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**MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
RICHARD BEARD BUILDING
Montgomery, Alabama
February 4, 2016**

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
at Large, at the State of Alabama Department
Agriculture and Industries, Richard Beard Building,
Montgomery, Alabama, on Thursday, February 4, 2016,
commencing at approximately 10:03 a.m.

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 2 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr. Commissioner
- 3 Dr. Patricia G. Sims
- 4 Mr. H.E. "Sonny" Cauthen
- 5 Mr. Leo Allen
- 6 Mr. Charles E. Ball
- 7 Mr. Russell Runyan
- 8 Mr. Greg Pate
- 9 Dr. Michael Woods
- 10 Dr. Lori R. Tolley-Jordan

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11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Welcome, everyone. At this
 12 time I'll call to order our Forever Wild
 13 Board of Trustees meeting for
 14 February 4, 2016, and we'll call the
 15 role.

16 Mr. Pate?

17 MR PATE: Here.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

19 DR. WOODS: Here.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

21 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Here.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims?

23 DR. SIMS: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

2 MR. CAUTHEN: Here.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball?

4 MR. BALL: Here.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Runyan?

6 MR. RUNYAN: Here.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

8 MR. ALLEN: Here.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ellis?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Horne?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Porter?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: And including myself we

22 have nine, so we have a quorum to

23 conduct business.

1 Before I move forward I do want to
2 recognize a few guests that we have here
3 today. I know Representative Elaine
4 Beech is here. Representative Beech,
5 would you stand, please.

6 Thank you, ma'am. Thank you for
7 coming today.

8 And Mayor Johnny Smith. Mayor Smith
9 is here from -- is it Jacksonville?

10 MR. SMITH: Jacksonville.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. Welcome, Mayor
12 Smith.

13 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: If there's anybody else
15 that I missed, please forgive me or let
16 us know. We certainly like to recognize
17 our special guests, governmental
18 officials that come. Appreciate y'all
19 being here today.

20 I want to thank, of course, the
21 board members for being here today.
22 It's a busy time of the year.

23 I want to also thank Commissioner

1 John McMillan and the Department of
2 Agriculture and Industries for use of
3 this building. A lot of times we meet
4 in the auditorium behind the Capitol.
5 It was unavailable. And he's been
6 gracious enough to allow us to use this
7 and it fits our needs. So I want to
8 thank Commissioner McMillan. If y'all
9 see him, please express your thanks to
10 him as well.

11 I also want to welcome one of our
12 new board members, Dr. Lori
13 Tolley-Jordan.

14 Glad to have you with us,
15 Dr. Tolley-Jordan. I'm going to have a
16 hard time saying that name to be honest
17 with you.

18 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: That's okay.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: But thank you for being on
20 our board and look forward to having
21 you. And please feel free to feel at
22 home, ask questions, whatever you need
23 to do so we can make your attendance

1 here as easy as possible.

2 All right. At this time I'm going
3 to go straight into our public comments.
4 So if you would -- are they going to
5 speak right here?

6 Okay. So if you'll come up to the
7 microphone after I call your name and
8 provide your comments to the board,
9 we'll be happy to hear those.

10 As I always do, I want to remind you
11 that we have a court reporter here who
12 takes verbatim what is said. And we
13 post those minutes on a Website for
14 public review. And so I just remind you
15 of that because -- speak slowly and
16 plainly so she can get that and make
17 sure she gets what you say correctly.
18 And don't be nervous. We're in no hurry
19 here. We want you to feel comfortable
20 about your presentation.

21 So with that said, in no particular
22 order, I'm going to try to see if I can
23 put things together here. But the first

1 person I have is -- is it Tim or Tom
2 Webster?

3 MR. WEBSTER: Tim.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Tim. Glad to have you with
5 us.

6 MR. WEBSTER: Thank you very much.

7 I'd like to thank the board for
8 their dedication and commitment to the
9 Forever Wild program. It's been a
10 pleasure working with Forever Wild.

11 I'm here to discuss the Shelby
12 County -- Shelby County Park-Shades
13 Creek Addition. This particular piece
14 of property is approximately 740 acres.
15 It lays adjacent to some additional
16 Shelby County Park property and a past
17 acquisition by Forever Wild of
18 approximately 460 acres.

19 You've been given a packet there
20 that has a lot of pictures and things in
21 it. There's also a little thumb drive
22 attached to that, also, that is a drone
23 video flyover of the property and about

1 33 pictures of the property. The best
2 way to see a lot of these properties is
3 to actually go there. So I used today's
4 technology to kind of give you an
5 opportunity to go there. Unless you've
6 seen this property, it's really hard to
7 see how spectacular it is.

8 We're doing a couple of things here.
9 We're protecting a section of the Cahaba
10 River and we're also protecting a
11 section of Shades Creek. This will
12 add -- this will actually double the
13 canoe-ability of this park. The park
14 right now consists of approximately
15 three miles but with this addition would
16 allow for approximately six miles of a
17 canoe track of the Cahaba River inside
18 the park. On top of that, it would
19 include an additional two miles of
20 Shades Creek.

21 This property is so close to a large
22 population. We've got Pelham, Helena,
23 Hoover. We're only 30 minutes from

1 Tuscaloosa. So we're in a great area
2 for this to become -- not only to
3 preserve this particular area but to
4 provide what Forever Wild continues to
5 do, a recreational portion of these
6 properties for our future.

7 There's a lot of other things that
8 are close to this piece of property.
9 Right across from the Cahaba River --
10 right across the Cahaba River on this
11 property is the Presbyterian church camp
12 called Living River. It's also three
13 miles as the crow flies from Tannehill
14 State Park. It's actually connected to
15 Tannehill State Park via Shades Creek.
16 If you'll look at your larger map, you
17 can see how Shades Creek runs from the
18 back side of Tannehill into this area.
19 That would actually allow people to camp
20 at Tannehill, put in and canoe into this
21 other park, approximately about a six --
22 well, it would be a seven or eight-mile
23 track. That's fantastic.

1 It's in a -- it's in Shelby County.
2 We've had so many people over the years
3 speak on behalf of this program: the
4 mayor of Helena, Alex Dudchock, our
5 Shelby County manager, J.T. Dabbs from
6 the Boy Scouts of America. And today
7 I'm here representing Shelby
8 Investments, the landowner. And my hope
9 is to have the board move forward from
10 the nomination, I guess, or the proposal
11 in September to order the first
12 appraisal and move forth to second
13 appraisal, offer, and close.

14 I thank you so much for your time
15 today. And I hope you take a moment to
16 plug that thumb drive in. It's about a
17 five-minute video of the river. And I
18 think you'll enjoy it.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Before you sit down,

20 Mr. Webster, are there any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Anyone have any questions?

23 I would just -- unfortunately

1 Mr. Ellis could not make it today. I
2 don't know if you've talked to him
3 already. If you have, that's good. I
4 would just certainly -- obviously he's
5 in that area and knows it very well.

6 And, you know, I want you to run that by
7 him, too, the first opportunity as well.

8 MR. WEBSTER: Well, Mr. Ellis let me know that
9 he wasn't going to be here. Also, the
10 Shelby County management team that were
11 going to speak on behalf of this program
12 had municipal obligations and could not
13 attend either. And I just -- we've come
14 a long road to put this package and
15 program together. And I've never spoke
16 on behalf of this program before, so it
17 was time for me to just address you
18 guys. A lot of you guys have been here
19 for a while and have seen me several
20 times here.

21 So we would really love to just know
22 if this is something that we want to
23 move forward with, and we would hope

1 that somebody would go ahead and
2 nominate this to move forward. Thank
3 you very much.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

5 Tony Wells.

6 MR. WELLS: Good morning.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

8 MR. WELLS: Thank you for the opportunity to
9 be able to address such a distinguished
10 panel. I'm Tony Wells. I'm on the -- a
11 council member with the Sanford Town
12 Council in south Alabama. I'm also the
13 vice-president and trails chair for the
14 Alabama Horse Council.

15 I'm here to speak to you about the
16 Wiregrass Rails-to-Trails project we're
17 working on. I'm so excited that you
18 people are interested in our youth and
19 our adults, too, to be able to get them
20 away from a computer and away from a TV
21 long enough to get out in the sunshine a
22 few minutes and see nature and see what
23 God's given us that we can hold on to

1 and pass on to our children.

2 I believe that the Rails-to-Trails
3 in that area would be successful because
4 all the entities there are involved
5 in -- all the municipal entities are
6 involved in it. We've obligated
7 ourselves to take care of the different
8 portions of it that goes through our
9 areas. The Alabama Horse Council is
10 interested because we would like to do a
11 horse track on the sides if we can work
12 that out.

13 There are so many people now that
14 don't ever have an opportunity to get
15 outside. They're in these towns and our
16 towns, even small towns. You'd be
17 surprised at the children that just stay
18 in the yard or stay in the house. And
19 with this opportunity -- opportunities
20 y'all have afforded people all over the
21 state to get out and see nature and be a
22 part of nature and really have a full
23 life, that's where you find it.

1 I just appreciate your help, your
2 support. And I'd like for you to know
3 that we're going to back every minute of
4 it, the Horse Council and the Town of
5 Sanford, in this endeavor and look
6 forward to working with you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

8 Are there any questions for
9 Mr. Wells?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you for being here,
12 sir.

13 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Steve Northcutt.

15 MR. NORTHCUTT: Good morning, I'm Steve
16 Northcutt with The Nature Conservancy.
17 I'm here today to talk about a small
18 tract in Jackson County. I think he's
19 passing out some maps of this property.

20 This property we refer to as the
21 Henshaw Cove Addition. If you look at
22 the map -- and the property is
23 highlighted in blue. It's about 42.2

1 acres. This property is part of Henshaw
2 Cove which was purchased by Forever Wild
3 in, I think, about 2005. Henshaw Cove
4 is shown in two different colors on this
5 map, and the reason those colors are
6 different is because the Lands Division
7 applied for a Forest Legacy Grant for
8 this tract and was awarded it. So it
9 was split between federal funding and
10 Forever Wild funding. So that's why the
11 properties are two different colors.

12 So this particular property was
13 owned by the same company that acquired
14 the assets of Smurfit-Stone. That was
15 an 82,000-acre block of property, about
16 40,000 in Tennessee and about 40,000 in
17 Alabama. And in 2003 The Nature
18 Conservancy acquired the Walls of
19 Jericho, and it was, again, about a
20 21,000-acre block out of that, 9,000
21 acres in Tennessee, 12,500 in Alabama.
22 That is a well-used area for hunting,
23 for hiking, for bird-watching.

1 The company offered to sell some
2 small tracts recently. They were going
3 to auction them off. So The Nature
4 Conservancy stepped in and we bought
5 this tract thinking that it was an
6 inholding that made sense. And so we're
7 offering this to the board as an
8 addition to Henshaw Cove. You have a
9 first appraisal in your packet. And so
10 today I would ask that you consider to
11 do a second appraisal and offer to
12 close.

13 I've talked about this property in
14 the past, and we've worked to try to get
15 several inholdings in Jackson County
16 over the years. So it's a small tract,
17 but I think it's important.

18 One interesting aspect is it was
19 owned by a timber company, and because
20 of the kind of difficulty to get to the
21 property, they never cut any of the
22 timber. So all of the older growth,
23 oak-hickory upland hardwood, is still

1 there. So you're going to be buying a
2 very well-stocked piece of property, and
3 I think it would be a nice addition to
4 the Henshaw Cove tract.

