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MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
5 Rivers Delta Resource Center
Spanish Fort, Alabama
September 18, 2014

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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 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center,
Spanish Fort, Alabama, on Thursday, September 18,
2014, commencing at approximately 10:03 a.m.

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1 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- 2 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr. Commissioner
- Mr. Angus R. Cooper, III
- 3 Dr. Richard D. Holland
- Mr. Raymond A. Keller
- 4 Dr. John Valentine
- Dr. Gary Hepp
- 5 Dr. Patricia G. Sims
- Mr. H.E. "Sonny" Cauthen
- 6 Mr. Leo Allen
- Dr. Michael Woods
- 7 Mr. Greg Pate

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COMMISSIONER GUY: At this time I will call
 our September 18 meeting of the Forever
 Wild Board to begin. And I want to
 thank everybody for being here, both
 board members and all of the people in
 the audience. In order that we can
 establish that we have a quorum, I'm
 going to call the -- call the role and,
 if you would, just indicate your
 presence.

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Mr. Pate?

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MR. PATE: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Holland?

2 DR. HOLLAND: Here.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Woods?

4 DR. WOODS: Here.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Hepp?

6 DR. HEPP: Here.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Valentine?

8 DR. VALENTINE: Here.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cooper?

10 MR. COOPER: Here.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cauthen?

12 MR. CAUTHEN: Here.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Sims?

14 DR. SIMS: Here.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

16 MR. ALLEN: Here.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Strickland?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Ellis?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Keller?

1 MR. KELLER: Here.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: And Mr. Porter?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So for the
5 record, it requires nine members to have
6 a quorum. We do have nine members, so
7 we will go ahead and conduct business
8 today.

9 Do any of the board members have any
10 special guests they need to recognize
11 before we begin?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Being none heard, we will
14 move into public comments.

15 I will call your name for those that
16 have signed up for public comments.
17 And, if you would, just come to the
18 microphone here to our right. And, you
19 know, we will -- if you would, state
20 your full name for our court reporter
21 who can take down, you know, what you
22 say. And, if you would, if you're
23 associated with an organization or a

1 particular group, if you would also
2 indicate that as well for the record so
3 we can appropriately document that.

4 So the first speaker, who I know is
5 familiar with that process, is
6 Mr. Charles Yeager. Charles, good to
7 see you.

8 MR. YEAGER: Thank you so much, Commissioner
9 Guy.

10 My name is Charles Yeager. I'm the
11 manager of Forever Wild's Turkey Creek
12 Nature Preserve in Pinson, Alabama. And
13 I work for Birmingham-Southern College
14 as the manager and education director at
15 the preserve. And I'm here today to
16 provide you guys with a quick summary of
17 some of the activities and developments
18 at the preserve this year.

19 It's been a very busy year for
20 Turkey Creek. We've had over -- well,
21 we've had 57 school groups that have
22 visited the preserve for education
23 programs. These include aquatic ecology

1 and forestry and fishing and all kinds
2 of things, just opportunities for kids
3 to get out and enjoy nature. A lot of
4 these kids are from the inner-city area
5 in Birmingham, and some of them have
6 never even been outside before and are
7 usually very thrilled to come out and
8 see nature and experience Turkey Creek.

9 We've also had 25 volunteer groups
10 that have come out to help improve the
11 preserve. These include projects that,
12 you know, really cut down on our
13 maintenance costs and the expenses that
14 we have, like trail-building or lawn
15 care, those kind of simple things,
16 painting projects, stuff like that.

17 We've had -- we've actually expanded
18 our public-education programs this year
19 and have offered 18 programs thus far,
20 and we have six more planned out for the
21 rest of the fall. These programs
22 include naturalist hikes and
23 living-history programs and kids'

1 programs and storytelling and things of
2 that nature. These have been very
3 successful, and we're very excited about
4 those.

5 We've also been very successful this
6 year with grants. We've made a big push
7 to improve our offerings to the public
8 through grant projects. These include
9 the stream bank restoration -- a stream
10 bank restoration project, education
11 grants for educational materials. We
12 have had a grant with Cawaco this
13 year -- Cawaco RC&D -- that allowed us
14 to actually make 30 trips out to a local
15 high school to teach them about water
16 quality in their own backyard, which
17 gave AP chemistry students an
18 opportunity to see science hands-on and
19 grow in their appreciation for their --
20 their community. We've also -- are
21 working on numerous other grants for
22 expanding our trails at the preserve and
23 expanding them for multiuse and other

1 activities such as cross-country running
2 and things of that nature.

3 We've also worked really hard with
4 our partners this year to develop more
5 opportunities for the public through
6 that partnership development, and we're
7 real excited about the future. There's
8 still so much more to do. We've had --
9 I believe the number is -- yeah --
10 85,000 people that have come through the
11 preserve this year, which considering
12 that Turkey Creek is only a 466-acre
13 nature preserve, that's quite a lot.
14 And we are seeing more and more use
15 every year. Those numbers seem to
16 increase every year.

17 And we're real excited about that.
18 And I hope that you guys will keep that
19 in mind today when you see the Shepherd
20 Addition, which I believe is back from
21 its first appraisal, and you will also
22 keep in mind our dedication to improving
23 Turkey Creek and working with State

1 Lands to provide an opportunity for the
2 public that's unique and special and
3 that as we grow we're going to need more
4 space and need to be able to offer more
5 opportunities for the public.

6 So thank you so much. And you guys
7 have any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
9 Mr. Yeager?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: No questions. But let me
12 just state that we always appreciate you
13 being here. I know I can speak for the
14 board when I say we appreciate your
15 passion and dedication to this
16 particular, you know, activity that you
17 speak about every time, and I very much
18 appreciate that.

19 MR. YEAGER: Thank you very much. Thank you.

20 Oh, and one more thing I wanted to
21 add real quick. I wanted to just brag a
22 little bit about the State Lands folks.
23 We work with them very often throughout

1 the year, and they are always so
2 accommodating. And they're just
3 fantastic supporters of Turkey Creek and
4 all of the properties that they manage,
5 and they do a fantastic job. So I just
6 wanted to throw that in there real
7 quick.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Appreciate you saying that.
9 Thank you, sir.

