also have two nominations that
17 the board has motioned previously to
18 purchase that we continue to be in
19 negotiation about. Those are the Big
20 Canoe Creek Preserve Tract and the
21 Dothan Trail Nomination Tract.

22 Considering those various
23 transactions, your unencumbered balance

1 at this time is 9,913,000, and that is
2 within your capital spending authority
3 of 18 million.

4 On the next page we list the
5 different Forever Wild properties that
6 have completed closing or been
7 purchased. During the 2014 fiscal year,
8 we've had seven nominations that have
9 completed purchase. They are the
10 Riverton Community Hunting Area-Ables
11 Road Addition, 160 acres in Lauderdale
12 County; Blue Springs State Park-West
13 Addition, 100 acres in Barbour County;
14 the Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift Number
15 1-Martin Addition, 63 acres in Baldwin
16 County; Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift Number
17 3-Lipscomb Addition, 40 acres in Baldwin
18 County; the Cahaba River-Shelby Park
19 Addition, 460 acres in Shelby County;
20 the Sipsey River-Sullivan Tract, 624
21 acres, Tuscaloosa County; and the Walls
22 of Jericho-Hurricane Creek Addition, 277
23 acres in Jackson County.

1 On the next page you can see the
2 stewardship expenditures at this point.
3 At this time there has been \$303,000
4 spent toward different maintenance and
5 habitat management and habitat
6 restoration projects. You know, our
7 budget for FY14 is one million. At this
8 time we have roughly 696,000 that
9 remains left to be spent during this
10 fiscal year. And we are entering right
11 now our heavy maintenance and management
12 action time, so that will be drastically
13 different at our next meeting.

14 Okay. So that -- that completes the
15 financial status part update.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you,
19 Chris.

20 MR. SMITH: Now we can move on to Tab 2. This
21 tab has all of the nominations on which
22 the board has a motion to get a first
23 appraisal, and I'll just list those.

1 They include Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift
2 Number 2, which is 29 acres in Baldwin
3 County; the Pritchett Tract, which is 400
4 acres in Covington County; the Lillian
5 Swamp Tract, 689 acres in Baldwin
6 County, and then the Martin
7 Timber-Forever Wild Land Swap; and then
8 the Skyline WMA-Little Coon Creek
9 Addition in Jackson County.

10 So that gives you an overview of the
11 different nominations that were motioned
12 to have first appraisals done on. So if
13 you don't have any questions, I'll move
14 into the grant update.

15 We currently have three -- three
16 federal grant program or grant proposals
17 or awards in play. One of them is --
18 was awarded back in 2011 and is
19 associated with the purchase of two
20 nominations; that is, the Portersville
21 Bay Tract and the Heron Bay Tract. Both
22 of those are in Mobile County.

23 We have completed the purchase of

1 the Portersville Bay Tract. And during
2 the closing of the Heron Bay Tract there
3 was some title issues that were
4 discovered, and I've actually included a
5 memo in your packet that kind of details
6 a little bit more information about
7 those title issues. And I'm going to
8 cover that in a little more detail in
9 our miscellaneous reports section.

10 The second federal grant proposal or
11 award that we have in play is also
12 associated with the National Coastal
13 Wetland Grant Program, and it's
14 associated with the Lillian Swamp
15 nomination. This was awarded about a
16 year ago in the spring of 2013, and it's
17 associated with roughly 75 percent of
18 the purchase price of that nomination.
19 That -- That nomination is located in
20 Baldwin County adjacent to other
21 Lillian -- or other Forever Wild-owned
22 properties.

23 And the third grant award that we

1 have in play is associated with a grant
2 that we've actually received since the
3 February meeting. The Weeks Bay Reserve
4 State Lands Division staff has submitted
5 a land acquisition grant from the
6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
7 Administration, or NOAA, Land
8 Acquisition Program. And they received
9 word that their proposal was funded.
10 This proposal was submitted in
11 association with the Benton
12 nomination -- the Weeks Bay
13 Reserve-Benton nomination, and that
14 award is for \$1 million to go toward the
15 purchase of that nomination. And
16 that -- that grant program is a 50/50
17 match program, so -- And that Jo had
18 mentioned that nomination is one that's
19 short-listed, and she will be talking
20 about that here a little bit later
21 during the short-list presentation.

22 One final piece of information as
23 far as grant status. Since our last

1 meeting we did receive reimbursement for
2 the \$150,000 that was associated with
3 the Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift-Martin and
4 Lipscomb purchases that were closed
5 recently. So we have had that
6 reimbursed back into the Forever Wild
7 Land Trust money.

8 And as always, we -- we continue to
9 evaluate the nominations that you have
10 in front of you on the short list and
11 nominations that we routinely receive
12 for their -- to see if they qualify for
13 different grant programs, and we
14 continue to do that all the time. So
15 that's it.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Any questions
17 for Mr. Smith?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: And, again, there might be
20 something that comes up and they may
21 have a question a little bit later.

22 MR. SMITH: Sure.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thanks, Chris.

1 Okay. I'm going to -- Actually, on
2 the agenda here I'm going to deviate a
3 little bit. Because right here we have
4 nominations, but I think I want to make
5 sure that we talk about -- let you go
6 ahead and do the information that Jo was
7 going to present.

8 MS. POWELL: Yeah. Jo Lewis is going -- is
9 going to run through that. The
10 information is in your packet, but Jo is
11 going to just briefly help you kind of
12 run through that.

13 MR. CAUTHEN: Which page is this on?

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: This is going to be the --

15 MS. POWELL: It's Tab 4.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Tab 4. She's just going to
17 provide us information on our short
18 list.