5 Anyone have any questions?

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. NORTHCUTT: Thank you very much.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks, Steve.

10 Mr. Cooper. Howard Cooper -- or
11 Kent.

12 Good morning.

13 MR. COOPER: Good morning. My name is Kent
14 Cooper. I'm here on behalf of the
15 Alabama Hiking Trail Society and this is
16 for the Coosa WMA-Hancock Phase III. We
17 would like to see the board proceed with
18 second proposal and closing on this
19 property.

20 Our society, even though we have
21 hiking in our name, is not your normal
22 hiking society. It's not just a hiking
23 club. We have a vision for

1 long-distance hiking trails in Alabama
2 and a complete system of trails that
3 interconnect Pinhoti and what we
4 perceive as a future Alabama trail.

5 We actually do more trail work than
6 we do hiking. And we have been
7 available to help Forever Wild on
8 various different properties throughout
9 the state from the Walls of Jericho all
10 the way down to the Gulf Coast. We'd
11 just like to come and let you know that
12 we are still available in Coosa County
13 and in various other areas and we do
14 support the purchase of this property.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

16 MR. CAUTHEN: What piece of property was it,
17 now?

18 MR. COOPER: That's Coosa WMA-Hancock
19 Phase III. It's part of the current
20 Coosa Wildlife Management Area that's
21 owned by Hancock who has been willing
22 sellers in the other purchases on this
23 same property -- same management area.

1 MR. CAUTHEN: And your organization is the
2 Hiking Society?

3 MR. COOPER: Alabama Hiking Trail Society.

4 MR. CAUTHEN: Okay. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

6 Next speaker, Jimmy Lanier.

7 Hello, Mr. Lanier.

8 MR. LANIER: First of all I want to thank
9 y'all for serving on this board. And as
10 I said, my name is Jimmy Lanier. I'm
11 with the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail
12 Association. We are a nonprofit. We
13 build hiking trails. So we've been in
14 existence now for 12 years, and we have
15 built 17 miles of trails in three
16 locations.

17 All of our trails now are on Alabama
18 Power Company property that's set aside
19 as natural, undeveloped and -- except
20 for the Smith Mountain. Alabama Power
21 Company deeded Smith Mountain to our
22 trail association. And we restored a
23 historic fire lookout tower, and it's

1 part of the hiking experience at Smith
2 Mountain.

3 The property that I'm requesting now
4 is -- you've already requested -- you
5 already have an appraisal on it, and I'm
6 here today to ask you to get a second
7 appraisal on it and then let's close
8 this property. It is a spectacular
9 piece of property not only for its
10 beauty. There hasn't been an ax or a
11 saw that's touched this property in 91
12 years. It's been owned by the power
13 company.

14 There is a historical aspect of this
15 property also. This property is part of
16 the --

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Lanier?

18 MR. LANIER: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry. Before you
20 go -- I know -- what property is it?

21 I was going to get some help for you
22 because we --

23 MS. POWELL: In our naming it's Yates Lake

1 North.

2 MR. LANIER: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yates Lake North. And
4 that's what we thought -- I mean, that's
5 what I thought. That helps everybody
6 get oriented now. Sorry to interrupt
7 you.

8 MR. LANIER: That's okay. As you know, it is
9 adjacent to the Gothard-Yates property,
10 and it would put the final touch on that
11 piece of property, I think, to the
12 north.

13 The historical significance of it is
14 that in 1923 Alabama Power Company built
15 Martin Dam, and they constructed the
16 Cherokee Bluffs Dam Railroad just to
17 build Martin Dam. It was a six-mile
18 spur off of the Eclectic-Tallassee
19 Railroad. And we have partnered with
20 Forever Wild to construct a -- make this
21 railroad bed into a trail. We've
22 already completely cleaned off the lower
23 part of the railroad bed that's already

1 on Forever Wild property. We've also
2 constructed one bridge.

3 We build hiking trails. We hike a
4 lot, but we build hiking trails. We
5 physically build hiking trails. And as
6 you see in that magazine -- that "Elmore
7 County Living" magazine, that's another
8 aspect of that property along Yates Lake
9 and Gold Mine Road. Not only do we plan
10 on completing this historic railroad bed
11 trail but build other trails on this
12 piece of property.

13 The economic benefit for the hiking
14 trails is great in this area of
15 Tallassee and Eclectic. We have hiking
16 trails only two miles from this piece of
17 property on the opposite side of the
18 river. And thousands of people hike our
19 trails. They come from all over the
20 state, out of state. And we have the
21 most scenic trails, we feel like, in the
22 state, and one reason is because of Lake
23 Martin, overlooking Lake Martin. And

1 part of this will be overlooking Yates
2 Lake also.

3 Anyway, I would just like to ask
4 you -- and I thank you for the time --
5 but ask you to get a second appraisal on
6 this and let's close this out.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

8 Does anybody have any questions of
9 Mr. Lanier?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, first of all, let
12 me -- I was looking through the article
13 and see that y'all built 17 miles of
14 pedestrian-only trail, so I appreciate
15 that. It sounds like -- does it get a
16 lot of use, I assume?

17 MR. LANIER: Yes, lots of use, especially the
18 Smith Mountain trails. Smith Mountain
19 Tower is a historic tower, and it's --
20 it's in the Alabama Historical Society
21 as a historic place. It was built by
22 the CCC and the -- and Alabama Power
23 Company in 1939. And, of course, it's

1 no longer being used now, and Alabama
2 Power Company deeded it to our trail
3 association, the mountain. And, like I
4 say, we restored the historic fire
5 lookout tower. Thousands of people
6 visit it every year.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any other questions?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: I also want to thank you
10 for the magazine and the picture of
11 Sonny on the front -- Sonny Cauthen on
12 the front.

13 Thank you, sir. Thank you,
14 Mr. Lanier.

15 MR. LANIER: Did you have --

16 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I do. You may have
17 mentioned it. But is this land tract
18 currently owned by Alabama Power?

19 MR. LANIER: Yes, it is.

20 And if I could say one other thing.
21 This is an opportunity to buy a piece of
22 property from Alabama Power Company. If
23 you know Alabama Power Company, they

1 don't sell property, not much. And I've
2 been dealing with Alabama Power Company
3 for 12 years now, and I must say they
4 have worked with us really well. And we
5 appreciate everything that Alabama Power
6 Company has done for our trail
7 association and for the people that
8 hike. And so this piece of property is
9 a -- is just a choice piece of property
10 that they are willing to sell. Thank
11 you.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

13 MR. CAUTHEN: Let me say something,
14 Commissioner.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

16 MR. CAUTHEN: Not only am I not on the front
17 cover, but I don't do a whole lot of
18 hiking either.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: In your younger days,
20 Mr. Cauthen. That was what I was
21 referring to.

22 Mayor Smith.

23 MR. SMITH: Good morning. Just want to thank

1 the board for the opportunity to speak
2 to you this morning. I want to talk to
3 you about bicycle trails. And I don't
4 want you to buy any property or build
5 any trails for me. I'm here on behalf
6 of some other folks that are trying to
7 build a Wiregrass trail and ask for your
8 support in that.

9 The reason I came this morning is
10 that we opened a bicycle trail in 1998.
11 So we've been in this business a long
12 time, and I want to kind of give you an
13 idea of how that's been for us.

14 I think it's actually been a
15 positive influence on our community.
16 It's improved the quality of life there.
17 To me it's really exciting to go down to
18 that trail and see families -- the
19 entire family out there riding a trail
20 together on their bicycles or walking or
21 whatever it might be.

22 This is a hard-surface trail that we
23 have. So it's bicycles, walking,

1 jogging, skateboard. No motorized
2 vehicles. But it's just -- you know,
3 when you see friends get together and
4 meet down there daily to ride that
5 trail. And so a lot of folks, whether
6 you're a causal bike rider or very
7 serious bike rider or whether you're
8 walking or jogging or whatever it might
9 be, you can get some great exercise
10 improving your health.

11 The other thing I wanted to point
12 out to you, it's been great for our
13 economy, I think, for our city and our
14 area. We have a lot of people that come
15 to town just to ride that trail, and
16 when they're there, they buy some
17 gasoline and buy a hamburger or two,
18 maybe stay in a hotel.

19 We are part of the Chief Ladiga
20 Trail that actually begins in the north
21 end of Anniston and goes through Weaver,
22 Calhoun County, Cleburne County,
23 Piedmont, all the way to the Georgia

1 State Line. It's 33 miles. We own --
2 we, meaning the city of Jacksonville,
3 owns 8.1 miles of that trail. And it's
4 maintained by each individual entity.
5 And that has worked very well for us.
6 We don't really have any major issues
7 about the maintenance of the trail.

8 And now the trail actually connects
9 all the way to the Georgia line and ties
10 in with the Silver Comet Trail in
11 Georgia. So you can actually get
12 your -- ride your bicycle -- get on the
13 trail in Jacksonville and ride to
14 Atlanta. I can't do that. Maybe some
15 of you can do that. We do have people
16 in our town that do that, and we have
17 people that ride from Atlanta to our
18 town, maybe spend the night there,
19 spending money there, buying bicycles,
20 bicycle equipment. We have a bicycle
21 shop that probably wouldn't be in
22 business if it wasn't for this trail
23 there. So it's hard to put a dollar

1 amount on how much it affects our
2 economy, but I know it's a big benefit.

3 We have a rest stop there in town
4 where the bicyclers or walkers,
5 whatever, can stop. It has a bathroom
6 available to them. And we have a book
7 there where they can just, if they'd
8 like to, sign in, kind of say whatever
9 they want to about the trail and talk
10 about where they're from. And it's
11 amazing. I just flip through that thing
12 occasionally, and it's amazing where all
13 the different places these people come
14 from.

15 It's also -- we use this as kind of
16 a recruiting tool, too, when we're
17 trying to recruit industry or
18 individuals to our town. It's really
19 nice to be able to talk about that. I
20 was in the real estate business for a
21 while. And I learned that the first
22 thing people want to hear about is the
23 quality of your schools before they move

1 to your area, but then the next thing is
2 about recreation that's available to
3 them.

4 So we really use this as our
5 marketing, make it a part of our
6 marketing package and talk to people
7 about that trail. And it's just been a
8 tremendous asset to us. And, like I
9 say, we've been in this business 18
10 years now and have had no major problems
11 with it. So, like I say, I'm not trying
12 to build a trail, but I wanted to ask
13 you to support these folks. The
14 Wiregrass Trail folks is really the ones
15 that asked me to talk about our
16 experiences and why I'm here today. So,
17 again, thank you for the opportunity to
18 be here and thank you for what you do.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for the
20 mayor?

21 Mayor, do you mind if I ask a
22 question?

23 MR. SMITH: No.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm familiar with your
2 trail and have heard a lot of good
3 things about it and certainly appreciate
4 your comments.

5 Did I understand you to say that
6 along that route of trails that each of
7 the entities owned a designated part of
8 that or maintained that? Is that what I
9 understand?

10 MR. SMITH: Each of those entities actually
11 own their portion of the trail and
12 maintain their portion, and that's
13 worked really well for us.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: So like if it's your city
15 or another -- I don't know, you know, if
16 it's all cities or is it counties too?