10 Ms. JoAnn -- is it Flirt or Flint?

11 MS. FLIRT: Flirt.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: I apologize. Flirt.

13 MS. FLIRT: It's all right. It's unusual.

14 I'm gradually getting used to it.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: I just -- so I apologize.

16 Is it Flirt?

17 MS. FLIRT: It's Flirt.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

19 MS. FLIRT: Thank you. Thank you,

20 Commissioner and Board Members, for
21 allowing me to be here this morning.

22 I'll try to be brief.

23 First I want to thank this board as

1 I have tried to do frequently over the
2 15 years since we prevailed on Forever
3 Wild to acquire the Blakeley tract,
4 which is adjacent to Blakeley State
5 Park. You folks have about 400 acres in
6 that tract, and we have some 1600 acres
7 of private and public adjacent to it.

8 Three weeks ago here Patti Powell
9 gave an excellent, excellent
10 presentation, an overview of your
11 Forever Wild program, and it got me to
12 thinking that having asked you folks to
13 acquire this property that we should at
14 least offer to do anything we can do at
15 no cost if it is only to accompany when
16 you send somebody on your tract. We
17 will -- we keep an eye out anyway, but
18 please feel free to call on us.

19 The second thing I want to do is to
20 tell you about a program that I'm
21 instituting at Blakeley with the hopes
22 that it might be something that you
23 folks can share and that we can share.

1 And, Patti, I just haven't had time
2 to tell you about it. It's not bad.

3 E.O. Wilson has called Blakeley
4 State Park the most biodiverse state
5 park in the country. Now, he's very
6 generous with his accolades, but we will
7 take it. And we are.

8 We have numerous and increasing
9 requests to do field studies in the
10 natural sciences area, and what we want
11 to do is to get a handle on that. We
12 have an informal process now that if
13 somebody wants to do field studies,
14 scientific studies, we want to know who
15 they are, what their competency is, what
16 they want to study, and what it will
17 entail, does it entail specimens, and we
18 want a final report. And we may not on
19 our staff have the scientific knowledge
20 to even read the final report, but it
21 does let us know what's happening. And
22 we've had some experts up there. I'll
23 give you a couple of examples.

1 Dr. Carroway from University of
2 North Carolina is an internationally
3 known expert on moths. I have to
4 confess. I never knew the difference
5 between moths and butterflies before.
6 He does. He has identified at Blakeley
7 Park and one other place a new species
8 that is now in Smithsonian. And that --
9 that makes us feel good.

10 A couple of weeks ago Dr. Summerour
11 identified at Blakeley a wild orchid
12 that had been thought to be extinct, and
13 we had some of your Lands people come
14 up. We have a -- Auburn now has a
15 bear-snare setup out in the woods trying
16 to do a study on bears. We had Penn
17 State -- this is all within the last 90
18 days -- has done a study on fence
19 lizards. But I won't go into all of
20 that.

21 What we are going to do is to
22 formalize this permitting process. And
23 I'm asking some people from different

1 disciplines to help us come up with
2 guidelines and permitting process. And
3 it may be that your State Lands may
4 already have that; and if so, we would
5 like to borrow -- if we come up with
6 anything, we would like to share with
7 that.

8 I want to just conclude by saying,
9 once again -- it looks like
10 Birmingham-Southern is doing it -- that
11 anybody who's prevailed on you to buy
12 land, that's not the end of it. As
13 Patti pointed out so well and we all
14 know, the management, the operation, the
15 costs, those -- those go on. And we are
16 grateful for the Blakeley tract at
17 Blakeley State Park. And call on us at
18 any time, any way, and we will be glad
19 to help. Thank you again.

20 Are there any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for

22 Ms. Flirt?

23 MR. CAUTHEN: I've got one.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Mr. Cauthen.

2 MR. CAUTHEN: Are you at the state park or --

3 MS. FLIRT: I'm sorry. We got into such a
4 discussion about my name.

5 My name is JoAnn Flirt. I'm
6 director of Blakeley State Park. Been
7 there for some years now. I'm sorry.

8 MR. CAUTHEN: Good. Thank you.

9 MS. FLIRT: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: And thank you for being
11 here, Ms. Flirt. Appreciate it very
12 much.

13 I've had the opportunity to stop in
14 and go through the park, and it's really
15 nice and has a lot of opportunities.
16 And I would encourage anybody if they're
17 on that way back -- I think it's -- what
18 is it -- 225 that goes back to the
19 interstate. It's a nice stop-in there.
20 Go through and see our tract and the
21 rest of the park. So thank you for
22 being here.

23 MS. FLIRT: And thank you. We make it

1 available for research at no charge, but
2 we do want -- we do want a handle on
3 that. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

5 Ms. Powell.

6 MS. POWELL: Thanks, JoAnn. And, JoAnn, I was
7 mentioning and mentioned to the board
8 that we do have actually a process for
9 evaluating requests for research on our
10 tracts that is -- we do get that on
11 various tracts from time to time.

12 So actually, JoAnn, if you'll get
13 with Jo later, I think, first of all, it
14 would be great. We could share -- I
15 mean, I'm not saying our process is
16 perfect, but we'll be more than happy to
17 share that and, also, to coordinate any
18 requests that you have that do involve
19 work on the Forever Wild acreage to be
20 sure it's routed, you know, through our
21 same review. But I think that's a great
22 opportunity to work together and, again,
23 maybe help each other refine the

1 process.

2 MS. FLIRT: And we've been able to help other
3 people. We had a request from somebody
4 from Auburn to do something, and I said,
5 hey, you know, somebody from South
6 Alabama is doing the same thing.

7 MS. POWELL: And, again, we would be
8 interested in it because we have that
9 ongoing effort ourselves. But I just
10 wanted to explain to the board we do
11 have a process and we will coordinate
12 with Ms. Flirt.