19 MS. LEWIS: All right. I'm going --

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Lewis?

21 MS. LEWIS: Thank you. I'm going to run
22 through it very quickly.

23 Good morning. And for the sake of

1 the audience and the minutes, my name is
2 Jo Lewis. I work with the State Lands
3 Division, and I'm going to talk about
4 the active nominations that are in
5 evaluation of those nominations this
6 morning. As usual we provided each
7 board member with a packet of
8 information, so I'm going to go through
9 what you have very quickly.

10 In Tab 4a you have an alphabetical
11 list of the nominations that
12 short-listed last year. And you can see
13 on the notes things -- how they have
14 progressed or if no actions were taken.
15 That is a report that we're providing
16 each time now in the packet so we can
17 watch the progression of the
18 short-listed tracts.

19 Following that in Tab 4b, there are
20 six reports of information about all of
21 the active nominations, whether they
22 short-listed or not. They've been
23 nominated and they have a willing

1 seller, and at this point they have been
2 scored. The reports are, one, a list of
3 the nominations, and we -- we provide
4 that in each packet of information four
5 times a year. The other five reports we
6 do not provide every time. The other
7 reports are a more detailed report,
8 including who nominated it and who owned
9 it, and then four copies of the same
10 information sorted by the different
11 category of uses. So you can -- if
12 you're interested in one category of
13 use, you can look for your nomination
14 and see how well it scored.

15 Now, in Tab 4c is this year's, or
16 2014's, short list, which again, as
17 always, is the top three-scoring tracts
18 in each category of use in each
19 geographic region of the state. So
20 hypothetically there could be 36. At
21 this time there is -- there are 23.
22 I've presented it in two different
23 reports. One is in a table format. So

1 if you're interested in any of the
2 category of uses, you can see that
3 category of uses' top three tracts. To
4 simplify it is a condensed version with
5 only the 23 nominations listed
6 alphabetically.

7 And, please remember, some of the
8 nominations kind of get nicknames. Like
9 the Benton Tract is the Weeks Bay
10 Reserve-Benton Tract. And the
11 Stubblefield Tract you've heard referred
12 to is Lake Guntersville State
13 Park-Stubblefield Mountain Addition.
14 Those are the more registered names. So
15 you might have to look in more than one
16 place.

17 And, again, that 2014 short list is
18 a report that you'll get in each packet
19 that will be updated throughout the
20 year.

21 Finally, in Section 4d -- are you
22 ready, Ashley -- we have all of those 23
23 short-listed nominations arranged in the

1 same way as the alphabetical list. So
2 these are the short list maps and
3 narratives. And for the sake of the
4 audience or for any
5 coordination/conversation you guys would
6 like to have, we're also going to show
7 them to you on the PowerPoint. And I'm
8 going to read through that list and try
9 to make points that -- of clarity on any
10 specific ones.

11 The first one alphabetically is the
12 Beaverdam Swamp. This is -- That's near
13 Huntsville, and it's the only known
14 location of the federally-threatened
15 fish species. It's a relatively small
16 tract.

17 The next one is Byrne -- Byrnes
18 Lake, which is a rather large tract in
19 south Alabama that's adjacent to the
20 wildlife management areas and some other
21 state holdings that would provide some
22 strong road access.

23 Third is the Coosa Wildlife

1 Management Area-Hancock Phase III
2 Addition. Mr. Northcutt spoke to this
3 one. It is adjacent to the Phase II
4 acquisition.

5 Number four would be DeSoto State
6 Park-Gray Road Addition. And number --
7 number six is the DeSoto State
8 Park-Steward Gap Addition. Seventh is
9 Double Mountain. The next is Emauhee
10 Creek Lake. Then we have Gunterville
11 State Park-Stubblefield Mountain
12 Addition. That's the 600 acres that you
13 can see if you step out -- step out on
14 the deck.

15 Then we have Indian Mountain-Simmons
16 Addition. This one is adjacent to the
17 Indian Mountain Forever Wild tracts that
18 have been in possession -- ownership for
19 a long time. It also provides an open
20 access to those from a hard road top to
21 those tracts and would open an
22 opportunity for a trailhead to the
23 Pinhoti there, which is also connected

1 to the Appalachian Trail.

2 After that one we have Laguna Cove,
3 which is right on the beach. Then we
4 have Lurleen Lake -- Lake Lurleen State
5 Forest-Roebuck Addition. This has been
6 an active nomination since early 2011.

7 After that we have Mobile-Tensaw
8 Delta, the Simmons Addition. This would
9 be obviously adjacent on two sides to
10 some holdings in the Mobile-Tensaw
11 Delta. Then we have Natural Bridge
12 Creek Tract, which is right on the
13 Florida -- Alabama-Florida line.

14 Next is Old Cahawba Prairie
15 Addition. This nomination came in kind
16 of at the last minute, but it was within
17 the time deadline. And it's a pretty
18 good size, 1500 acres, and it's adjacent
19 to the current Forever Wild-Old Cahawba
20 Prairie Tract.

21 Then we move on to Post Oak
22 Flat-Shiflett Addition adjacent to
23 holdings in Jackson County; the Red

1 Hills-Fountain Tract in Monroe County;
2 the Skyline WMA-Pole Branch Addition,
3 again adjacent to holdings in Jackson
4 County; and Splinter Hill Bog-North
5 Addition. Keith Tassin and Dr. Kolb
6 spoke to this one. And it's adjacent to
7 the current holdings at Splinter Hill
8 Bog and has actually been nominated and
9 evaluated in different formats
10 repeatedly over the years.