17 MR. SMITH: It's City of Anniston, City of
18 Weaver, City of Jacksonville, City of
19 Piedmont all have a piece of that trail,
20 and then Calhoun County and Cleburne
21 County have a piece of the trail.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: So if I may ask -- because
23 we've had a couple of questions about

1 this. Did -- just a little history.
2 And I may just call you up separately,
3 but --

4 MR. SMITH: That's fine.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: If you don't mind.

6 Did y'all just get together at one
7 time to determine to do that or was it
8 just kind of put together piecemeal?

9 MR. SMITH: There was a trail commission that
10 kind of put it together originally, but
11 it actually came about at separate
12 times.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: I see.

14 MR. SMITH: Piedmont was really the first
15 entity that built the trail -- bought a
16 piece of railroad bed and built a trail.
17 And then Calhoun County followed that.
18 I think we were probably third.

19 And we had a situation there for a
20 while -- we did ours in two phases.
21 Well, the interesting thing about
22 that -- or it is to us anyway -- is that
23 first phase was from the north part of

1 the Jacksonville State University campus
2 to the end of where we owned, about -- a
3 little over three miles. Later we did
4 the second phase from the south end of
5 the campus to the Weaver city limits,
6 and then they later picked that up.

7 But the part between our north end
8 and our south end remained undeveloped
9 for three or four years. It was on
10 Jacksonville State University property,
11 and the president of the university at
12 that time did not feel like it was a
13 good idea to have that trail going
14 through the campus.

15 We had a different president that
16 came on in 1999, and then he immediately
17 went to work to try to purchase that
18 property from the railroad and did
19 purchase that and opened that up to
20 connect the trail. And at that point we
21 had the whole 33 miles from Anniston to
22 the Alabama line-Georgia line and
23 connecting to the Silver Comet Trail.

1 But it was done in different --
2 different time frames as we were able to
3 get the money. All of this -- most all
4 of ours was done with Transportation
5 Enhancement funding, you know, 80/20
6 funding, to buy the property and do the
7 maintenance. And since we've been there
8 18 years, we've had to resurface our
9 trail, too, and we did that with the
10 American Recovery Investment Act
11 funding. So we've been fortunate to get
12 funding to help maintain that trail.

13 But, interestingly enough, the
14 biggest issue we've had with maintenance
15 is roots.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Roots?

17 MR. SMITH: Yeah. They have a tendency -- you
18 know, we don't want to cut the trees by
19 the trail. We want to keep that trail
20 looking attractive, and those roots have
21 a tendency to get out there. And when
22 we resurfaced it this time, there was
23 really a process they could go through

1 hopefully to keep that from happening.
2 That's about the biggest maintenance
3 issue we've had.

4 Interestingly enough, we have not
5 had trouble about trash along the trail.
6 It's policed very well. People have
7 done a great job when they ride the
8 trail of taking care of the trail. So
9 it's been -- maintenance has been really
10 pretty easy for us.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, you have a lot of
12 experience with this, I can tell, and
13 have a lot of knowledge that I think
14 would benefit us as both a group and as
15 the staff that helps with the Forever
16 Wild program. Would you mind if we
17 reached out to you to kind of get some
18 of that wisdom from you and --

19 MR. SMITH: I'll be happy -- I think I have
20 enough cards with me today that I could
21 give each of you a card.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm going to let you give
23 Ms. Powell one right there, if you don't

1 mind, and we will get back with you.

2 MR. SMITH: I'll save me one and give her the
3 rest.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's fine. And I think
5 Mr. Allen has a question as well.

6 MR. ALLEN: How wide is your property?

7 MR. SMITH: Ten -- oh, you know, I don't know
8 the answer to that. You'll have to call
9 me on that one.

10 MR. ALLEN: Roughly, ball-park. Is it just
11 the width of a railroad?

12 MR. SMITH: Our paved portion of that trail is
13 ten feet. I do know that.

14 MR. ALLEN: And then you've got some on each
15 side?

16 MR. SMITH: But we have whatever easement the
17 railroad had. We bought their entire
18 easement, and I don't remember exactly
19 what that is. It's a pretty wide
20 easement.

21 MR. ALLEN: Right. I think I know --

22 MR. SMITH: And we do have to maintain that.

23 We -- you know, we have to mow that and

1 keep it blown off. We do about once a
2 year have to go through and trim some
3 limbs back, but it's -- our parks and
4 rec department maintains our portion of
5 it.

6 MR. ALLEN: Okay. Well, the point I'm trying
7 to make is, so it's a narrow -- long
8 narrow piece of property. So you can go
9 through a lot of --

10 MR. SMITH: Right. 8.1 miles.

11 MR. ALLEN: You go through a lot of different
12 property owners.

13 MR. SMITH: Yes.

14 MR. ALLEN: What kind of problem have you had
15 going through those other private
16 properties?

17 MR. SMITH: When we started developing this
18 property 18 years ago, we had some
19 resistance of some folks along there.
20 They were concerned about who might be
21 out there on that trail that might be
22 disturbing their property and so forth.
23 Since we've opened the trail and they

1 realized this hasn't happened, you know,
2 it's been positive. We have almost no
3 resistance at this point.

4 In fact, we in the last four or five
5 years had a subdivision that was built
6 along the trail where a lot of the
7 houses actually back up to the trail.
8 Those are the most popular and most
9 expensive lots because people want to be
10 by that trail. And a lot of them
11 actually put their own entrances onto
12 the trail there from their backyards so
13 they can get onto the trail easily.

14 I talked to a family last week that
15 actually moved to our community because
16 of the trail and bought a -- they were
17 living in Florida and had ridden trails
18 down there and retired, and they wanted
19 to move somewhere where they could ride
20 every day and not be too awfully cold
21 but get out of the heat of Florida and
22 get into where there are some hills, a
23 little variety. And they said they

1 looked at Mississippi, Alabama, and
2 Georgia and finally found a house for
3 sale in our town that obviously had the
4 lot backed up to the trail, and that's
5 what they were looking for.

6 So, you know, like I say, when we
7 started this, we had some resistance.
8 We actually had resistance of one of our
9 council members who didn't want to be
10 involved with this project. But since
11 it's opened up it's really gone really
12 well. We have not -- we have no issue
13 now with any of the public that I'm
14 aware of.

15 MR. ALLEN: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mayor. We
17 appreciate you being here today.

18 MR. SMITH: Thank you. I appreciate the
19 opportunity.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

21 Yael Girard. Did I mess that up?

22 MS. GIRARD: No. You did great.

23 Hi, everybody. Thank you for being

1 here today and making a quorum and thank
2 you for allowing us to come up and
3 provide our comments. I'm here --

4 MR. CAUTHEN: What was your name again? I'm
5 sorry.

6 MS. GIRARD: My name is Yael Girard. And I'm
7 here on the Weeks Bay Foundation and our
8 property which is called Meadows
9 Phase II, I believe, in y'all's packet.
10 And he's handing out a packet right now.

11 This property has currently had a
12 first appraisal done, and we are looking
13 for a motion for a second appraisal and
14 closing. This property is 243.5 acres
15 actually made up of three different
16 properties. They are all contiguous
17 with the existing Meadows property,
18 which is 835 acres. The addition of
19 these three properties would bring it to
20 just under 1100 acres. This is down in
21 Baldwin County, so right on -- in
22 coastal Alabama pretty far.

23 But the interesting thing about this

1 property is that we have currently
2 received a NOAA grant through our
3 partners at the Weeks Bay Reserve that
4 would provide a one-to-one match with
5 any Forever Wild funds. So based on
6 past appraisal, we expect that these
7 three properties may appraise again for
8 350,000, and that NOAA grant would
9 provide 175,000 of that cost.

10 One of the things to consider about
11 that grant is that it is currently due
12 to expire at the end of March, beginning
13 of April. So the administrator or the
14 lead investigator on that grant has
15 applied for an extension, but we would
16 like to move the property forward
17 because we may lose those funds if the
18 extension is not granted. So they are
19 currently allocated for this property
20 and would provide the match for that
21 sale, but we want to make sure that it
22 moves forward.

23 If you have any questions about the

1 location, there are maps of each
2 property and of the regional area of
3 those properties as well. Great
4 conservation property, wetlands, habitat
5 for pitcher plants, migratory birds,
6 several threatened and endangered
7 species of both plants and animals.

8 Are there any questions?

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
10 Ms. Girard?

11 MR. RUNYAN: On your map, Phase II, is it on
12 either side of the Phase I?

13 MS. GIRARD: Yeah. So you're looking at this
14 map here?

15 MR. RUNYAN: Yes, ma'am.

16 MS. GIRARD: Okay. So the properties that are
17 under consideration are the ones that
18 are in orange. Up to the left you'll
19 see Stelzenmuller and Hiatt, and then
20 down to the right you'll see one called
21 Ollinger. And those are the three
22 properties that are together considered
23 Meadows Phase II.

1 Other questions?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. GIRARD: Thank you very much for your
4 time.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

6 Ms. Linda Derry.

7 MS. DERRY: Hello, ladies and gentlemen.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

9 MS. DERRY: My name is Linda Derry, and I'm
10 the site director at the Old Cahawba
11 Archeological Park which is adjacent to
12 the Forever Wild Old Cahawba Prairie
13 tract in Dallas County. And I wanted to
14 talk to you about three things
15 concerning that tract.

16 First I just want to thank you for
17 creating that tract, and I want to tell
18 you how much I've really enjoyed having
19 contact with all the staff from the
20 department head on down to the
21 botanists, to the guys that are on the
22 land doing -- taking care of it.
23 They've all been professional,

1 experienced, hard working, and
2 absolutely friendly, so you should be
3 very proud of them.

4 The second thing I wanted to talk to
5 you about is I would like to ask you --
6 we're located there at the confluence of
7 the Cahaba and the Alabama River -- is
8 I'd like you to move ahead to the second
9 approval of expanding that tract down
10 onto -- I think it's called the Hall
11 tract -- to go ahead and make them the
12 offer.

13 I know that the landowner is very
14 willing to work with you. There is some
15 loblolly timber on it, but they're
16 willing to make a timber reservation or
17 whatever they have to do to work with
18 you. So they're very open to doing
19 whatever they can do to make this
20 happen.

21 And as someone who lives in Dallas
22 County, I think it's very important
23 seeing what's happened with the tract

1 that currently exists. We are a very
2 poor location. We're in the heart of
3 the Black Belt. And so tourism and
4 hunting is part of that that's very
5 important to us. So it's an economic
6 engine. It's also helping to preserve a
7 way of life. Because people come in
8 from other states, from other parts of
9 the state and are fencing off land. And
10 so where you used to go hunt on your
11 friend's property, you can't do that
12 anymore. So it's so important that
13 you're providing public land.

14 And so not only is it an economic
15 engine with people selling things that
16 supply the hunters that come in, but
17 it's also preserving a way of life.
18 Because it's important for young people
19 who have grown up learning to hunt or
20 fish. And, also, with some people it's
21 subsistence to be able to have access to
22 the rivers and to hunt.

23 And as an archeologist -- I know the

1 landowner on this tract has been talking
2 to me long-distance about archeological
3 remains on that site, and this is a
4 primary that we're looking for the site
5 of Mavila, which is the Holy Grail for
6 archeologists in trying to figure out
7 where Hernando de Soto went through
8 Alabama. So archeologists in the state
9 are working hard to find this place
10 before the gravel pits and the
11 river-front development take it out. So
12 there's lots of reasons. And you know
13 that. You studied this tract. So I
14 just want to encourage you to move ahead
15 and make that second approval and
16 appraisal to make the offer.