13 MS. FLIRT: And thank you.

14 MS. POWELL: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

16 Chris Oberholster.

17 MR. OBERHOLSTER: Good morning.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

19 MR. OBERHOLSTER: My name is Chris
20 Oberholster. I'm the executive director
21 of The Nature Conservancy in Alabama. I
22 wanted to just draw your attention to an
23 emerging opportunity of a particular

1 parcel of land that has come to our
2 attention. It's known as the -- it's in
3 the Grand Bay Savannah area, south
4 Mobile County, near Bayou La Batre. And
5 the reason I wanted to just mention it,
6 I think it has been nominated in the
7 past. It has been scored in the past
8 and -- but there's been some
9 late-breaking, sort of unfolding events.

10 Conservancy folks, our staff, have
11 stayed in touch with landowners -- many
12 of the private landowners in the Grand
13 Bay area for 20 years or so. And in
14 this particular case, there's a map at
15 each of your places that shows the
16 little -- this parcel. It's known as
17 the Drake property. It's 120 acres.
18 And I just put those maps there because
19 it shows how -- the strategic nature of
20 this being an inholding basically within
21 the existing Forever Wild lands down at
22 Grand Bay. Very good quality coastal
23 habitats and just critical situation in

1 context with the other Forever Wild
2 lands.

3 And so basically once we learned
4 about this through this family -- the
5 Drake and Henderson families who we
6 stayed in touch with over the years, we
7 are basically just -- I just wanted to
8 offer that the Conservancy is willing in
9 the circumstances to try to assist in
10 any way to ensure that this becomes part
11 of the Forever Wild holdings eventually.

12 And the reason I mention that is
13 because the timing issues can sometimes
14 be problematic. You know, in this case
15 the landowners have conveyed to us that
16 they really need to try and close in a
17 very specific schedule for tax and other
18 reasons. So we -- the Conservancy is
19 willing to assist, if needed, to hold
20 the land short-term just until Forever
21 Wild can acquire it if you so choose.

22 And I'm happy to answer any
23 questions.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
2 Mr. Oberholster?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I think there's
5 something in our packet about that
6 today. So thank you, Chris.

7 Is it Mr. Gewin and Mr. Collins?

8 I'm not the only one who has bad
9 handwriting at times. So I apologize
10 when I don't get names right.

11 MR. COLLINS: No problem.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can't read my own
13 handwriting.

14 MR. GEWIN: I think that was my handwriting.
15 I apologize.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks, y'all.

17 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Commissioner. I'm
18 Rick Collins and this is Logan Gewin,
19 and we're both with Bay Area Properties.
20 And Logan is also the managing owner of
21 the property that we're presenting today
22 for the first time to the board. And
23 thank you to all the board members and

1 Patti, Chris, and all the folks
2 involved.

3 We're passing some aerials out. And
4 there are two different aerials. And
5 one of them on the -- from the
6 right-hand shows a shot from behind the
7 property looking out across Mobile Bay.
8 This property is located near Fowl River
9 on the western shore of the Bay. And
10 it's got 4500 front feet of shoreline.
11 It's got over three miles of canals that
12 were manmade back in the '50s.

13 And the plan that we're showing you
14 today -- and, by the way, we've got
15 duplicate copies of the plan and the
16 aerials that we've given to staff for
17 each one of you. So you'll have this
18 plan in the next few days.

19 The plan that we're showing you has
20 the kayak/canoe launch trails, walking
21 trails with observation platforms. And
22 it's beautiful property. Let me quote
23 something from -- some of you guys may

1 know Barry Vittor. He's a coastal
2 ecologist well known around here. And
3 he's been involved with this property
4 for over 30 years, and here's what his
5 statement is.

6 We call it the SaltAire Nature
7 Preserve. It's listed -- it's been
8 nominated in its preliminary score by
9 Forever Wild back in May. And you guys
10 referred to it as the Fowl River Point
11 Wetlands property. We just have a
12 working name, SaltAire Nature Preserve.

13 But Barry Vittor -- his quote is,
14 SaltAire -- this SaltAire property
15 represents the last remaining intact
16 maritime forest on the shoreline of
17 Mobile Bay. It represents a unique
18 combination of ecosystems including
19 tidal marsh and woodlands. And some of
20 the -- just the physical characteristics
21 beyond the shoreline that I quoted you
22 or just the location -- it's an ideal
23 location for education purposes for

1 Mobile County Schools. It's
2 approximately 11 miles from
3 Interstate 10. It's 14 miles from the
4 intersection of I-10 and I-65. It is 15
5 miles to Brookley Airbus site. I just
6 mention that. It's 18 miles to the
7 Dauphin Island Sea Lab. And we can see
8 a lot of joint opportunities for
9 educational purposes with the Sea Lab,
10 Dr. Valentine's group.

11 So that's basically it. We wanted
12 to make an introduction of the property.
13 And, again, you're going to have a copy
14 of all of the aerials and this plan in a
15 few days.

16 Any questions from the board?

17 Logan may want to say something.

18 MR GEWIN: I'm fine. You did good.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

20 I think we're all kind of looking
21 just a second there.

22 MR. CAUTHEN: We need to get those names
23 straightened out, now. It's going to be

1 hard for us simpletons to --

2 MR. COLLINS: Our names?

3 MR. CAUTHEN: No.

4 MR. COLLINS: Oh, the property. Oh, okay.

5 I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

6 MS. POWELL: We'll get you used to it. Don't

7 worry. We'll get you used to it. Just

8 remember Fowl River.

9 MR. CAUTHEN: All right. Okay.

10 MR. KELLER: What's the price?

11 MR. GEWIN: We don't -- we don't have a price

12 on it right now.

13 DR. HOLLAND: What's the size of it?

14 MR. GEWIN: It's 190 acres.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: 190?

16 MR. GEWIN: Correct.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

18 MR. COLLINS: And we do want to invite any and

19 all board members to tour the property.

20 The property -- when you bring somebody

21 to this property, similar maybe to

22 Blakeley and so forth, it's stunning and

23 people are almost breath-taken.

1 And the beauty of this property is --
2 it's really too hard for me certainly to
3 describe to you. So any of the board
4 members anytime.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any more questions
6 for Mr. Collins or Mr. Gewin?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank y'all very much for
9 the presentation, and we'll look forward
10 to the additional information.