11 Then we're going to The Middle
12 Ridges Tract. After that we have the
13 Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Shepherd
14 Addition, which Mr. Yeager spoke to with
15 his PowerPoint, and that's adjacent to
16 the Forever Wild holdings at Turkey
17 Creek.

18 And then we have the Walls of
19 Jericho-Estillfork Addition, which
20 obviously fits in pretty well with
21 holdings. It's not immediately adjacent
22 to our ownership, but to a large
23 conservation easement and not far from

1 some Forever Wild ownership.

2 Then we have the Weeks Bay
3 Reserve-Benton Addition, which Walter
4 Ernest spoke to earlier today. And
5 there is a federal grant for about 50
6 percent of the value, a 50/50 match from
7 NOAA that would be available to
8 subsidize the expense of that one.

9 And then the last one on the list is
10 the Yates Lake-Guy Addition. You can
11 see that this piece lies between the
12 Yates Lake-Weil and the Yates Lake-West.
13 It's a lock and key, fits pretty well
14 with holdings there in Elmore County.

15 I have spent a lot of time with all
16 these nominations. So if you have any
17 questions, I'll be happy to try to
18 answer them.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

20 I want to start off. Like this last
21 one, the Yates Lake-Guy, I was looking
22 at that earlier. Do you have the
23 date -- when did that come up? Was it

1 February?

2 MS. POWELL: When was it nominated?

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. When -- When was it
4 nominated? Did we talk about it?

5 MS. POWELL: It's been within the year, I
6 believe, but give us a second.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: February.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: So this fits in -- I know
9 we -- I know we -- I think -- My
10 recollection is we've done a recent at
11 Yates Lake. I say recent. In my memory
12 recent. And then this was a -- this is
13 another nomination?

14 MS. POWELL: Correct. We had two prior tracts
15 that were closed at different times.
16 This is an additional third opportunity
17 of an inholding, I believe, in that
18 tract.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: But somebody came and spoke
20 to it?

21 MS. POWELL: I don't think anyone -- I don't
22 recall anyone speaking. It's been
23 fairly recent. It did come in in time

1 to be evaluated and scored for this
2 presentation this morning.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Can I then -- you
4 don't have --

5 Chuck? Is Chuck here? Hey, Chuck?

6 MR. ALLEN: It's been scored.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: I know it's been scored,
8 but I want to just ask him.

9 Chuck, this Yates Lake-Guy Addition,
10 do you know if you or any of your staff
11 have familiarity with that, how it fits
12 into that WMA or that --

13 MR. SYKES: I don't know, but --

14 MS. POWELL: Drew would.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Because I don't remember
16 anybody speaking to it. I know it
17 scores well. I'm just -- I'm just
18 trying to find out more about it from
19 the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
20 Division.

21 MR. NIX: It's got a good score. It's
22 surrounded by other Forever Wild
23 properties, the Yates Lake original

1 tract and the Weil tract. There is a
2 40-acre outlet you can see on the
3 eastern side right there that does have
4 a residence on it that the access to
5 this property comes through that. But
6 it's --

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: But it would -- But it
8 would complement what we already have
9 there?

10 MR. NIX: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I'm asking from the
12 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries'
13 perspective.

14 MR. NIX: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you know who owns that?
16 By the way, it's not -- it's not me. So
17 let's make that clear. It's not Gunter
18 Guy. I wish I did, but I --

19 MR. NIX: Steve Guy.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Steve Guy. Okay. All
21 right. I know who that is.

22 DR. STRICKLAND: Is he related?

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: No, he's not related. He's

1 not related. It's a different -- It's a
2 different Guy, but -- but I do know him.
3 I do know who he is.

4 All right. I'm sorry. Any other
5 questions? I just wanted to ask about
6 that.

7 Yes, sir?

8 MR. KELLER: The Walls of Jericho, could you
9 comment a little about that? Did you
10 say it was contiguous to what we had
11 or ...

12 MS. LEWIS: Not exactly. It's close, but it's
13 not. The reddish-orange is a
14 conservation easement held by someone
15 else.

16 MS. POWELL: And I think that's, if I'm not
17 mistaken, a private land trust
18 reference. You may be able to see it
19 better on the --

20 MR. KELLER: Would we have access --

21 MS. POWELL: Ask Jo.

22 MS. LEWIS: Oh, it's road frontage. Looking
23 on the map, the irregular curved part to

1 the northwest -- facing northwest is all
2 along paved road.

3 MS. POWELL: Hey, Jo, to get that -- that kind
4 of uneven shape at the northern
5 boundary. Just come on up here and
6 point to everybody to be sure we're
7 clear.

8 (Brief interruption.)

9 MS. POWELL: But that is what you're referring
10 to is the uneven --

11 MS. LEWIS: This is the main paved road, I
12 believe, granting access.

13 MR. KELLER: This land, we have it leased
14 for --

15 MS. LEWIS: No. This is not one of the
16 properties --

17 MS. POWELL: This is a private -- There is an
18 easement. There's a conservation --
19 you're saying a private --

20 MS. LEWIS: Conservation easement.

21 MS. POWELL: -- conservation easement but not
22 tied to the state. It's privately held.

23 MS. LEWIS: For ecological reasons it's

1 significant. Conservationally it's
2 significant.

3 MR. KELLER: It is significant?

4 MS. LEWIS: This is -- this one's ecological
5 value is in the overall picture. This
6 is not for public access.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

8 Yes. Ms. Lewis?

9 MR. NORTHCUTT: I believe this tract here is
10 available as well. It hasn't been
11 nominated, but potentially down the road
12 could be acquired.

13 MS. POWELL: But all we've got right now that
14 is in any manner protected or available
15 is what Jo has represented here on this
16 slide.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. I appreciate
18 Mr. Northcutt's statement, but let's not
19 speculate on the properties and what's
20 going to happen.