17 The last thing I want to speak to
18 you about is the Bicentennial of our
19 state is fast approaching. The
20 Bicentennial Commission has said we're
21 going to celebrate this from 2017 to
22 2019. We became a state in December of
23 1819.

1 Now, Cahawba is Alabama's first
2 state capital, and so we're going to
3 have lots of visitors. And I would
4 really love to see my agency, the
5 Alabama Historical Commission, work with
6 you to tell this story. To reach us you
7 have to drive right through the middle
8 of this Forever Wild tract. So I want
9 to encourage you as fast as possible --
10 I know you have lots of challenges to do
11 this -- but to try to do some habitat
12 restoration along that entrance road at
13 least so people can see what the Black
14 Belt Prairie looked like. That's the
15 landscape -- you know, when Governor
16 Bibb planned that town there at Cahawba,
17 that's the landscape he would have seen,
18 and what a great story we could tell
19 together.

20 So, please, I know it's hard, but
21 whatever you can do to do that and do it
22 as quickly as possible so we'll be ready
23 for the Bicentennial so people -- you

1 know, they don't even know the Cotton
2 Belt anymore -- but to know that before
3 that there was the Prairie Belt. That
4 would be great.

5 And I also would like to offer to
6 work with you -- you have two wonderful
7 parking lots on that tract -- to work
8 with you to get a couple of interpretive
9 signs before the Bicentennial that talk
10 about the Black Belt Prairie that
11 features this beautiful -- the old
12 Cahawba rosinweed. You have one of the
13 largest stands that exists. It's a
14 pretty rare thing. And all those
15 prairie wildflowers. It would be
16 wonderful to see those come back again.

17 But we'd love to see a panel where
18 we could work together that would
19 combine the history, the culture, and
20 the nature and how that's the story that
21 created us in Alabama. So thank you for
22 the time.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Ms. Derry.

1 Are there any questions?

2 Can I ask -- Jo, we were having a
3 little trouble. Which tract is she
4 referring to, the Hall tract?

5 MS. LEWIS: Old Cahawba Prairie Addition.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Old Cahawba Prairie
7 Addition.

8 MS. LEWIS: It's on the overview of appraised
9 values.

10 MS. DERRY: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

12 Shane Ellison.

13 MR. ELLISON: Good morning. Shane Ellison,
14 City of Gadsden Mayor's Office. I just
15 wanted to thank you for what you're
16 doing on the 80 acres on Hinds Road, the
17 rock outcrop that you're working with
18 Mr. Miles to purchase, and let you know
19 the good news.

20 Recently we were awarded an ADECA
21 Recreational Trails grant for the
22 adjacent property to construct about six
23 to seven miles of additional -- because

1 we already have four miles of
2 mountain-bike trails -- so additional
3 mountain-biking and hiking trails. So
4 that just adds to, I guess, the
5 importance of this property. So I just
6 kind of wanted to update you on where we
7 are and see if you all had any
8 questions.

9 I do know that the property owner is
10 very eager to proceed. He actually
11 thought that this would be closed last
12 year. So just for your information.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions of

14 Mr. Ellison?

15 Dr. Sims.

16 DR. SIMS: Which property?

17 MR. ELLISON: I don't know how it's labeled
18 there, but it's the 80-acre rock outcrop
19 on Hinds Road in Gadsden, Alabama.

20 MS. POWELL: It's actually in the closing
21 process. And so it has not reached
22 close, but it is in the process. I'm
23 not aware of any issues. It's just one

1 of the ones we're trying to work to get
2 the closing papers done.

3 MR. ELLISON: Good news.

4 MS. POWELL: But I appreciate you thanking us
5 and for the update.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah, appreciate you coming
7 and hopefully we'll have that done soon.
8 So that will be good news. And please
9 tell the mayor and everyone up there we
10 appreciate all that they do.

11 MR. ELLISON: Okay. Thank y'all.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Thanks for
13 being here today.

14 All right. I've got Skipper
15 Tonsmeire and Steve Crockett and
16 whichever one of y'all want to go first.
17 It's up to y'all. Go ahead.

18 MS. POWELL: But they're separate, so ...

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay

20 MR. TONSMEIRE: Thank you. I'm representing
21 the Coastal Land Trust. And we
22 certainly appreciate everything y'all
23 are doing for the state of Alabama

1 because we kind of work on the same
2 projects ourselves.

3 Our primary mission is habitat
4 protection, and that mission converges
5 with Forever Wild's public access and
6 public opportunity for recreation
7 objective. And we have a group of local
8 people we got together about 30 years
9 ago because of all the development
10 pressure around the Mobile Delta, and
11 our primary focus at that time and still
12 is the protection of the natural
13 resources of the Mobile Delta. It's
14 tremendously important not just from a
15 recreational standpoint, but also it's
16 vital to the seafood industry because
17 the delta is the nursery areas that
18 provide the nursery grounds for fish,
19 shrimp, crabs, and a lot of the things
20 that we like to catch and eat and
21 nongame as well.

22 We have protected about 30,000 acres
23 in our 30 years. We have 2200 acres

1 left. The tract that we are proposing
2 that you purchase today is adjacent to
3 some properties that you have bought
4 from us in the past. And this would be
5 a good addition. It's good hunting
6 land, has deer, turkey. There have been
7 hunt clubs on it. We bought it from
8 Alabama Power about 15 years ago. And
9 it had been clear-cut in 1975 and had
10 not been restored. It had just been
11 left to grow up. And, truthfully, it
12 was not good habitat for anything at
13 that time, not game or songbirds or
14 anything. And we have been restoring
15 the land and planting longleaf pines and
16 converting some loblolly plantations to
17 longleaf to try to improve the habitat.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Tonsmeire, can I ask
19 you a question?

20 MR. TONSMEIRE: Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't want to interrupt
22 you.

23 So this is the property -- I'm

1 seeing Ms. Powell stand up behind you.

2 I'm just letting you know.

3 MR. TONSMEIRE: She's going to straighten me
4 out.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: This is the property that
6 was presented last time, right, and it
7 was an issue where we needed to separate
8 it out, correct, or something like that?

9 MS. POWELL: And for the benefit of any board
10 member who maybe wasn't at the December
11 meeting, it's the Byrnes Lake property.
12 It had -- it was submitted as a single
13 nomination but two different properties,
14 two different landowners, two sellers.
15 And so the issue came up at the last
16 meeting as to any ability to separate
17 the two parcels.

18 After that meeting -- I'm bringing
19 you up to date -- our staff did proceed
20 with an evaluation of being able to
21 separate those two properties. Both
22 confirmed with the appraiser that --
23 well, we knew the two tracts were

1 appraised separately because we had two
2 owners -- but would there be any
3 adjustment needed to the appraisal if
4 the two parcels were separated and not
5 purchased by this program as a whole.
6 We have confirmed with the appraiser
7 that the prior appraisal's separation of
8 the two tracts stands by themselves. So
9 we can still utilize the current
10 appraisal that we have.

11 Secondly, the other issue that we
12 needed to work on was whether or not
13 separation of the acreage either by
14 attributes or number of acres would have
15 caused either of them to have come off
16 the short list, its prioritization.
17 After analysis of this Coastal Land
18 Trust tract in addition to, again, being
19 able to utilize the appraisal that we
20 have, the scoring was not impacted in a
21 nature that would have altered its
22 status as a short-list property. So the
23 board, if there were interest, could

1 proceed based on the appraisal that we
2 have as to the tract that you see on
3 your map separated out as a Coastal Land
4 Trust property.

5 So I didn't mean to interrupt, but I
6 thought I might could anticipate a few
7 questions on that.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's hard for us to keep up
9 with it, but I thought that was what it
10 was. And I just wanted to make sure
11 while the board was listening to you
12 that they understood what you --

13 MR. TONSMEIRE: Yes, sir. And I apologize for
14 being redundant. I was worried about
15 the people that were not at the previous
16 meeting.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: No. That's fine. I'm glad
18 you are. Please proceed too. I'm sorry
19 to interrupt you.

20 MR. TONSMEIRE: I think I'm about through.

21 Anyway, we've had the first
22 appraisal, as Patti said, and we're
23 requesting that you do the second

1 appraisal.

2 We have done our habitat protection
3 two ways. One is we have conveyed the
4 land to government entities, primarily
5 the state. However, we have -- our
6 original purchase in the delta was
7 17,000 acres that went from Mobile all
8 the way to Baldwin County, and that was
9 conveyed to the Corps of Engineers under
10 the Tennessee-Tombigbee mitigation
11 program. It is managed by the state for
12 public access. Most all of these areas
13 are now in wildlife management areas.

14 And we -- we protect habitat two
15 ways. One is by these conveyances to
16 government entities that will make it
17 available for the public. The other way
18 is -- and we have done this on pretty
19 rare occasions with small properties.
20 We have conveyed to a private individual
21 after placing restrictions on the
22 property as to what it could or could
23 not be used for. And they are very

1 stringent restrictions. In other words,
2 we don't allow any commercial
3 development. We don't allow subdivision
4 development unless it's like dividing
5 into lots that are hundreds and hundreds
6 of acres. We don't allow any high
7 fencing. We don't allow any planting of
8 commercial -- other than trees, we don't
9 allow planting of any non-native
10 species. But we have done a tremendous
11 amount of habitat improvement as well as
12 protecting the title and the access to
13 the land.

14 Anyway, we appreciate your
15 consideration and we truly appreciate
16 what Forever Wild has done. We worked
17 really hard, like a lot of people,
18 including y'all, to get the initial
19 legislation passed and then to get it
20 reauthorized, this thing we went through
21 a few years ago. It's much appreciated.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

23 Mr. Tonsmeire, before you sit down, are

1 there any questions?

2 Yes, ma'am.

3 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: What separates the Coastal
4 Land Trust from the Byrnes Lake tract?

5 There's a gap.

6 MR. TONSMEIRE: It's Byrnes Lake and there's
7 some property that is owned by other
8 people.

9 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Oh, okay. So there's
10 other private owners?

11 MR. TONSMEIRE: Yes. Yes. There's a mix of
12 private and state ownership in this
13 area. We have tried to protect the
14 delta by buying the land within the
15 delta itself. Then we also try to
16 protect the delta by protecting the
17 edges because what happens on the edges
18 affects what happens down in the delta
19 as far as runoff, sediments, chemicals,
20 things like that.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions?

22 Before you sit down -- Jo or
23 Patti -- because I thought it was put

1 together at the beginning, and I don't
2 see -- should I ask -- because
3 separately is it set out in our
4 documents what that particular tract --
5 like how much the cost is, what it is
6 per acre?

7 MS. POWELL: Yes. In this instance, just by
8 the fact that we did have two separate
9 owners, they were appraised separately.
10 So we can --

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Why am I not seeing it?

12 MS. POWELL: Because we -- we can divide that
13 out for you. We were not sure how they
14 were going to be presented today.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, okay.

16 MS. POWELL: And I'm not positive -- there has
17 been some information communicated to me
18 that the Byrnes tract -- our entire
19 nomination is called the Byrnes Lake --
20 but the Byrnes tract, it may no longer
21 even be available. So we weren't sure
22 how it might proceed today.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: I understand.

1 MS. POWELL: But the board does have the
2 ability to move because of the way we
3 have it processed.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: And this 1750 of that
5 Byrnes Lake was the 29-something --

6 MS. POWELL: On the -- yes.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: 2952 is what we had on the
8 original submission. And yours,
9 Skipper, is what? 1750?