11 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

12 MR. GEWIN: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Ashley Campbell.

14 MS. CAMPBELL: Hello. My name is Ashley
15 Campbell. I'm with the City of Daphne.
16 I'm here with Selena Vaughn. She's also
17 going to speak about the project. I
18 thought she might go first. I'm here to
19 complement her comments.

20 I'm with the City of Daphne.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'll stop you. I see both
22 of you here. If you would rather have
23 her go first, that's fine. We have no

1 problem with that.

2 Ms. Vaughn. Sorry. It's just they
3 were together.

4 MS. VAUGHN: We're going to double-team you.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: That will be fine.

6 MS. VAUGHN: I'm Selena Vaughn with Village
7 Point Foundation. We're from the City
8 of Daphne. Of course, Village Point
9 Foundation is a private 501(c)(3). We
10 formed in the early '90s as a grassroots
11 movement to secure bayfront properties
12 for public access and ecological health.
13 And it was only 20 years ago in the city
14 of Daphne that the only waterfront
15 property that we had accessible to the
16 public was May Day Park, which is in the
17 middle of a residential area actually,
18 and it's a little under 150 feet of
19 waterfront. And in this time we have
20 been able to secure through grants and
21 other private funding 80-plus acres of
22 Village Point Park Preserve and Bayfront
23 Park now.

1 The property we're here today to
2 talk about is the D'Olive Bay property,
3 which is right at the head -- or the
4 foot, I guess -- it's the head at the
5 causeway here while you're here -- and
6 it runs between the causeway and I-10.
7 We currently manage and have a lot of
8 visitors at Gator Alley Park, which is
9 right at where I-10 hits Daphne. That
10 is actually an ALDOT property that we
11 have -- we have maintained and provided
12 sidewalks and benches and a little
13 parking lot. And this would be
14 contiguous to that.

15 That property right now doesn't
16 really have any woodland or waterfront.
17 It's a boardwalk that crosses sort of
18 the mouth of D'Olive Bay, and we call it
19 Gator Alley. That's where you can spot
20 gators. And then it just sort of walks
21 under I-10, and you can see the water
22 through a chain-link fence. But it is
23 a -- this property that we're talking

1 about at D'Olive Bay is actually a shell
2 midden and salt marsh. It would be an
3 incredible extension to a park that is
4 already busting at the seams with
5 visitors. And we are looking at and
6 Ashley will address -- we've just
7 gotten, I think, about a
8 half-million-dollar grant. We're going
9 to improve that parking lot and that
10 entrance and -- to be worthy of the
11 number of visitors that are coming
12 through there.

13 And speaking of the number of
14 visitors that are coming through there,
15 the Village Point Foundation just helped
16 the City of Daphne write a grant for
17 another boardwalk in Village Point. And
18 in that -- and while we were doing that,
19 I wrote down the -- you know, the U.S.
20 Census Bureau has listed the
21 Daphne/Fairhope/Foley area as the
22 second-largest-growing population in the
23 state. And this year our area is ranked

1 as the ninth-fastest-growing MSA in the
2 country. And we have so many visitors,
3 and it would be really nice to make our
4 Eastern Shore available to the public
5 and to the visitors both to -- for the
6 state of Alabama and for people from all
7 over the country that come through here.

8 MS. CAMPBELL: We're really proud to be a
9 sponsor with the Village Point
10 Foundation as a city to be on board with
11 this nomination. The D'Olive Bay is so
12 unique and so beautiful. And we've
13 actually canoed and walked this
14 property, and it has a bald eagle's nest
15 that -- it's just -- it's a really
16 unique piece of property.

17 The City of Daphne passed a
18 resolution for support of this
19 nomination, and our council and mayor
20 are on board with offering to be a
21 partner with State Lands to provide
22 protection -- preservation, protection,
23 and public access to this piece of

1 property.

2 We are big on education outreach in
3 the environmental world, so we like to
4 provide that. And our Gator Alley
5 project is actually going to be a
6 low-impact development project. So that
7 project in itself is going to be a huge
8 education outreach project for probably
9 the state. We're going to bring people
10 in from all over to that project in the
11 future.

12 But we're just proud to be a partner
13 with Village Point, and we'd love to be
14 a partner with State Lands. We know our
15 project is not on the short list this
16 year, but we just would like for you to
17 look at it. And as a city, we're here
18 to offer our support in managing it and
19 the stewardship in it. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Before y'all sit down, any
21 questions?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me -- help me -- has it

1 been proposed before and we have it?

2 MS. POWELL: It's been nominated and scored.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: And scored. Okay. And I
4 apologize for not having a recollection
5 of it right as we sit here.

6 But where is the entrance to that
7 area that we're talking about?

8 MS. CAMPBELL: To Gator Alley?

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

10 MS. CAMPBELL: It's on Main Street.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Where all this will be.

12 MS. CAMPBELL: It's off of Main Street in
13 Daphne. When you come off the
14 interstate there, it's right to your
15 left or to the east.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

17 MS. CAMPBELL: It's not -- you have to go down
18 from the interstate to get to the Main
19 Street corridor. But it is part of the
20 Eastern Shore Trail Walkway/Pathway.
21 And what we would love to do is see
22 it -- if we do -- if the land is
23 acquired, is maybe try to figure out a

1 way to bring it all the way down to
2 5 Rivers through sidewalks and
3 boardwalks. It would be a task because
4 we would have to cross over a pretty
5 large body of water. But we definitely
6 would love to see some type of access
7 like that to this facility because this
8 is a wonderful facility here.

9 MR. ALLEN: Patti, how is it listed here,
10 Gator Alley or -- in our book?

11 MS. POWELL: D'Olive Bay.

12 MR. ALLEN: Spell that.

13 MS. POWELL: D'O-L-I-V-E Bay.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's right there.

15 MS. POWELL: And you'll see it listed under
16 the nominations listing under Southern
17 District and Baldwin County, and then
18 you'll see D'Olive Bay referenced in
19 that list. And that's under Tab 5.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Ms. Campbell and
21 Ms. Vaughn, for coming.