21 Any other questions for Ms. Lewis,
22 though, about the presentation she went
23 through or anything she can answer

1 there?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Hearing none,
4 thank you, Ms. Lewis.

5 Okay. So at this time, this is the
6 appropriate time for anybody -- for our
7 board to discuss any issues including
8 either nominations for first appraisal
9 or any nominations for purchase that
10 might have come off the list that was
11 provided to you earlier.

12 MS. POWELL: And, Commissioner, I just want to
13 remind y'all.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

15 MS. POWELL: This is kind of a difficult room
16 for the acoustics. So if everybody
17 could -- We tend to get going fast
18 sometimes. Please speak up and clearly
19 for the court reporter.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. So maybe just,
21 again, let me recognize you, and that
22 will keep it all -- And I can get first
23 and seconds on the record, so ...

1 DR. LAWTON: Commissioner Guy?

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

3 DR. LAWTON: I would like to move that we get
4 a second appraisal on the Lillian Swamp
5 property and proceed with the purchase.

6 MR. VALENTINE: I'll second that.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So Dr. Lawton,
8 motion; Dr. Valentine, second. Lillian
9 Swamp; is that right?

10 DR. LAWTON: Yes.

11 MS. POWELL: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any discussions on
13 the motion?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
16 say "aye."

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

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

22 All right. Leo, Dr. -- Mr. Allen?

23 MR. ALLEN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like for the

1 board to move for a first appraisal on
2 the Guy property.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: The Yates Lake-Guy
4 Addition?

5 MR. ALLEN: Yeah, however you say it.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. Don't say Guy
7 property. The Yates Lake-Guy --

8 MR. ALLEN: The Yates Lake-Guy Addition.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Do I have a second?

10 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I have a motion
12 and a second. All in favor of a
13 nomination for appraisal -- first
14 appraisal say "aye."

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

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Motion carries.

20 All right. Dr. Valentine?

21 MR. VALENTINE: I would like to move that the
22 Stubblefield property get its first
23 appraisal.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. And that would
2 be -- So that's the Guntersville --

3 DR. STRICKLAND: Correct.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's the Guntersville
5 State Park-Stubblefield Addition, I
6 guess. Have I said it correctly?

7 All right. We have a motion. Do I
8 have a second?

9 DR. SIMS: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. There's several
11 seconds. I'll give Dr. Sims the second
12 on that one.

13 All right. Any discussion on the
14 motion?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
17 say "aye."

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

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

23 All right. Mr. Keller?

1 MR. KELLER: The DeSoto State Park Addition.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you want to do --

3 MR. KELLER: There are two of them.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you want to do both of
5 them or just one?

6 MR. KELLER: Yeah, I wanted to do both of
7 them, but you do them --

8 MS. POWELL: Let's do one at a time.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: You want to do one at a
10 time?

11 Okay. So that's going to be the --
12 why don't we do Park-Gray Road Addition
13 first. Is that all right?

14 MR. KELLER: That's fine.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So we have a
16 motion by Mr. Keller on DeSoto State
17 Park-Gray Road Addition. Do I have a
18 second?

19 DR. WOODS: Second.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Was that
21 Mr. Woods -- Dr. Woods?

22 DR. WOODS: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I've got a

1 second by Dr. Woods. Any discussion on
2 the motion?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
5 say "aye."

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

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

11 All right. Do you want to do the
12 second one, too, Mr. Keller?

13 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: I've got a motion by
15 Mr. Keller for a first appraisal of
16 DeSoto State Park-Steward Gap Addition;
17 that's correct? Is that correct?

18 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Do I have a
20 second?

21 DR. LAWTON: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Dr. Lawton.

23 DR. LAWTON: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any discussion on the
2 motion?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
5 say "aye."

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

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

11 All right. Dr. Valentine?

12 Hold on just a second.

13 Dr. Valentine?

14 MR. VALENTINE: I would like to nominate the
15 Benton Tract-Weeks Bay for a first
16 appraisal.

17 MR. ALLEN: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. A motion for
19 the Benton Tract, a second by Mr. Allen.

20 All in -- Any discussion on the motion?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor say "aye."

23 (All board members present respond

1 "aye.")

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries for a first
5 appraisal.

6 Mr. Keller, I know I saw your hand
7 first. Sorry, Sonny. I -- Do you want
8 to defer to Mr. Cauthen, or do you
9 want -- you were first, Raymond.

10 MR. KELLER: Go to Sonny.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Mr. Cauthen,
12 he's going to defer to you since he's
13 already had one, how about that.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: What a gentleman. I'll take
15 deference anytime.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

17 MR. CAUTHEN: I'd like to make a motion that
18 we do a second appraisal on Pritchett
19 Tract and move -- move to -- move
20 forward with closing.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: So your nomination is a
22 second appraisal and purchase of the
23 Pritchett Tract; is that correct?

1 MR. CAUTHEN: That's correct.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. That's by

3 Mr. Cauthen. Do I have a second?

4 MR. ELLIS: I'll second it.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Who was that?

6 Is that Mr. Ellis down there?

7 All right. A second by Mr. Ellis.

8 Any discussion on the motion?

9 Could you -- Is that one on the --
10 on here? It scores -- tell me what it
11 scores, Jo, again.

12 MS. POWELL: Pritchett is not on here because
13 it was already -- it had its appraisals
14 but moved off -- technically off the
15 short list. I'm sorry. So what was
16 your question?

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, never mind. It's on
18 here. It's two in State Parks; is that
19 right? That's what it scored in?