10 MR. TONSMEIRE: Yes, sir, it is. And I want
11 to apologize for that submission of both
12 properties. There was a mistake. And I
13 assume it was on our end. I was not the
14 one that did the submission, and I
15 apologize for that.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Don't worry about that. We
17 just want to get it straight, and I just
18 wanted the board to understand how it's
19 showing up on here because it's not
20 separated yet that I saw on here.

21 MS. POWELL: But that is the correct acreage
22 basically that would be the --

23 MS. LEWIS: You have it in the --

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: I was going to say, can
2 you -- what is the --

3 MS. POWELL: I mean, the acreage was
4 appraised -- was appraised separately,
5 and so that would be a subject of --

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: I understand. I
7 understand.

8 MR. TONSMEIRE: It's -- we have no
9 relationship with the Byrnes Lake. We
10 had -- Art Dyas that submitted for -- to
11 Forever Wild, he is one of the owners of
12 the Byrnes Lake, and it kind of somehow
13 got lumped into our property. We're --
14 this is totally separate ownership.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: We appreciate it. Thank
16 you. That helps us.

17 MR. TONSMEIRE: Yes, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Any other
19 questions?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

22 MR. TONSMEIRE: Thanks for your consideration.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you for being here.

1 Thanks for coming up.

2 And that would leave Mr. Crockett.

3 MR. CROCKETT: Thank you. My name is Steve
4 Crockett. I'm representing Point aux
5 Pins oyster farm. We have a proposal
6 pending before the board to allow us to
7 extend our farms onto bottoms that are
8 controlled by Forever Wild, and I'm here
9 to answer questions if they arise during
10 Mr. Brantley's presentation.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Crockett.

12 Does anybody -- Mr. Brantley is
13 going to give a presentation, I think,
14 on that issue a little bit later. We
15 can bring Mr. Crockett back up if that's
16 okay with everybody at that time if we
17 have some questions.

18 Thank you for being here,
19 Mr. Crockett.

20 All right. Unless the staff has any
21 other speaker cards for me, I don't have
22 anybody else that's signed up. Is there
23 anybody else we missed that didn't get a

1 chance to sign up that wants to speak at
2 this time?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. If not, then by
5 regulation, appraisal values are
6 confidential during periods of
7 negotiation. And, accordingly, in order
8 to discuss tract appraisal values, the
9 board will need to go into recess for an
10 executive session. Is there a motion
11 for the board to now recess to attend to
12 an executive session?

13 DR. SIMS: So move.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims.

15 Second?

16 DR. WOODS: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods.

18 I need to call your name, and please
19 state your position on the motion to
20 recess by stating -- of course, if the
21 vote is in favor say "aye" and opposed
22 "nay." And I will do that now.

23 Mr. Allen?

1 MR. ALLEN: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Runyan?

3 MR. RUNYAN: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ball?

5 MR. BALL: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

7 MR. CAUTHEN: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims?

9 DR. SIMS: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

11 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

13 DR. WOODS: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Pate?

15 MR. PATE: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: And myself, aye.

17 So at this time we will recess into
18 our executive session. For the members
19 of the public, we hope that will take us
20 no longer than about 20 minutes. And we
21 will be back in at that time and have
22 other business before the board
23 including any motions. Thank you. Give

1 us -- we'll try to -- I've got right at
2 eleven o'clock. We'll come back about
3 11:20.

4 **(Recess for executive session was**
5 **taken at approximately 11:00 a.m.**
6 **and the meeting was called back to**
7 **order at approximately 11:40 a.m.)**

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: At this time I'd like to
9 call the board back to order -- or call
10 the meeting to order, and we will
11 proceed with the meeting.

12 And I have at this time the next
13 order of business as being program
14 status report with some reports from
15 Ms. Powell and some of her staff. I
16 believe I've got financial data first,
17 Ms. Powell.

18 MS. POWELL: Thank you, Commissioner.

19 What I'd first like to do is run
20 through an overview of the status of the
21 various nominations that are in various
22 stages of closing that you have
23 previously instructed the staff to

1 proceed with closing on. They're in
2 various stages.

3 We have -- the following properties,
4 as we normally say, are pretty well
5 close to wrapped up and just in regular
6 closing trying to get to the finish
7 line: The Autauga WMA-Joffre Addition,
8 Autauga County. Autauga WMA-Old
9 Kingston Addition in Autauga County.
10 Guntersville State Park-Stubblefield
11 Mountain Addition, Marshall County.
12 Hinds Road Outcrop-Miles, Etowah. Walls
13 of Jericho-Estillfork Addition, Jackson
14 County.

15 The additional properties are those
16 we are actively closing that are still
17 in some stage of what we would call
18 negotiation, actively pursuing them but
19 not as cooked as the ones I just listed.
20 Those are the Big Canoe-Bettis Addition,
21 St. Clair County. Skyline WMA-Little
22 Coon Creek Addition, Jackson County.
23 Turkey Creek Nature Preserve-Shepherd

1 Addition, Jefferson. Monte Sano State
2 Park-Dug Hill West Addition, Madison.
3 Post Oak Flat-Shiflett Addition,
4 Jackson. Splinter Hill Bog-North
5 Addition, Baldwin County. Yates
6 Lake-Tapley Addition, Elmore County.

7 If you take all of those tracts and
8 those nominations that we consider a
9 commitment by this board, your available
10 balance today is roughly 21 million.
11 That full 21 million is within your
12 spending authority within state
13 procedures. But you have 21 million
14 basically in available balance as we are
15 today.

16 To recap, as we normally do, the
17 closings that have occurred or either
18 were in closing and have since been
19 declined in this fiscal year, we have
20 the Martin Timber Company land swap
21 which closed, the Big Canoe Creek
22 Preserve which was declined as we
23 mentioned at the last meeting. Autauga

1 WMA-Oak Grove Addition has closed.
2 Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift Tract 2 Meyer
3 Addition closed. And Desoto State
4 Park-Steward Gap Addition has closed.

5 Are there any questions as to status
6 of closings or cash balance at this
7 time?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. POWELL: All right. If there are no
10 questions on that, then I'm going to
11 move to the overview of appraised
12 nominations. These are the tracts that
13 at various times the board has already
14 moved for a first appraisal and remain
15 available to the board for any further
16 action if the board desires.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I just -- that's Tab 3;
18 right?

19 MS. POWELL: I'm so sorry. Yes, that is
20 Tab 3.

21 And there was an update because we
22 did receive a couple of appraisals that
23 were in your green folder. So you're

1 looking for Tab 3. The most updated
2 edition would be in the green folder.

3 Okay. We have the Autauga WMA
4 Phase II in Autauga County. The Byrnes
5 Lake nomination, Baldwin County, which,
6 as we talked before, could be split.
7 Coosa WMA-Hancock Phase III, Coosa
8 County. Henshaw Cove Addition, Jackson
9 County. Indian Mountain-Simmons
10 Addition, Cherokee. Lake Lurleen State
11 Park-Roebuck Addition, Tuscaloosa.
12 Natural Bridge Creek Tract, Covington
13 County. Old Cahawba Prairie Addition,
14 Dallas County. Pintlala Creek, Lowndes
15 County. Shelby County Park-Shades Creek
16 Addition, Shelby County. Skyline
17 WMA-Threwer Point Addition, Jackson.
18 Terrapin Hill, Coosa County. Weeks Bay
19 Reserve-Meadows Phase II Addition,
20 Baldwin County. Weeks Bay
21 Reserve-Sunset Shores Addition, Baldwin
22 County. Yates Lake-North Addition in
23 Elmore County.

1 If you take all of those roughly as
2 a group, in totality, that is about
3 \$30 million worth of appraisals compared
4 to your cash balance that I just
5 mentioned. But any questions on the
6 appraised nomination overview?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. POWELL: Commissioner, if there are no
9 questions on the financial information,
10 I'll have Doug come up and give a grant
11 status update.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Deaton.

13 MR. DEATON: Thank you, Commissioner. My name
14 is Doug Deaton with the State Lands
15 Division, Department of Conservation and
16 Natural Resources.

17 At this time I will give you a grant
18 status update. I'd like to mention for
19 the new board members and those
20 attending the meeting today the
21 Department of Conservation and Natural
22 Resources, both the State Lands Division
23 and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

1 Division, routinely try to find
2 land-acquisition grant opportunities
3 that fit some of the nominations that we
4 receive to help further Forever Wild
5 dollars. At each meeting we give an
6 update to the board and the public about
7 the different grants that we receive and
8 where we are in the process.

9 You heard earlier Ms. Yael Girard
10 speak about the Weeks Bay
11 Reserve-Meadows Phase II Addition. We
12 have a -- Weeks Bay staff has secured a
13 NOAA grant to act as a 50-50 percent
14 match that's available for you today.

15 We have an update on the Wildlife
16 Restoration grants. Just to let you
17 know, we have received the Autauga
18 WMA-Phase II appraisal, and that's
19 available for you to consider today as
20 well.

21 And, Commissioner, I have one other
22 item that's not grant-related, but it
23 has an opportunity to leverage Forever

1 Wild funds. Would it be okay to mention
2 it at this time?

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

4 MR. DEATON: It is the Weeks Bay
5 Reserve-Sunset Shores Addition. The
6 landowner has offered to offer that
7 property at 50 percent of appraised
8 value. And that's all I have.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. I notice on here --
10 well, does anybody have any questions of
11 Mr. Deaton?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: And let me just -- while
14 you're standing there, you might --
15 Director Sykes, I know you hadn't
16 planned to speak. But on the Autauga
17 County tract, I think, Phase II, can you
18 stand up and just tell us -- so that is
19 the Pittman-Robertson matching funds.
20 Everything is still a "go" on that if
21 that were to be nominated for purchase?

22 MR. SYKES: I'm sorry. Director Powell told
23 me to come up to the microphone.

1 My name is Chuck Sykes. I'm the
2 director of Wildlife and Freshwater
3 Fisheries. And, yes, the Autauga WMA
4 Phase II is ready. It's got the first
5 appraisal. Everything checked out with
6 our grants. So we are prepared to use
7 the Pittman-Robertson dollars to
8 leverage with Forever Wild on the
9 three-to-one match. If the board
10 chooses to move forward, we're ready.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

12 Any other questions?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Deaton.

15 Is it Ms. Lewis now?

16 MS. LEWIS: I believe so.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Jo.

18 MS. LEWIS: Good morning. I'm Jo Lewis with
19 the State Lands Division, and I'm going
20 to present the information in Tab 5 of
21 your original packet which we call the
22 short list. I do have a PowerPoint of
23 the same maps as you have in your packet

1 that I will be showing behind you,
2 whichever is preferable.

3 Your packet contains three tabs.
4 The first tab is two sheets. It is the
5 short list. The short list is a term we
6 use to describe the top-ranking scorers
7 in each category of use in each of the
8 three geographic areas of the state.
9 This results in a maximum number of
10 nominations on the short list of 36.
11 Today we have 23 because some
12 nominations short-list in more than one
13 category of use.

14 The nominations on the short list
15 vary in size from about three acres to
16 about 4300 acres, and they're scattered
17 throughout the state from Baldwin County
18 to Jackson County. And they are located
19 in 13 different counties within the
20 state.

21 Tab 5 (b) are the maps and
22 narratives of each of those on the short
23 list, and that is what's on the

1 PowerPoint behind you. And when we get
2 through those, there is also a list of
3 all active or available nominations.
4 Those are nominations with willing
5 sellers. At this point I'm going to go
6 to 5(b) and run through the short list.