22 Were there any other questions?

23 MS. VAUGHN: Here's a copy of the information.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, good. Thank you,
2 ma'am.

3 I know I've been by Gator Alley
4 because I've looked over there and seen
5 the gators before. So I've just got to
6 go visit it sometime.

7 Okay. Thomas -- is it Athey?

8 I know I mess up your name --

9 MR. ATHEY: Yes, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Athey from Pintlala
11 Creek. Good morning, sir.

12 MR. ATHEY: Good morning, gentlemen. I've had
13 the pleasure to meet with y'all on the
14 last two meetings with reference to the
15 Pintlala Creek property which is just
16 approximately 12 miles from the state
17 capitol or Court Square as far as that's
18 concerned.

19 I still have a strong desire for
20 y'all to acquire this piece of property.
21 And towards that end and with regard to
22 the last meeting, there was one of the
23 gentlemen that liked to talk money, so I

1 made y'all a written proposal on the
2 thing. I think we've scored reasonably
3 well. I've been shaping up the property
4 a bit more with some limited bulldozer
5 work and opened up some trails and that
6 sort of thing.

7 And, again, it's my strong desire to
8 keep the place intact as it is. I
9 invite any of you or each of you to come
10 have a look. It takes about two hours
11 to have a good look at it. And, again,
12 like I say, it's 12 miles -- I don't
13 know where most of you hail from. But
14 it's just west of Montgomery just in the
15 edge of Lowndes County, again, three
16 miles of some mighty pretty creek line
17 on Pintlala Creek, that sort of thing.
18 I would appreciate your kind
19 consideration.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir. Any
21 questions for Mr. Athey?

22 MR. CAUTHEN: How much money?

23 MR. ATHEY: I have sent a letter to you. I

1 prepared -- I'd rather not mention a
2 figure in the general public. I've
3 considered putting it on -- or not
4 considered, but I've put it on sale as
5 far as that's concerned. You have
6 access to that number. But I discounted
7 the price by 20 percent of what I
8 thought the property was worth. I'll be
9 happy to give you the figure in private.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any other questions?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

13 MR. ATHEY: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good to see you again.

15 MR. ATHEY: Yes, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Are there any
17 other speakers that we've missed or that
18 did not sign up?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Well, that will end
21 our public comments session, and at this
22 time the board will recess into
23 executive session. But before we do so,

1 by regulation, appraisal values are
2 confidential during periods of
3 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
4 discuss tract appraisal values, the
5 board will need to go into recess for an
6 executive session.

7 Is there a motion for the board to
8 now recess to attend to an executive
9 session?

10 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I have a
12 motion. Do I have a second?

13 MR. CAUTHEN: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: I have a second.

15 All right. All in favor say "aye".

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

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion passes. We will now
21 recess until eleven o'clock. That's
22 approximately 20 minutes. If everybody
23 will come back at that time.

1 **(Recess for executive session was**
2 **taken at approximately 10:39 a.m.**
3 **and the meeting was called back to**
4 **order at approximately 11:14 a.m.)**

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks for your patience.

6 At this time we will now come back into
7 session, and the time is approximately
8 11:14, Ms. Court Reporter.

9 We'll resume our program. And at
10 this time I'm going to call on Mr. Chris
11 Smith to give us a program status --
12 several program status reports. Chris.

13 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. Thank you,
14 Commissioner.

15 The financial data information is
16 located in Tab 2. And then if you'll
17 notice on page 1 in Tab 2, you will see
18 the list of the current nominations in
19 closing and the nominations under
20 negotiation. Also, you'll notice that
21 your current balance is \$21,144,000.

22 And I will take the time now just to
23 kind of mention the various nominations

1 that are in closing or in negotiation.
2 They include the Riverton Community
3 Hunting Area-Hog Hollow tract, which is
4 507 acres in Colbert County; the
5 Riverton Community Hunting Area-RMK
6 nomination, 20 acres in Colbert County;
7 the Perdido River WMA-Barnhill Addition
8 that's 191 acres in Baldwin County; the
9 Sipsey-Pruett tract, 274 acres in
10 Tuscaloosa County. Those four are in
11 closing.

12 The next three are in negotiation
13 phase of the purchasing process. And
14 they include the Big Canoe Creek
15 Preserve nomination, 381 acres in
16 St. Clair County; the Pritchett tract,
17 400 acres in Covington County; and the
18 Lillian Swamp tract, 689 acres in
19 Baldwin County.

20 Considering the adjustments
21 associated with those in closing or in
22 negotiation, your available unencumbered
23 balance is \$12,881,000.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. SMITH: If there's no questions, I'll go
4 then to page 2.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Chris.

6 MR. SMITH: Page 2. You'll see a list of the
7 nominations that have closed in the past
8 couple of fiscal years. I'll go over
9 the nominations that have closed in
10 fiscal year '14.

11 Currently there's been ten purchases
12 this fiscal year. They include the
13 Riverton Community Hunting Area-Ables
14 Road Addition, 160 acres in Lauderdale
15 County; the Blue Springs State Park-West
16 Addition, 100 acres in Barbour County;
17 the Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift Number 1
18 Martin Addition, 63 acres in Baldwin
19 County; the Weeks Bay Reserve-Swift
20 Number 3 Lipscomb Addition, 40 acres in
21 Baldwin County; the Cahaba River-Shelby
22 Park Addition, 460 acres in Shelby
23 County; the Sipsey River Swamp-Sullivan

1 tract, 624 acres in Tuscaloosa County;
2 the Walls of Jericho-Hurricane Creek
3 Addition, 277 acres in Jackson County;
4 the Sipsey River Swamp-TH Robertson,
5 1,889 acres in Tuscaloosa County; the
6 Sipsey River Swamp-Springer tract, 936
7 acres in Tuscaloosa County; and, lastly,
8 the just recently -- since the packet
9 information was mailed to you, we did
10 close on the Dothan Trail Park
11 nomination which is located in Houston
12 County.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good.