20 MS. POWELL: Yes, that's correct. State Parks
21 for the Southern District.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you.
23 Southern District.

1 All right. Any -- Any other
2 questions? Yes, sir?

3 MR. KELLER: No question.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a
5 motion. All in favor of the motion for
6 second appraisal and purchase say "aye."

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

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

12 All right. Mr. Keller, you're next.

13 MR. KELLER: The one we have on the map, the
14 Walls of Jericho, I'd like to propose
15 that we get an appraisal on it.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So there's a motion
17 by Mr. Keller for the Walls of
18 Jericho-Estillfork Addition --

19 MS. POWELL: For an appraisal.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- for a first appraisal.

21 DR. WOODS: Second.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I think I
23 heard Dr. Woods first.

1 A motion and a second. Any
2 discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
5 say "aye."

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

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

11 Any other -- Any other discussions
12 of any other properties at this time?

13 DR. LAWTON: Yes. I --

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Dr. Lawton.

15 DR. LAWTON: I'm intrigued by the Byrnes Lake
16 property that's been nominated recently.
17 I see that it ranks in the top three in
18 three of the four categories, which is
19 sort of unusual. I'd like to move that
20 we get a first appraisal on that.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: And, Dr. Lawton, would you
22 mind -- which one --

23 DR. LAWTON: Byrnes Lake.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Byrnes Lake?

2 DR. STRICKLAND: Southern District.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Southern District.

4 All right. So there's a -- Baldwin
5 County.

6 DR. LAWTON: Baldwin, yes.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: 2952 acres.

8 Okay. All right. There's a motion.

9 Is there a second?

10 DR. SIMS: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims seconds the
12 motion. Any discussion on the motion?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Hearing none,
15 all in favor of the motion say "aye."

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

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

21 Yes, Dr. Hepp?

22 DR. HEPP: Yeah. I move to nominate for first
23 appraisal the Coosa Wildlife Management

1 Area-Hancock Addition Phase III.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion for first nomination
3 for Coosa-Hancock Addition.

4 DR. LAWTON: Second.

5 DR. HEPP: Who was the second? Dr. Lawton.

6 All right. Any discussion on the
7 motion?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. And let me -- I
10 have -- is Mr. Sykes -- There he is.
11 Chuck, would you stand up.

12 Just FYI on this one. I asked
13 Mr. Sykes to possibly speak to this. It
14 wouldn't really affect this motion, but
15 I wanted him, in full disclosure, to
16 kind of give the board his kind of where
17 the -- where the Wildlife and Freshwater
18 Fisheries would be on this one.

19 So if you don't mind, as part of my
20 discussion on that, if you would, Chuck,
21 just tell the board where you are on --
22 on that Coosa WMA.

23 MR. SYKES: If y'all decide to go through for

1 the first appraisal, we support that,
2 and it falls in with the management area
3 right now. I can tell you that we are
4 working on some major projects that we
5 will present to y'all in September, so
6 our priorities may change a little bit.
7 But right now we would support the board
8 to go ahead and do the first appraisal.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: So what you're going to do
10 is possibly present to the board --

11 MR. SYKES: Right.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- towards September some
13 bigger use objectives and types of
14 things?

15 MR. SYKES: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I want to praise the
17 department for doing that because
18 they're really trying to look -- look to
19 the future as to where -- where they
20 need to be doing some things. And I
21 appreciate Chuck and his staff working
22 on that. But I did want y'all just to
23 be aware of that.

1 But it doesn't effect really this.
2 I didn't want to hold this up, but I did
3 want you to -- I did want you to know
4 that as we go through these kind of
5 issues. Thanks, Chuck.

6 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So I've got a
8 motion and a second. Any other
9 discussion or questions?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. All in favor of
12 the motion say "aye."

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

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

18 MR. CAUTHEN: Gunter?

19 DR. HEPP: Yes, sir. Mr. Cauthen.

20 MR. CAUTHEN: What have we done on this Turkey
21 Creek Nature Preserve-Shepherd Addition?

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't -- I don't believe
23 there's been a motion. It would be a

1 motion for a first --

2 MS. POWELL: It would be a motion for a first
3 appraisal. Although it's been scored on
4 the short list, y'all haven't done
5 anything motion-wise on this.

6 MR. CAUTHEN: I'll make that motion.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So there's a motion
8 for a first appraisal on Turkey Creek
9 Addition.

10 MR. KELLER: I second it.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: And there's a second by --
12 is that Mr. Keller?

13 Okay. Second by Mr. Keller. Any
14 discussion on the motion?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
17 say "aye."

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

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Seeing no
23 further hands, thank you for those

1 discussions and nominations. And at
2 this time we will move to some further
3 miscellaneous reports by the staff.

4 Mr. Smith?

5 MR. SMITH: Okay. In Tab 3 we have all the --
6 just a few different miscellaneous
7 reports to cover and update the board
8 on.

9 In 3a you'll see a memo and some
10 accompanying maps that are associated
11 with an easement request an adjacent
12 landowner has on their property, 160
13 acres, that's adjacent to the
14 Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Clearwater Tract.
15 You may recall at the February meeting
16 this -- this landowner -- or the
17 consultant for this landowner came and
18 addressed the board, and there was some
19 discussion about this easement request.
20 And there was discussion about utilities
21 and different things like that
22 accompanying this easement. And at that
23 point the board motioned to let the

1 staff work through those issues, and
2 we've done that.

3 The landowner has decided they
4 didn't want any utilities or any --
5 anything other than just a specific
6 easement to ingress and egress their
7 property. And so what you have in front
8 of you in Tab 3a is a draft document for
9 your review. This document -- This
10 easement document is identical to the
11 document that was approved by the board
12 associated with a similar situation at
13 the Yates Lake-West property in Elmore
14 County.