7 The first is Chandler
8 Mountain-Simpson in St. Clair County.
9 Conecuh County Preserve in Conecuh
10 County. Coon Gulf-Heard, Jackson
11 County. Coosa River Tract in Elmore
12 County. Cooters Pond in Elmore County.
13 Deer Head Cove-Hartline tract in Dekalb
14 County. Dear Head Cove-Low Gap in
15 Dekalb County. Desoto State Park-French
16 Addition in Dekalb County. Desoto State
17 Park-Jones Addition in Dekalb County.

18 D'Olive Bay in Baldwin County. It's
19 not pronounced the way I expect it to
20 be.

21 Freedom Hills Wildlife Management
22 Area-Dog Pen Road Addition in Colbert
23 County. Horse Creek National Forest

1 Retreat in Clay County. Laguna Cove,
2 Baldwin County. Mobile-Tensaw Delta or
3 MTD-Pine Log Creek Addition in Baldwin
4 County. Mobile-Tensaw Delta or
5 MTD-Simmons Addition, Baldwin County.
6 Muleshoe Bend in Chambers County.
7 Perdido WMA-Freise Addition, Baldwin
8 County. Red Hills-Parris Trust
9 Addition, Monroe County. Rickwood
10 Caverns-Helms Addition, Blount County.
11 Rock Creek in Blount County. Shell
12 Banks Bayou, Baldwin County. Sipse
13 River Swamp-Lewbrig Addition, Tuscaloosa
14 County. And White Oak Plantation in
15 Macon County.

16 And that's the entirety. I'll be
17 happy to address any questions.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

22 Okay. At this time on the program
23 we have the items of general discussion.

1 As everyone knows, this is an
2 opportunity for the board to discuss any
3 matters that they would like to talk
4 about at this time, including motions or
5 other discussions, first or second
6 appraisals or any of those types of
7 activities. So is there any general
8 discussion that any member wants to
9 bring up at this time? If you would
10 just let me know and be recognized.

11 DR. WOODS: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I see Dr. Woods over
13 here.

14 DR. WOODS: I make a motion for second
15 appraisal and move to purchase the Yates
16 North -- or Yates -- Yates Lake-North
17 Addition.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's easy for you to say.

19 DR. WOODS: It is.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yates Lake-North Addition.

21 All right. We have a motion. Do we
22 have a second?

23 DR. SIMS: Second.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims had a second. A
2 motion and a second.

3 Any discussion on the motion?

4 (No response.)

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

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

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

12 Mr. Allen?

13 MR. ALLEN: Yes, Commissioner. I'd like for
14 the board, if they would, on the Autauga
15 WMA Phase II, second appraisal with
16 purchase.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. We've got a motion
18 for a second appraisal and a purchase on
19 the Autauga WMA Phase II.

20 DR. WOODS: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Woods.

22 Any discussion on the motion?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
2 say "aye."

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

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

8 MR. CAUTHEN: I got one, Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right, Mr. Cauthen.

10 MR. CAUTHEN: On the Henshaw Cove Addition in
11 Jackson County, I'd like to recommend a
12 second appraisal and proceed to
13 purchase.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We've got a
15 motion. Do we have a second?

16 DR. SIMS: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Dr. Sims.

18 Any discussion on the motion?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
21 say "aye."

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

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

4 DR. SIMS: Commissioner?

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, Dr. Sims.

6 DR. SIMS: I would like to ask the board to
7 consider the Skyline WMA-Threwer Point
8 Addition for second appraisal and
9 proceed to purchase.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a
11 motion.

12 Could you state that one again,
13 please, ma'am?

14 DR. SIMS: That's the Skyline WMA-Threwer
15 Point Addition in Jackson County.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. The 40 acres?

17 DR. SIMS: 40 acres, yes.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So we have a
19 motion. Do I have a second?

20 MR. ALLEN: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Second by
22 Mr. Allen.

23 Any discussion on the motion?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
3 say "aye."

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

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

9 Dr. Woods?

10 DR. WOODS: I make a motion for the second
11 appraisal and move to purchase the
12 WBR-Meadows Phase II Addition.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a
14 motion. Do we have a second?

15 DR. SIMS: Second.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Who was it?

17 MR. ALLEN: I'll do it.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Mr. Allen. We have
19 a second on the motion.

20 Any discussion on the motion?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's the Baldwin County
23 tract; right?

1 DR. WOODS: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
3 say "aye."

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

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

9 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman?

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, Mr. Ball.

11 MR. BALL: I'd like to make a motion that we
12 make a second appraisal on the Old
13 Cahawba Prairie Addition, 1505 acres in
14 Dallas County, and move to acquire.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have a
16 motion.

17 DR. WOODS: I second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have a second by
19 Dr. Woods.

20 Any discussion on the motion?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
23 say "aye."

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

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

6 And did I see somebody else's hand?

7 Dr. Woods.

8 DR. WOODS: I would like to make a motion for
9 a first appraisal on Conecuh River
10 Swamp. This is from the active
11 nomination list.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods, could you state
13 it again?

14 DR. WOODS: It is Conecuh River Swamp. It's
15 Crenshaw and Pike Counties, 771 acres.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have a motion.

17 Hold on. I see Ms. Powell ...

18 MR. CAUTHEN: I don't see that. Where is it?

19 DR. WOODS: I'm sorry. I looked at the wrong
20 one. I withdraw that.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. The motion is
22 withdrawn.

23 MS. POWELL: And to clarify, this was not on

1 the short list. The Conecuh property
2 was a different property, and that was
3 the source of the confusion.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Even professors get
5 confused.

6 MR. BALL: Mr. Chairman?

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir, Mr. Ball.

8 MR. BALL: Yes, sir. I'd like to move that we
9 make a second appraisal for Shelby
10 County Park-Shakes Creek Addition, 677
11 acres in Shelby County, and move to make
12 an offer.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: So a motion for second
14 appraisal and purchase?

15 MR. BALL: Yes.

16 MR. ALLEN: Which property?

17 MR. BALL: Shelby County Park.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Shelby County Park-Shades
19 Creek Addition.

20 Okay. We have a motion. Do we have
21 a second?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. The motion

1 fails for lack of a second.

2 Any other motions or any other
3 discussion?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. If no other
6 motions, no other discussions, then we
7 will move on to item seven with some
8 other reports. And I think we're
9 starting again with Ms. Powell.

10 MS. POWELL: I just like coming up to the
11 microphone. It's the lawyer in me. I
12 can't help it.

13 You will see in your packet, Tab --
14 and it actually is in your green folder.
15 It's 4(c). It's in your green folder.
16 It was prepared and delivered after your
17 packet.

18 But that is the Forever Wild Land
19 Trust official annual report that is
20 done every year. This report by
21 constitutional amendment is -- we
22 deliver it to the governor, the
23 lieutenant governor, and each house of

1 our legislature each year. The report
2 details -- gives an updated list of the
3 board members. It runs through the
4 acreage and the tracts that were
5 purchased pursuant to the program for
6 the fiscal year. It includes
7 highlights. It's certainly not an
8 exhaustive list, but it gives an example
9 of many of the activities that have
10 occurred on the various properties
11 through the years. And so it is, again,
12 the report that we are required by law
13 to give every year.

14 I wanted to --

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I stop you?

16 Just in case somebody -- it's done
17 at a certain time, and so some of the
18 newer board members aren't on here
19 because --

20 MS. POWELL: That's correct. It is delivered
21 on or before February 1st of each year.
22 It recaps -- is a recap of the prior
23 fiscal year which runs through September

1 30th. So that's a little time between
2 the close of the fiscal year to gather
3 the data and the report and then present
4 it on February 1st.

5 And, again, this is part of the
6 establishing constitutional amendment
7 for the program, and we deliver it every
8 year and also schedule this meeting in
9 accordance with the delivery of that
10 report. And this meeting, therefore, is
11 always held on or before February 10th.
12 And so this is both the presentation
13 publicly of the report which follows
14 shortly after the delivery, again, to
15 the governor, lieutenant governor, and
16 both houses of the legislature.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

18 MS. POWELL: And, again, it covers the members
19 that served. And because it's a fiscal
20 year, there will be more than 15 members
21 represented because you'll have some
22 members that served a portion of the
23 fiscal year as opposed to calendar year.

1 So you will see that. It also details
2 for each member when their term expires.

3 We also -- we detail when the four
4 quarterly meetings have been held, the
5 location of those meetings, and note the
6 fact that public comment is accepted in
7 each of those meetings.

8 Also, it just reiterates the
9 nomination process, that that can be --
10 nominations can be submitted by anyone.
11 They just must be in writing. It also
12 denotes the fact that we don't proceed
13 with processing or considering anything
14 that is nominated until after we have
15 documented by letter willing seller
16 status of the owner of the property.
17 And that's a lot of the work our staff
18 does, confirming owners and getting that
19 willing selling letter.

20 It runs through the financial
21 information as of the end of the fiscal
22 year. We covered it as of currently a
23 little bit earlier.

1 It notes the acquisitions. And we
2 acquired eight tracts within the last
3 fiscal year totaling about 3,781 acres
4 in total. And it lists the different
5 tracts as well as the counties for those
6 tracts. And those tracts included
7 purchases of the Sipsey-Pruett tract in
8 Tuscaloosa County; the Perdido River
9 WMA-Barnhill Addition, Baldwin County;
10 Grand Bay Savanna-Drake Addition, Mobile
11 County; Yates Lake-Guy Addition, Elmore
12 County; Pritchett tract, Covington
13 County; Heron Bay tract, Mobile County;
14 Lillian Swamp tract in Baldwin County;
15 and Autauga WMA obviously in Autauga
16 County.

17 And I'm not going to run through all
18 of the listing of activities that have
19 occurred on the properties. Again, even
20 the list in the report is not completely
21 exhaustive. But I wanted to note that
22 we did -- we did process all the way
23 after determining willing seller status

1 of 28 nominations.

2 It denotes several activities that
3 occurred at the M. Barnett Lawley Field
4 Trial area in Greensboro, Hale County,
5 and that included many events that are
6 not -- it included disabled hunting,
7 youth hunt events. We host an annual
8 "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" deer hunt
9 that's very popular there each year.
10 And we have numerous field trials, dog
11 field trials and hunt events and
12 evaluation contests just on that one
13 tract in Hale County.

14 All of those events have drawn over
15 3,000 people to an area that greatly
16 benefits from that activity and the
17 economic impact of those. So that's
18 just one example in a smaller rural area
19 of the state the impact that this
20 program can have, as well as the
21 opportunities that it can provide to
22 citizens.

23 The report details various other

1 improvements we have made in hosting
2 "open-gate weekends" on several tracts,
3 providing the public access to the
4 various trail heads of different tracts.
5 We continue to improve on the Coldwater
6 Mountain Bike Trail. That has been a
7 very, very popular tract, a very popular
8 venue. And although we did not prepare
9 it, Jacksonville State University has
10 prepared an economic impact analysis, a
11 study, in that area and it's --
12 contributes between 1.9 million and 5.9
13 million a year in that area. Again,
14 another highly used -- not just --
15 I mean, greatly enhanced the
16 recreational opportunity but also
17 enhancing the economic impact in that
18 area.

19 So, again, I want to brag a little
20 bit, but I don't want to take up too
21 much time today. The report will be
22 available on the Website and you have it
23 in your packet. But I did want to

1 highlight those activities.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry. Is that
3 economic impact statement on the
4 Website? Is that what you said?