14 MR. SMITH: On the next page you'll see the
15 stewardship fund expenditures. The FY14
16 budget amount was \$1 million. You'll
17 see on your report there that at the
18 time this packet of information was
19 produced there had been \$896,000 spent
20 toward different maintenance, habitat
21 restoration, forestry/reforestation
22 actions, and those type of activities.
23 At this time there was roughly \$103,000

1 left in that stewardship budget for
2 FY14.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

4 Any questions about any of those
5 particular points there?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you,
8 Chris.

9 MR. SMITH: Okay. In Tab 3 you'll see the
10 information or an overview of appraised
11 nominations. These are the nominations
12 that the board has motioned for staff to
13 get the first appraisal -- order a first
14 appraisal on. I will list those.

15 These nominations include the Byrnes
16 Lake nomination, which is 2,952 acres in
17 Baldwin County; the DeSoto State
18 Park-Gray Road Addition, 104 acres in
19 Dekalb County; the DeSoto State
20 Park-Stewart Gap Addition, 253 acres in
21 Dekalb County; the Guntersville State
22 Park-Stubblefield Mountain Addition, 636
23 acres in Marshall County; the Heron Bay

1 nomination, 487 acres in Mobile County;
2 the Grand Bay Savannah-Drake Addition,
3 120 acres in Mobile County.

4 We also have the information back on
5 the proposed swap between the Martin
6 Timber Company offered by the Natural
7 Resource Group and the Forever Wild Land
8 Trust property. This is located in
9 Colbert County adjacent to the Freedom
10 Hills WMA.

11 We have the -- another nomination
12 the board has motioned on is the Turkey
13 Creek Nature Preserve-Shepherd tract.
14 That is 242 acres in Jefferson County.

15 Next we have the Walls of
16 Jericho-Estillfork Addition, 72 acres in
17 Jackson County.

18 Next we have the Weeks Bay
19 Reserve-Benton Addition, 407 acres in
20 Baldwin County; the Weeks Bay
21 Reserve-Swift Number 2 Meyer Addition,
22 29 acres in Baldwin County. And we have
23 the Yates Lake-Guy Addition, 123 acres

1 in Elmore County. And we have the Coosa
2 WMA-Hancock Phase III. That's 877 acres
3 in Coosa County. And, lastly, we have
4 the Skyline WMA-Little Coon Creek
5 Addition, 1,143 acres in Jackson County.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions about just
7 the overview of those?

8 And remember that we're not allowed
9 to discuss the actual nominations --
10 I mean, the appraisals. So anybody else
11 with questions?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thanks, Chris.

14 MR. SMITH: I'll give the board an update on
15 our grants that we have. We currently
16 have three grants in play. Two of them
17 are associated with the National Coastal
18 Wetland Conservation Program. One of
19 those is associated in supporting the
20 purchase of the Portersville Bay and
21 Heron Bay tracts.

22 And you may recall I've reported at
23 the last few meetings that we have

1 purchased and closed and been reimbursed
2 on the Portersville Bay property. We've
3 been working through some issues with
4 the Heron Bay. You know, that grant
5 award is for \$1 million in support of
6 these. And we have worked through those
7 issues on that Heron Bay. I do have a
8 more detailed report in the
9 miscellaneous section of our meeting
10 today where I can kind of get into some
11 details from correspondence we've had
12 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and show
13 you some maps about the progress on
14 that.

15 The other National Coastal Wetland
16 Grant project we have in play is
17 associated with the Lillian Swamp
18 nomination. That is one of the ones
19 that has previously -- the board has
20 motioned to purchase, and it is in the
21 negotiation phase. And that's \$464,000
22 in support of that purchase.

23 And, lastly, we have a grant

1 proposal that was awarded through the
2 submission of the State Lands Division
3 staff members at Weeks Bay National
4 Estuarine Research Reserve. They were
5 awarded a NOAA grant supporting 50
6 percent of the purchase of the Weeks Bay
7 Reserve-Benton Addition. And that is
8 one that, you know, I just mentioned,
9 you know, as the board had motioned to
10 get a first appraisal on.

11 And that kind of covers the grants
12 that we have in play. I think,
13 Commissioner, Director Sykes had some
14 things to update the board about on some
15 recent discussions with U.S. Fish and
16 Wildlife and some potential grant
17 opportunities that they have.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Chris.

19 Mr. Sykes.

20 MR. SYKES: Thanks, Chris. Thanks,
21 Commissioner and Board.

22 At the Guntersville meeting I spoke
23 briefly about some work that our

1 division was doing in trying to come up
2 with some leveraging opportunities for
3 money for Forever Wild. Unfortunately,
4 when we're working with U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service, it takes a lot longer
6 to get things done than I would like.
7 We have received verbal confirmation,
8 but we're waiting on written
9 confirmation before we make a final
10 presentation to the board. So I'll try
11 to be brief and let you know what we're
12 looking at.

13 We have access to Pittman-Robertson
14 dollars, which is excise-tax money
15 collected on guns, shells, camo, hunting
16 and fishing equipment. Over the past
17 couple of years that money has grown to
18 staggering proportions from what we're
19 used to. In order for us to access that
20 money, we have to have matching dollars.
21 If we have one dollar, we can match it
22 with three federal dollars is the plain
23 and simple of it.

1 We have been working with U.S. Fish
2 and Wildlife Service for the past
3 probably nine months with the
4 Commissioner and with Director Powell
5 trying to make sure we have all the T's
6 crossed and all the I's dotted working
7 within the confines of Forever Wild and
8 the confines of the 50 CFR that we have
9 to work under with U.S. Fish and
10 Wildlife Service.

11 With all that being said, by the
12 next board meeting we will have a
13 five-year plan of what our division is
14 looking for as far as our WMA system
15 goes. We lost quite a bit of land this
16 year with TIMOs and REITs pulling
17 property out of the WMA system. So
18 we're going to concentrate on filling
19 some of those gaps. We will present
20 this to the board, and if y'all see fit,
21 we will be able to leverage the money
22 that Forever Wild Board approves with
23 our federal dollars at three to one.