15 And so basically if the board has
16 reviewed this document, approves it, we
17 would need a motion for the staff to
18 proceed to work with this landowner to
19 get this easement. What they would do
20 is order an appraisal at their expense
21 and purchase a footprint of that
22 easement and then pay the Forever Wild
23 Land Trust for that, so ...

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I think maybe every --
2 well, those that were there would
3 remember this request, and there was
4 some concerns about what they were
5 trying to get, so just to refresh. So
6 what you're saying is they just want an
7 easement for ingress and egress only?

8 MR. SMITH: That is correct, yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: And that's not -- That's
10 something that we typically would do for
11 most -- most folks that request that;
12 correct?

13 MR. SMITH: That is correct.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any problems that
15 the staff saw of any other nature that
16 we need to be concerned about?

17 MR. SMITH: No, sir. Our land management
18 officers have talked with Wildlife and
19 Freshwater Fisheries, WMA biologists.
20 Everybody has been in the loop to
21 discuss. There's been no identified
22 objections to allowing this easement.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: So what you would need is

1 just a motion to proceed with the
2 paperwork to grant them the easement?

3 MR. SMITH: That's correct. A motion to
4 proceed -- let the staff proceed. What
5 we would do then is we would contact the
6 consultant that's representing the
7 landowner, tell them that there's been
8 approval to move forward. They would
9 get an appraisal done of that footprint,
10 and then we would draft an easement
11 exactly like what you see in your
12 packet. It would reflect the cost and
13 the actual acreage, which is probably
14 going to be about .9 acres of -- of that
15 footprint, and then we will execute the
16 easement.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we don't need to -- You
18 wouldn't bring it back to us for a
19 subsequent approval of the cost?

20 MR. SMITH: Unless the board needed -- you
21 know, felt like they needed to see the
22 language. The language you have in the
23 easement right now is language that --

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: We typically don't do that;
2 right?

3 MS. POWELL: I think the -- the unknown at
4 this point -- We've worked through the
5 issues, clarified the request.
6 Obviously, the appraisal has not been
7 conducted. We could certainly come back
8 to board at that point. But we don't
9 want to engage with them to go to that
10 expense if there is a known objection to
11 the transaction.

12 And you've got a question at the
13 end.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry. Go ahead,
15 Mr. Ellis.

16 MR. ELLIS: I just wondered -- the landowner,
17 how much land do they have they'll be
18 using this for and what purpose -- Are
19 they commercial? Are they miners? What
20 do they do?

21 MR. SMITH: They own 160 acres. And they own
22 it. They utilize it just as recreation
23 land. The reason they're interested in

1 actually purchasing this deeded easement
2 or access is they have intention to sell
3 their land and they want to be able to
4 offer that with the land.

5 I mean, currently this -- this red
6 line you see on the map on the screen
7 is -- is the access road into the Upper
8 Delta WMA. There's currently no --
9 nothing preventing them from accessing
10 their land. In fact, we discussed that
11 at the February meeting. But they would
12 just like to actually -- actually
13 purchase a deeded access or easement.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: Gunter?

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes. Yes, sir,
16 Mr. Cauthen.

17 MR. CAUTHEN: Who owns Tensaw Partners?

18 MR. SMITH: I believe the owner's name is
19 Charles Bryars is the landowner's name.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: There's a little history
21 there. For some of you who don't know,
22 they used to go -- We built a shooting
23 range. And so there was a road into

1 their property that went behind -- went
2 through the WMA there and then behind
3 the shooting range. And then we were
4 contacted by some attorneys and they,
5 you know, wanted restrictions and
6 different -- and it was just a -- it was
7 a bit of a back-and-forth there.

8 So they had this other way into
9 their property. So we closed the road
10 behind the shooting range for safety
11 concerns. We didn't want to -- We
12 didn't want to expose ourselves since
13 they brought it to our attention and
14 complained about it. So we closed it.

15 And so then I think this issue came
16 up about wanting this easement to go in
17 through this other way, which goes
18 through -- At the time they were
19 concerned about that, I think, because
20 it was right through their -- the middle
21 of their hunting property and they
22 wanted to come around the back. But the
23 lawyers that contacted us made a

1 complaint, so we just closed the back of
2 it off. And they were complaining about
3 the shooting range and other things.
4 But I'm trying to be -- so ...

5 But this particular issue really
6 doesn't relate to that. They're just
7 asking for the easement which is to
8 their property.

9 MS. POWELL: And I think in the past it has
10 not come up and been an issue. We have
11 allowed the very access in question.
12 There's -- We have allowed that. That
13 has not been an issue or a concern.
14 However, as they move to the point of
15 looking to -- to sell their property,
16 they are -- they really are concerned
17 about being able to move forward.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: And, of course, we can let
19 our attorney talk to it. But if that's
20 the only way in there, they're going to
21 be able to get an easement to -- to this
22 property if there is no other means of
23 ingress and egress. And if I'm not

1 mistaken, there is not any other means
2 of ingress and egress other than over
3 our easement; correct?

4 MR. SMITH: That's correct.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So having understood
6 all that, all --

7 Yes, Mr. Keller.

8 MR. KELLER: I just think, as I was talking to
9 them -- I just think that we, especially
10 in north Alabama and, I guess, other
11 places, have more land than most of
12 these people that's wanting an easement.
13 And if the board -- If the people that
14 do our work and they feel good about
15 it -- and we're constantly in need of
16 easements, I know, in north Alabama, and
17 a lot of folks give them to us. It
18 wouldn't be very neighborly, you know,
19 if they -- if our people thinks that
20 it's okay to deny somebody else access
21 when we're constantly going to need it.