5 MS. POWELL: Well, the annual report is. That
6 study was not prepared by us but was --
7 we were given a copy from Jacksonville
8 State University's preparation of that.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

10 MS. POWELL: And, anyway, any questions on the
11 annual report or any information?

12 Again, I realize I just hit a few
13 things. I just didn't want to take too
14 much time today.

15 But I do want to take the
16 opportunity to thank my staff. The
17 reason we're able to brag about the
18 things in this report are because of the
19 hard work of not just my State Lands
20 staff but our divisions that help us,
21 Chuck Sykes' Wildlife and Freshwater
22 Fisheries and Greg Lein's State Parks
23 and Chris Blankenship's Marine Resources

1 Division. They all -- we stand up here
2 every week, but they all contribute in
3 this effort.

4 If there are no questions as to the
5 annual report, we will move on to the
6 next item. Any questions?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. POWELL: I'm going to ask Will Brantley,
9 Commissioner, to come up. We have an
10 item related to forest management
11 activities. We always seek the board
12 approval on those activities, and we
13 need to come to the board with an update
14 and addition to that.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Mr. Brantley.

16 MR. BRANTLEY: Thank you, Commissioner. Good
17 morning, Board.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

19 MR. BRANTLEY: I will be brief. We typically
20 come to this board once a year with a
21 request and a plan for some of our
22 forest management activities for the
23 year that the board is responsive to,

1 and we did that back in the fall of this
2 year. However, since that time we
3 have -- on our Barbour WMA we have found
4 some southern pine beetle spots on some
5 Forever Wild land that, if you know
6 anything about the southern pine beetle,
7 it can be very bad in a stand of timber.
8 So we need to get in there and take care
9 of that.

10 In examining that we also saw an
11 opportunity in concert with our Wildlife
12 and Freshwater Fisheries Division to do
13 some habitat management, improvements,
14 and some things on some additional
15 acreage that would not only help prevent
16 future infestation but would also
17 enhance the hunting and the wildlife
18 management goals. So we are requesting
19 approval to initiate the forest
20 management activities on this particular
21 tract. And I'm happy to answer any
22 questions if anybody has any.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Does anybody have any

1 questions for Mr. Brantley?

2 Yes, ma'am.

3 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Which tract is this?

4 MR. BRANTLEY: I'm sorry. This is the Barbour

5 WMA-RMack Addition Forever Wild tract.

6 It's in Barbour and Bullock Counties.

7 MR PATE: Is it Tab 4?

8 MR. BRANTLEY: 4(a). I'm sorry. I didn't

9 orient you guys. It's Tab 4(a).

10 And for some help we have suggested

11 a motion for the board to consider, but

12 this would require a motion of the

13 board.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: So the motion, I guess, is

15 this short paragraph at the bottom?

16 MR. BRANTLEY: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So can we get

18 someone to -- assuming we want to

19 obviously do this, somebody to just read

20 that motion slowly out loud?

21 MR. PATE: I'll be glad to do that.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pate.

23 MR. PATE: The board authorizes the State

1 Lands Division to implement the
2 recommended forest management activities
3 on Forever Wild Land Trust properties
4 for the remainder of the 2016 fiscal
5 year as described in the memorandum
6 dated January 15, 2016. I make that
7 motion.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: You did that eloquently.
9 Obviously you read it.

10 MR. RUNYAN: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Mr. Runyan.

12 All right. I have a motion and a
13 second.

14 Any discussion?

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 MR. BRANTLEY: Commissioner, I have an

1 additional item.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. Proceed with the
3 next one, Mr. Brantley.

4 MR. BRANTLEY: Yes, sir. The board is aware
5 that at the last couple of meetings and
6 even predating that there have been
7 discussions relating to oysters and
8 leases of riparian areas for purposes of
9 oystering activities in our coastal
10 waters. All of these activities that
11 we're talking about, of course, are
12 being proposed and discussed adjacent to
13 lands owned by the Forever Wild Land
14 Trust.

15 So at the last meeting there were
16 actually people who attended the meeting
17 just like Mr. Crockett did today with
18 proposals and ideas for very specific
19 actions. One involved a lease of a
20 1.1-acre area of submerged land. That's
21 the one Mr. Crockett referenced earlier.
22 Another involved the lease of 296 acres
23 of land adjacent to the Forever Wild

1 Board's property, and that included
2 parties with multiple interests in that.

3 Good discussion at the last meeting.
4 The board wanted us to kind of do
5 further research and come back with some
6 additional information and some options
7 to consider. So in your green packet --
8 it's item 4(d) -- there is a very
9 short -- a very small packet of
10 information, a memo from me. And I just
11 want to quickly run through that.

12 So the board, among other things,
13 asked us to look into the valuation
14 piece and we have started that. We have
15 done a survey of oyster leases in
16 Alabama, you know, historical and
17 current, and we have come up -- there's
18 been -- the history we could retrace --
19 and there may be more. This is just
20 what we could find. But there have been
21 18 total, and the average value in terms
22 of a rental price per acre is \$5.77 per
23 acre for an acre of submerged land

1 adjacent to Forever Wild land.

2 Some of those were historic. Seven
3 of those were more current in value
4 and -- or more current in time. I'm
5 sorry. And those seven, just kind of
6 looking at those, were \$8.54 an acre.

7 So that's kind of some survey
8 information. There were a lot of
9 questions about valuation and what's
10 happening in the private sector, what's
11 happening on other lands. That's some
12 basic information.

13 We have also initiated --

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Go ahead. I'll -- go
15 ahead.

16 MR. BRANTLEY: Sure.

17 We have also initiated a request for
18 a quote from a surveyor. We've had some
19 discussions with surveyors about
20 performing a market analysis.

21 You will notice a map. It's the
22 second page of your packet. And in that
23 map there are five circled areas, and in

1 those circled areas, those are areas
2 where currently and historically oyster
3 activities have occurred, aquaculture
4 activities have occurred.

5 So we have requested a quote from an
6 appraiser to provide a market analysis
7 which would basically develop a per-acre
8 value for the value of the riparian
9 oyster lease for each of those five
10 areas. We requested a value for each
11 area individually and then a collective
12 quote, and we actually received that
13 information late yesterday, the
14 valuation information -- not the work,
15 but the quote to perform it.

16 In short, the one quote we have --
17 and we could get -- but one quote we
18 have was \$1,850 for each of those areas
19 to do research which would involve
20 looking at all the lease information
21 they could find and also looking at
22 sales of land as well to help in forming
23 the process.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me just be clear, and
2 I'm sure everybody else got it but me.

3 So what you're saying is for those
4 areas on that map, to ask them to do the
5 study or do the appraisal -- let me be
6 clear -- is about \$1800 per area?

7 MR. BRANTLEY: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. And what exactly are
9 they going to be doing for that amount
10 of money?

11 So they would perform a market
12 analysis. Because it's not one
13 particular piece we'd be looking at --
14 one particular piece of property. It
15 would be more of an area for these -- so
16 they would do the analysis to determine
17 what are some of these lease rates, some
18 of the information I quoted, but they
19 would obviously go out and dig deeper
20 than we were able to dig. They would
21 also look at information on sales
22 because there had been some discussions
23 about finding the value of the riparian

1 oyster rights as some sort of percentage
2 of value of the land. So it would be a
3 combination of those factors that would
4 then result in a unit basis, a per-acre
5 number of the value.

6 Is that clear as mud now?

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: No. I got it. I don't
8 want to cut you off. Are you through
9 before I open the questions?

10 I shouldn't have interrupted you.

11 MR. BRANTLEY: Well, the last piece I want to
12 mention, the very next -- unless there's
13 a question on that.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Did you have a
15 question, Mr. Runyan?

16 MR. RUNYAN: I missed the last meeting and I
17 apologize.

18 Does Forever Wild have riparian
19 rights in all five of these locations?

20 MR. BRANTLEY: No. Forever Wild doesn't, but
21 the state -- our interest -- we have a
22 program where we issue -- we do oyster
23 projects all over coastal Alabama. Part

1 of that requires when there's state land
2 involved to develop a process to do
3 that. In all five of these areas there
4 are state-owned properties. They're not
5 all necessarily Forever Wild.

6 MR. CAUTHEN: I got a question.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

8 MR. CAUTHEN: Did I understand you to say that
9 a riparian lease is only worth \$5 an
10 acre?

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Up to eight.

12 MR. CAUTHEN: Five to eight and we're talking
13 about leasing one acre?

14 MR. BRANTLEY: Right.

15 MR. CAUTHEN: For \$5 we've gone through all
16 this?

17 MR. BRANTLEY: Well, we don't have the value
18 we would -- you guys had asked a lot of
19 questions about value, and this was a
20 way to provide some survey information.
21 So based on this, yes, five to \$8 seems
22 to be kind of the --

23 MR. CAUTHEN: But we are talking about one

1 acre; right?

2 MR. BRANTLEY: We have multiple requests.

3 Mr. Crockett's request is for one acre
4 of submerged land adjacent to the
5 board's property.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Go ahead.

7 MR. BRANTLEY: And just kind of a good segue,
8 we have put together -- the board
9 also -- we also discussed a process. So
10 we put together what we have to do --
11 because it's state property. You're
12 just -- Forever Wild is one category of
13 state property.

14 Since it's state property, any kind
15 of interest in that property, even the
16 oyster riparian right, would have to be
17 competitively bid. So the State Lands
18 Division routinely offers up lands for
19 sale or lease through a process that we
20 manage.

21 So we have, just for the board's
22 benefit, worked up a sample bid notice.
23 And in this particular sample we did

1 insert, just so there was specific
2 information, the information associated
3 with Mr. Crockett's request.

4 So we -- we did our best to think of
5 some parameters just based on our
6 experiences and the things we do on a
7 day-to-day basis that would be useful
8 and important if a lease were to be
9 considered at some point by the board.
10 We also offer this as food for thought
11 for you guys during your discussion. If
12 there are some other parameters, if the
13 board elected at some point to consider
14 this and wanted us to offer up a lease
15 competitively, we would also add any
16 additional parameters that were of
17 interest to you as well.

18 So we have attached this as well.
19 And I think I'll just stop there,
20 Commissioner, if there's any questions
21 from you or others on the board.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: I certainly have some
23 questions and comments, but I want to

1 see if anybody else does.

2 So there's a couple of things that
3 I -- there's a couple of things that I
4 would like to say. And number one is I
5 think I heard from everybody last
6 time -- and I think I'm in that place --
7 that we want to see how we could make
8 this work. In other words, this is not
9 something that -- I don't feel like --
10 I'm just making a statement -- that the
11 board would be against trying to figure
12 out if this is a worthwhile kind of
13 thing because I'd like to promote oyster
14 aquaculture down there, however we might
15 do it.

16 At the same time I think we need
17 some more information. And I know it
18 hasn't been long since our December
19 meeting. I'm just going to express to
20 y'all something I talked with Ms. Powell
21 about. And not by way of excuse, you
22 know, but it's been a real short time
23 and a lot going on and all the staff has

1 had to do a lot of work. And I feel
2 like there could be some other work that
3 we could do to be more informative to
4 this board so that when we do take
5 action or nonaction or whatever we do we
6 can be as fair as possible to
7 Mr. Crockett and then the others that
8 also appear before us, you know, in
9 whatever action we take is all I'm
10 saying.