1 Without boring y'all with all the
2 details, I just wanted to let y'all know
3 what we were looking at. This money is
4 not forever. It's something that we
5 will have to obligate within the next
6 fiscal year. We can obligate the money
7 and hold it for a short amount of time.
8 If we do not take action with it, that
9 money reverts back and we lose it.

10 Our department has never been in
11 this situation where we've got more
12 money than we can spend. It's usually
13 the other way around, but -- so this is
14 a good and a bad thing. The money is
15 there, but we are looking for any kind
16 of partnering opportunities where we can
17 access it to buy the public hunting
18 land.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for Chuck?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me add to that a little
22 bit since I'm pretty knowledgeable. I
23 want to add a few things.

1 You know, the Pittman-Robertson
2 money -- which everybody -- not
3 everybody understands, but I think most
4 of the people understand at the table --
5 it's restricted. You know, I mean, it's
6 not -- it has to go to wildlife
7 management, and purchasing property does
8 qualify for that.

9 Chuck and his staff have done a real
10 good job of working with U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service. Because, as he
12 mentioned, at this particular time, you
13 know, we have -- there's been -- you
14 know, with the way the political climate
15 has been, there's been a lot of people
16 that have purchased guns and ammunition,
17 and that Pittman-Robertson money has
18 gone up not just for us but for every
19 state.

20 So trying to think outside the box,
21 the opportunity that Chuck and the
22 Department would like to just make you
23 aware of -- you don't have to -- you do

1 not have to seize upon the opportunity
2 if you do not want to. You don't have
3 to. It's not -- we're not asking you to
4 do something that this board doesn't
5 want to do.

6 But what it would give the board the
7 ability to do, that if Chuck and his
8 group could present this plan for the
9 WMA five-year plan and there was
10 money -- if y'all decided to make sure
11 there was money available, then after
12 reviewing that plan and after
13 considering any, you know, opportunities
14 there, you could basically give one
15 dollar and they could match it with
16 three. So a million dollars would be
17 four.

18 So, you know, that's the opportunity
19 that we've never had before because
20 we've never -- we never approached U.S.
21 Fish and Wildlife Service to see if we
22 could work out the details. The
23 Division has been working real hard to

1 make sure that before Chuck brought it
2 to you it was a doable kind of thing
3 that would not -- it would be legally
4 effective and it would be something the
5 board, you know, would want to consider.

6 So, again, what Chuck -- and what
7 he -- you know, what we talked about was
8 to make sure that the board understood
9 it's just completely something for this
10 board to consider like everything else.
11 We're not trying to push something. But
12 I think at the last board meeting he
13 mentioned there was like a property that
14 was being nominated and he wanted to
15 hold off on that because the Division
16 wanted to look long-term for those kind
17 of things that we might need.

18 And by way of example, many of you
19 may be -- it's the Coosa WMA, right,
20 that the hole was taken out of?

21 So the best example of that right
22 now is -- how many acres was the private
23 owner?

1 MR. SYKES: We lost about 11,000 in the center
2 of the WMA.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: So we lost 11,000 acres in
4 the center of a WMA that has been in
5 existence for quite some time. You
6 know, the opportunity that might exist
7 there is could we go back and find an
8 opportunity to purchase that and then
9 match up one dollar of Forever Wild
10 money with three dollars of
11 Pittman-Robertson money in a long-term
12 vision for the Wildlife and Freshwater
13 Fisheries Division to make sure that
14 those really good WMA properties would
15 be there forever and wouldn't be
16 dependent on the possibility of somebody
17 pulling those -- pulling those
18 properties out, which they certainly
19 have a right to do.

20 So, anyway, I hope I didn't confuse
21 you. But, again, the emphasis here is
22 to let you know, to make you aware of
23 it. Because, as Chuck said, the way

1 those dollars are, they have to be
2 obligated -- or, actually, this
3 department -- I mean, this agency, just
4 like any agency is -- they'll revert
5 back to the federal government. There's
6 a certain window in which you have to
7 obligate it. Now, you have a period of
8 time after you obligate it to spend it,
9 as he mentioned.

10 So, anyway, that's a little --
11 that's a pretty complicated process in
12 and of itself. And so this is like a
13 five-minute presentation, and we can
14 tell you more later. But if you have
15 any questions, I just want it to be
16 clear what Chuck is asking -- of course,
17 you know, I -- sitting on this board I
18 wear one hat. Sitting as the
19 Commissioner I wear another hat. It's
20 just to make you aware of it and to give
21 you enough advance notice so you
22 wouldn't say, oh, wow, I wish I would
23 have known that, you know, before I

1 voted to spend "X" amount of dollars and
2 did something else.

3 MR. SYKES: One other quick thing.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

5 MR. SYKES: The way our projections are
6 looking, over the next at least three to
7 five years we could probably -- we could
8 probably match anywhere from three to
9 \$5 million. So if the board --

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: You mean that's how much
11 you could put --

12 MR. SYKES: That's how much we could -- that
13 \$1. So we could turn three million into
14 12. But over the next several years
15 it's looking like we will have access
16 to -- if we can provide to match three
17 to \$5 million worth of match, then we
18 can access the Pittman-Robertson money
19 with that.

20 Yes, sir.

21 DR. HEPP: So these increases in PR are going
22 to be permanent, do you think, or --

23 MR. SYKES: I don't think so. I think it's

1 going to eventually decline. I don't
2 know that it will go back to where it
3 was historically. I think they're still
4 going to remain kind of high. But
5 that's why we're really trying to find
6 every avenue we can right now to find
7 matching money where we don't lose this.
8 We want to take full advantage of it
9 while we can and provide as much
10 permanent public hunting opportunities
11 as we can.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: So this is where I get to
13 throw in, by the way, everybody
14 remember, you know, Wildlife --
15 Conservation -- in particular, Wildlife
16 and Freshwater Fisheries, they are not a
17 general-fund agency. Everything is
18 derived from hunting and fishing
19 licenses. So we have no other streams
20 of revenue. So when we look for
21 matching -- you know, as an example,
22 NWTF has given, you know, Wildlife and
23 Freshwater Fisheries money, and then

1 they've been able to take that, which
2 they have never done in the past, and
3 they have matched it, where U.S. Fish
4 and Wildlife Service will let us do
5 that, for the particular type of, you
6 know, project or need that we need.
7 Now, there are some times it doesn't
8 qualify. So we always have to make sure
9 that it qualifies.