22 And it also creates a bad taste when
23 people go to sell their land if we've

1 refused to get -- let them through.
2 Then they'll sell it to somebody else
3 cheaper or won't even give us an
4 opportunity because we hadn't been a
5 neighbor.

6 So I think when they -- the legal
7 people study this and the other
8 situations -- and being through this
9 situation myself, I let people cross me
10 constantly that don't do business with
11 me, but I want to be a neighbor to them.
12 And I think this board ought to consider
13 that and -- and after y'all do your work
14 and y'all agree to it because we're
15 going to need it a bunch. So I make a
16 motion that we do it.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Is your motion to
18 proceed with granting the easement?

19 MR. KELLER: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: At the appraised price?

21 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So motion to grant
23 the easement at appraised price.

1 Any second?

2 MR. ALLEN: Second.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Mr. Allen.

4 Any discussion on the motion
5 further?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor say "aye."

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

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. SMITH: Okay. The next item in Tab 3b is
13 a -- you see a memo that I drafted -- I
14 wrote along with some maps, and that
15 illustrates the request that has come
16 from Mobile County associated with
17 purchasing some additional right of way
18 along a dirt county road that travels
19 through a couple of Forever Wild
20 properties. And this request is
21 associated with this -- purchasing this
22 additional right of way to pave a
23 portion of this dirt road.

1 On the map you see on the screen,
2 that area highlighted in red is the --
3 is currently a dirt road that they're
4 hoping to pave to the entrance of a --
5 of Agri Seafood Company.

6 Just to give you a little bit -- you
7 know, this -- this is immediately west
8 of Bayou La Batre. Where the red line
9 starts on the east side of the
10 yellow-edge Forever Wild property, that
11 is where it connects up with an existing
12 paved road. And so basically we would
13 need a -- you know, a board motion to
14 allow staff to proceed.

15 Very similar, the county would get
16 an appraisal and purchase that
17 additional right of way. They currently
18 have right of way along that dirt road.
19 And if you look at the map in your
20 packet, you'll see one of the maps shows
21 a diagram of the road, and you'll see
22 some shaded areas. That is the
23 additional amount that they're wanting

1 to purchase.

2 So it would be very similar to what
3 we just discussed in the sense there
4 would be an appraisal, that additional
5 right of way would be purchased, and --
6 and then we would enter into a
7 right-of-way agreement with the county.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Do I have a
9 motion?

10 DR. HOLLAND: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We've got a
12 motion by Dr. Holland.

13 Is there a second?

14 MR. ALLEN: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Any discussion
16 on the motion?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: So the motion is to proceed
19 with the request and appraisal for
20 purchase --

21 MS. POWELL: The purchase of the additional
22 right of way at the appraised amount.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. Is that -- Is that

1 satisfactory, Dr. Holland, with you?

2 DR. HOLLAND: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Any other
4 further discussion on the motion?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
7 say "aye."

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

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

13 MR. SMITH: Okay. The last item we're going
14 to cover today is actually in Tab 3d.
15 And it -- I mentioned a little bit --
16 this earlier when I was giving the grant
17 status report. I mentioned that we had
18 a National Coastal Wetland Grant that we
19 received back in 2011 to purchase the
20 Portersville Bay and Heron Bay
21 nominations.

22 Just to kind of recap some of that,
23 Portersville Bay has been purchased,

1 closed. We received the federal
2 reimbursement for the purchase of that
3 property.

4 The Heron Bay Tract was in the
5 closing process. During that process
6 there -- there were some title issues
7 identified by the department's legal
8 staff. So we've been reporting this --
9 on this to the board for about the last
10 15 months, not in the detail that I'm
11 going to talk today, but just to -- just
12 letting the board know that we're making
13 progress and trying to resolve these
14 title issues.

15 And so over the last 15 months we've
16 been working toward trying to figure
17 out -- and the title issues that came --
18 that surfaced are actually associated
19 with a claim that the federal government
20 has to 108 acres of this property. And
21 through executive orders back in the
22 1800s, this land was claimed for
23 military purposes by the federal

1 government. And through -- when our
2 legal section was working through the
3 closing, it was discovered that that
4 patent or that claim had never been
5 relinquished by the federal government.

6 So we actually met with the U.S.
7 Fish and Wildlife service folks that we
8 work with on these grants, and they've
9 reached out to the Bureau of Land
10 Management and the solicitor of the
11 Department of Interior. Long story
12 short, come full circle. Those title
13 issues are not going to be able to be
14 resolved.

15 So the -- we met with U.S. Fish and
16 Wildlife service here just recently and
17 let them -- they let us know that they
18 would allow us to amend the grant to
19 purchase the remaining Heron Bay
20 property minus the 108 acres. And what
21 you see on -- in your packet and up here
22 on the screen is the -- The 108 acres
23 I'm talking about is that very southern

1 part that's hashed out.

2 That area right there. Thank you,
3 Patti.

4 And so -- so in addition to the U.S.
5 Fish and Wildlife letting us know that
6 they'd allow us to amend the grant and
7 purchase the remaining acreage, the --
8 the owner of this property had
9 communicated to our legal staff section
10 that they are also willing to allow the
11 purchase of the -- the property minus
12 this 108 acres.