11 I do want to ask a question, and
12 then I -- so I know you gave us what
13 your survey of lease prices were that
14 Mr. Cauthen mentioned, and then you
15 mentioned the amount that it would cost
16 us to look at those areas. Let me -- I
17 want to follow up with that by saying --
18 let's say we did proceed with something
19 like this. Don't we still have to get
20 an appraisal?

21 MR. BRANTLEY: So --

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I don't know if

23 Ms. Powell --

1 MR. BRANTLEY: Yeah. And certainly Ms. Powell
2 can --

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Because what I'm asking is,
4 is that's additional money that we would
5 have to spend to -- by law to get an
6 appraisal of a -- and I'm just using the
7 one acre, not to pick on Mr. Crockett.
8 But we would still have to get an
9 appraisal, unless I'm mistaken --

10 MS. POWELL: For -- we have to consider the
11 requirements of the Land Sales & Leasing
12 Act. That's a state statute that does
13 have some requirements related to
14 appraisals and bid notices.

15 By anticipation, taking
16 Mr. Crockett's in isolation, one acre,
17 we would not have to follow the
18 provisions. We would still have to bid
19 it out. We would still have to have a
20 valuation of it. I think the market
21 analysis could serve in Mr. Crockett's
22 situation in one acre. The broader
23 program, when you get into more acreage

1 therefore increasing the valuation, the
2 Land Sales & Leasing Act kicks in at
3 \$20,000. So we would and could
4 encounter situations where we would trip
5 the provisions and might need an
6 appraisal. And so our legal -- another
7 thing that our legal department was
8 going to have to look at is -- for
9 example, with Mr. Crockett's, I feel
10 comfortable the market evaluation covers
11 our state constitution requirements of
12 determining value of any interest in
13 land.

14 But, yeah, that's an example of an
15 additional legal issue to answer all the
16 requests that we're aware of or we
17 anticipate in the future and how we
18 might handle them. That is another
19 detail that has to be worked out.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So it goes back to
21 what I was saying earlier. We could use
22 a little more time to --

23 MS. POWELL: We can give you some information

1 that's limited to the Mr. Crockett
2 example, but it's not really getting to
3 your broader question about proceeding
4 and costs, et cetera, that --

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: And that's what I wanted
6 the board to be -- and I thought that
7 might be the worthwhile thing is for the
8 board to understand cost versus benefit
9 purely on a dollar-for-dollar schedule.
10 That doesn't mean, in my opinion, that
11 the board would have to only look at
12 that to determine whether or not it's a
13 good practice or not. I just wanted the
14 board to understand that that
15 information could -- would be useful, I
16 think, to --

17 MS. POWELL: And I will add we're also having
18 to -- again, wearing our State Lands
19 Division hat, not here as administrator
20 for the Forever Wild program, we have
21 some responsibilities, as does Marine
22 Resources, to the various oyster
23 activities. We're also looking at if

1 the State Lands Division due to that
2 programmatic role might be the better
3 entity to acquire some of the appraisal
4 work or market analysis.

5 But we've got to come back to you on
6 that. So it might be someone other than
7 the board expending those -- due to
8 the -- there was a group formed by the
9 legislature, a committee -- an
10 aquaculture committee that was formed a
11 year or so ago that we work with. We
12 also want to consult with that committee
13 and get their input on the activities.
14 That's just another example of
15 additional input I would like with that
16 legislative -- legislative reform
17 committee.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions of Ms. Powell
19 or Mr. Brantley on this?

20 And I know some of you weren't at
21 the last board meeting. So that would
22 give you -- I mean, that may give y'all
23 an opportunity to catch up with that.

1 And I would encourage you if we decide
2 not to do anything now, which it doesn't
3 sound like -- I don't think it's right
4 for it -- but certainly reach out to
5 staff --

6 Would that be all right, Ms. Powell?

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- and get caught up on
8 that. And, of course, the minutes
9 were -- I went back and tried to look at
10 it, and it might not be as clear.
11 But we had a couple of different groups
12 there and there were a couple of
13 different things going on at one time.
14 And Mr. Blankenship is not here today.
15 He's in Washington.

16 But, anyway, I just point that out
17 for everybody. I want -- I just want
18 everybody to be informed, and then
19 whatever decision we make, that's fine.
20 But are there any other questions of the
21 staff or of Mr. Crockett?

22 Yes, Mr. Crockett.

23 MR. CROCKETT: If any of y'all would like to

1 come visit the farm and see -- actually
2 lay hands on it and see what it looks
3 like and how we do things, you're
4 welcome to give me a call and come
5 visit.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I remember Mr. Crockett
7 provided actually some pictures last
8 time of it, and his was above --
9 above -- off the water bottoms. Am I
10 correct, Mr. Crockett?

11 MR. CROCKETT: Yes, off bottom.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: So, you know, anybody that
13 wants that information, I'm sure, that
14 wasn't there last time, we can provide
15 that.

16 Thank you, Mr. Crockett.

17 So any other questions or anything
18 else anybody wants to bring up on that
19 subject matter?

20 And I think what we'll leave it at,
21 Mr. Crockett, we definitely understand
22 what you're asking for there, and I
23 appreciate your patience. We -- I think

1 we just want to try to get it right,
2 whatever it is, and there's still some
3 question marks and some things, I think,
4 that the staff could get for us that
5 would be more informative. And we'll --
6 because of you coming to two of these
7 meetings and everything, I want to ask
8 the staff to reach out to you next time
9 and inform you about what's going on at
10 the time so --

11 MR. CROCKETT: They have. They have.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So I appreciate
13 that.

14 Thank you, Will.

15 MS. POWELL: Okay. Are we ready to move on to
16 the next item?

17 If you would look at Tab 4(e) of
18 your packet. This is nothing for board
19 action today. It's really just a form
20 of -- to let you know of a request we
21 received and kind of let you know one of
22 the activities we will be working on
23 between now and the next meeting.

1 We received a request from Shelby
2 County related to the Cahaba
3 River-Shelby County Park tract. And in
4 4(e) you'll see a map of the tract. The
5 red line through that tract represents
6 the area of the request by the county
7 for an additional right of way. There's
8 an existing right of way. This would be
9 to add some acreage along the sides of
10 the right of way through that tract.
11 The request was made by Shelby County in
12 an effort for them to improve the public
13 access across our tract to the adjacent
14 Shelby County Park and Recreation Area
15 that borders our tract.

16 So we are currently evaluating this
17 request. Our process is first to
18 evaluate the impact of the request.
19 It's just been recently received. Being
20 along an already existing -- it's a dirt
21 county road and an existing right of
22 way. We would not anticipate an adverse
23 impact on the tract. But we do have a

1 process to follow to make that
2 determination.

3 And, again, Mr. Ellis is not here
4 today. He has also been in contact with
5 us about this request. But we're
6 working on -- unless anyone has an
7 objection with us proceeding with
8 evaluation of the request for the right
9 of way, we would come back next time
10 with our result of that and of potential
11 right of way and easement agreement for
12 the board to consider. And at that
13 time, too, as in the past, because this
14 is an actual -- a permanent easement
15 right of way, we would need to have that
16 portion appraised. That is a transfer
17 of an interest in land by this program
18 that we have been compensated for in the
19 past and would need to be again. And we
20 also would need to enter into
21 discussions with Shelby County. We have
22 had other proponents pay to reimburse
23 the program for the appraisal cost in

1 addition to compensating for those
2 transferred interests.

3 So it follows a similar -- we're
4 going to follow the same pattern we've
5 followed in the past when we've received
6 these requests. It's just we've only
7 had it for a couple of weeks. It's not
8 really where we can proceed today. But
9 if there are any particular questions
10 about it that anyone would like to bring
11 up or ask us to also take into
12 consideration as we proceed with our
13 evaluation, you know, let us know today
14 or give us a call. And we'll include
15 that question or that aspect in our
16 evaluation, and we will update you at
17 the next meeting.

18 But in the interim, any questions on
19 that?

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: So you're just going to
21 give us a report on that?

22 MS. POWELL: Right. I wanted you to be aware
23 of the communication and the request and

1 let you know that unless there was an
2 automatic objection to us putting in the
3 time we would be processing that request
4 as we have a few other requests we
5 received that you've ruled on in the
6 past.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: I think everybody is okay
8 with you proceeding.

9 MS. POWELL: Okay. Then that -- unless anyone
10 else on the board has an additional item
11 or any staff -- if I've missed anything,
12 now is the time to speak up.

13 That concludes our miscellaneous
14 reports. Commissioner, that takes us
15 next to the list of --

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, I'm going to skip to
17 the approval of minutes first. Is that
18 okay?

19 MS. POWELL: Excellent. I always get nervous
20 we're going to skip it, so you know I
21 like it.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So I will skip to
23 item nine, which is approval of minutes

1 of December 10, 2015. Do I have a
2 motion or any additions or corrections
3 to the minutes?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do I have a motion to
6 approve the minutes?

7 MR. ALLEN: So move.

8 MR. CAUTHEN: So move.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we've got -- who was
10 it -- it looks like it was Mr. Allen and
11 I think it was Mr. Cauthen, but you pick
12 who you want.

13 MR. CAUTHEN: It was.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Well, Mr. Cauthen,
15 then.

16 Got a motion and a second. Any
17 discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All in favor of the motion
20 say "aye."

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

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Minutes are approved. They
3 can be posted.

4 The next thing is our next meeting
5 date. I want to kind of remind
6 everyone. Ms. Powell probably -- may
7 have already said it to you. You know,
8 we changed -- you know, we talked about
9 it last time to try to get the meetings
10 more quarterly and not to have that
11 December meeting particularly so late --
12 not to have a December meeting.

13 So we are going in an effort -- I
14 think the board was in favor of that
15 because it runs into a lot of other
16 conflicts for people. We're going to
17 have our next meeting, I think, in May,
18 which is a little bit earlier than we
19 typically do, to try to get these things
20 more on a quarterly basis and not get
21 into that December meeting.

22 So May 12th will be our next
23 meeting. And if anyone has any

1 suggestions -- again, I always say
2 please present them to Ms. Powell or the
3 staff, and if not, we will be trying to
4 come up with some options to look at.
5 And I know -- I believe y'all are always
6 pleased with some of our options. So we
7 try to move around the state to not only
8 see some of the areas where we have the
9 properties but to reach out to those --
10 you know, go to those areas where we
11 have local governments and communities
12 and everything that are interested in
13 the program and, you know, don't want to
14 have to travel so far. So we try to
15 touch all four corners of the state as
16 much as possible. And we'll be looking,
17 absent some other suggestion, to try to
18 do that.

19 MS. POWELL: If anyone has a suggestion as to
20 May, you know, let staff know. Thanks.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: So is there any other order
22 of business before the board that we
23 need to discuss?

1 MR. CAUTHEN: I'd like to bring up one thing
2 if this is the appropriate time.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure.

4 MR. CAUTHEN: Mr. Tonsmeire made a
5 presentation to us today. And I'd like
6 to request, Mr. Tonsmeire, that you get
7 together with staff and think about
8 taking off some of those little
9 properties, the little edges around
10 there, and square that thing up so it
11 might be more appropriate for us to
12 proceed on.

13 MR. TONSMEIRE: Yes, sir, we'll do that.

14 MS. POWELL: And we'll get with Mr. Tonsmeire
15 and do that.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Cauthen.

17 Any other items of business?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Having heard
20 none, the meeting is adjourned.

21

22 (Meeting adjourned at
23 approximately 12:31 p.m.)

* * * * *

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board Meeting on February 4, 2016.

The foregoing 123 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

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

This 15th day of April 2014.

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2016
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large