13 So -- So this is a modification to
14 what we originally presented to the
15 board. So we're today, I guess,
16 updating you with this. But we're going
17 to need a motion to proceed to get a new
18 appraisal with the -- you know, if the
19 board chooses to move forward with
20 this -- this tract purchase and allowing
21 us to amend the grant, we'll need to
22 update the appraisal and then possibly
23 utilize -- and the U.S. Fish and

1 Wildlife did indicate that the remaining
2 money that, you know, would have been
3 earmarked for this 108 acres, they will
4 allow us to submit other properties as
5 replacement properties. So we can --
6 you know, the staff can evaluate other
7 properties that fit that same criteria,
8 other nominations down there in that
9 area, and submit that to possibly get
10 that federal support on those
11 nominations as well.

12 So we would need a motion to move
13 forward, allow us to get another
14 appraisal and, you know, evaluate other
15 tracts to submit as a replacement
16 property which we would come back to the
17 board on.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm going to read what you
19 wrote here.

20 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: It says you need a motion
22 from the board directing State Lands
23 staff to take actions necessary to close

1 the transaction including, but not
2 limited to, obtaining an update of the
3 appraisal to reflect the new acreage
4 amount. Is that an appropriate motion
5 or does it need modification?

6 MS. POWELL: No. I think here -- and I'm
7 thinking on my feet here -- we have --
8 we are going to have to update the
9 appraisal. We originally had a second
10 appraisal on this tract because there
11 was, I think, thought that we could move
12 forward with the motion to -- to take
13 actions necessary to update the
14 appraisals and would not technically
15 have to come back to the board. We may
16 need to --

17 DR. LAWTON: So this is updating the second
18 appraisal?

19 MS. POWELL: We would have to -- We would
20 really be updating -- We'd be updating
21 both. Because in every transaction we
22 have a first appraisal, a second
23 confirming appraisal, and third if that

1 doesn't work out, but -- So I think we
2 would really be updating both of those
3 appraisals.

4 We would be absolutely fine -- that
5 work is going to take some time -- today
6 simply to move forward. We will be back
7 in September.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: So you'd rather us just --

9 MS. POWELL: I think --

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- make a motion to do the
11 new appraisal work, then?

12 MS. POWELL: Yeah. I think -- Actually, I
13 think it would -- either way would be
14 fine. But for clarity for the record --
15 and we'll be back in September. We've
16 got to do the updates anyway. I think
17 we would probably just move forward with
18 a motion to update the appraisals for
19 the -- for the Heron Bay Tract.

20 MR. ALLEN: That's both appraisals, first and
21 second?

22 MS. POWELL: Yes. Update all appraisals
23 necessary for this transaction.

1 DR. STRICKLAND: And, Patti, it will come back
2 to the board?

3 MS. POWELL: It will come back in September
4 before we actually -- and then we'll ask
5 for a motion to proceed with closing of
6 that purchase.

7 And I don't mean to make this so
8 technical. It is -- Heron Bay is
9 already on your financial sheet. We've
10 been through all this. And we may be
11 overly cautious, but we want to be sure
12 we do it correctly. And I'd rather keep
13 the record clean. And, again, we'll be
14 here in September.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So let me just say,
16 it sounds like to me you need a motion
17 from the board directing the State Lands
18 staff to take the actions necessary to
19 update the first and second appraisals
20 to reflect the new acreage amount,
21 subject then to the board looking at
22 that and deciding whether to move
23 forward?

1 MS. POWELL: Yeah, I think that's -- that's
2 the best way.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is that fair?

4 MS. POWELL: That's fair. That's good.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. That sounds
6 like a motion for somebody.

7 DR. WOODS: It's a motion.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods.

9 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: And a second by
11 Dr. Strickland.

12 Any further discussion or questions?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. All in favor
15 say "aye."

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

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good job.

21 MR. SMITH: Okay. That's the end of
22 miscellaneous items, Commissioner.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions for

1 Mr. Smith before he sits down?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Chris.

4 All right. So what I have left is
5 we need to approve the minutes of our
6 February 6th, 2014, meeting. Any
7 additions or corrections to those
8 minutes?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: If not, can I have a
11 motion?

12 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Motion.

14 Second?

15 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: A second from

17 Dr. Strickland.

18 All in favor of the motion say

19 "aye."

20 (All board members present respond

21 "aye.")

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Minutes are approved.

23 Scheduling of next meeting. We

1 really enjoyed being here. A little bit
2 longer than we anticipated, but that's
3 okay. It happens. A good place to have
4 a long meeting.

5 Thanks again to everybody for being
6 here, both public and on the board.

7 And --

8 MS. POWELL: I was just going to mention the
9 date -- the current proposed date for
10 our next meeting.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm going to say that. I
12 was going to say, so as we move from
13 this meeting, the next meeting will be
14 when?

15 MS. POWELL: September 18th.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: September 18. So we can be
17 thinking about -- Y'all let Patti or
18 anybody else know, myself, where you'd
19 like to see that meeting held. We have
20 not set it for anywhere. We just try
21 to -- try to move around the state a
22 little bit. So we'll probably be
23 looking more towards the southern part

1 of the state maybe or -- or middle of
2 the state or whatever.

3 MR. CAUTHEN: Biloxi?

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't think it will be
5 Biloxi, Mr. Cauthen. But we're going to
6 have to probably -- but thanks to
7 everybody for being here. Thank you for
8 your time and thanks -- thanks to
9 everybody else for being here.

10 Meeting adjourned.

11 (Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.)

12 * * * * *

13 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

14 * * * * *

15 STATE OF ALABAMA:

16 MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

17 I, Gayle F. Watson, Certified Court
18 Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
19 at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the
20 foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board
21 Meeting on June 19, 2014.

22 The foregoing 179 computer-printed pages
23 contain a true and correct transcript of the

1 proceedings held.

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

5 This 3rd day of August 2014.

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Gayle F. Watson
ACCR No. 573
Expiration date: 9-30-2014
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large