10 So who was next?

11 Sonny, I saw your -- and then I'll
12 call on --

13 MR. CAUTHEN: Mr. Chairman, Chuck says three
14 to five million is what we'll have
15 access to. What is the -- what is the
16 cap on the PR money? How much --

17 MR. SYKES: That's what I'm saying,
18 Mr. Cauthen, is we --

19 MR. CAUTHEN: How much could we get? How much
20 is available?

21 MR. SYKES: I'm going to say approximately
22 \$15 million over the next few years.
23 That would be a fairly conservative

1 number.

2 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, now, I'm not talking
3 about -- I'm not talking about state --
4 I mean, I'm not --

5 MR. SYKES: No, sir. I'm saying the
6 Pittman-Robertson money that we would
7 have access to is going to be
8 approximately 15 million. So anywhere
9 from --

10 MR. CAUTHEN: So having an extra two or three
11 million to match with is not -- is not
12 helpful?

13 MR. SYKES: Oh, absolutely it's helpful.

14 MR. ALLEN: We've got to have three to five.

15 MR. KELLER: It's three to one.

16 MR. SYKES: Yeah. It's three to one. If the
17 board approves to give us \$3 million, we
18 can turn it into \$12 million.

19 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, I'm misunderstanding it.
20 Is the cap from Pittman-Robertson -- is
21 it 12 million or is it 45, 50 million?

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: No. No. Can I help
23 answer?

1 MR. SYKES: Yeah.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sonny, so it varies

3 depending on the excise taxes that are
4 collected. They collect all that money,
5 and then that money is -- and I'm just
6 trying to get down to -- don't get into
7 the weeds -- but it's distributed among
8 the states amongst formulas based on
9 license sales and these types of things.
10 Okay. So, you know -- and I'm going to
11 probably mess it up. But, you know,
12 it's risen over the last few years just
13 because of people buying guns and
14 ammunitions and different things like
15 that; okay?

16 It just is what it is. It's
17 available. We, of course, use that
18 money in the Department in the
19 Wildlife -- that they match already or
20 have in the past to do many other
21 functions of the Wildlife. So they've
22 been able to do that. It just happens
23 to be that it's grown so much lately

1 that we don't get enough revenues in on
2 our own, because we're not a
3 general-fund agency, to have the
4 matching funds to match up with. We
5 have in the past, you know, when the
6 number was smaller.

7 And what Chuck is saying is, you
8 know, it may be -- in the next few years
9 it may rise enough that unless we look
10 for ways like this or NWTF or -- who
11 knows -- Ducks Unlimited -- I mean,
12 you name -- anybody that wants to
13 provide monies to us, we need to use
14 those matching -- you know, those monies
15 that are donated or used to leverage
16 with those Pittman -- or we lose them.

17 So we've never come before the board
18 before because in the past I'm going to
19 generally say there has been enough
20 matching funds generated internally or
21 otherwise that we've been able to use
22 the funds without looking elsewhere.
23 But here where this board certainly

1 looks to WMAs in the statute as part of
2 the properties that are sometimes looked
3 at, rather than this board spending --
4 and I'm just going to use an example --
5 \$12 million on a piece of property, you
6 wouldn't have to spend but \$3 million on
7 the -- you could get the same property
8 with the matching federal funds. Does
9 that -- did I help, or did I just
10 confuse you more?

11 MR. CAUTHEN: Yeah, you helped, but I want one
12 follow-up question.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure. Yes, sir.

14 MR. CAUTHEN: If a generous legislature were
15 to make the decision that Freshwater --
16 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries has a
17 rare opportunity and we're going to give
18 them another 10 million and see what
19 they can do with it, would -- is that --
20 is that a potential option?

21 It's highly unlikely to happen, but
22 I'm just asking --

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. Yeah. You could get

1 it from any source, yes. So to answer
2 your question, a legislature -- a
3 legislative body could say, boy, y'all
4 have got extra money that we'd like to
5 help you not lose and we'll give you
6 some matching funds and that -- yes,
7 sir, that's certainly in the realm of a
8 doable situation.

9 MR. CAUTHEN: Well, let's keep that in mind
10 because --

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, sure.

12 MR. CAUTHEN: -- stranger things have
13 happened.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, that would be
15 stranger, but that's -- yes, sir.

16 MR. CAUTHEN: I agree.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: I know you do. I'm just --
18 but mainly we just wanted the board to
19 know, because of the objectives of this
20 body, that it existed. And not --
21 again, not to try to -- you know, and
22 that's why I'm being careful to say, you
23 know, not to try to say that this is

1 something that we have to do, but we
2 didn't want you to say I wish we had
3 known, you know, after the fact.

4 MS. POWELL: Commissioner, I would just add to
5 that, too, from the State Lands Division
6 staff perspective that is part of --
7 that is one of our ongoing directives
8 from the board to work with whomever to
9 gain information as to requirements and
10 abilities to leverage funds with
11 whatever program. This is why we've had
12 to take this time and go into this
13 detail working with Chuck and Fish and
14 Wildlife to see if it was even -- from,
15 again, my State Lands hat/board
16 directive, another opportunity to bring
17 before the board.

18 So we've just now gotten to the
19 point of thinking from verbal
20 communication with Fish and Wildlife
21 that we can marry the programs if the
22 board desired. So that's why as part of
23 Chris' grants presentation is where we

1 talk about opportunities to leverage.
2 And so that's why we've been working so
3 hard. Again, nothing the board has to
4 do, but we're charged with identifying
5 any opportunity that might be out there
6 that we might could leverage funds with.
7 So I just wanted to add back in from my
8 staff's perspective what's been going
9 on.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Oh, go ahead.

11 MR. KELLER: It seems to me, Chuck, that what
12 we as a board and even you -- if we've
13 lost a big block of land, we should be
14 thinking about, first of all, stop
15 losing any or buy some back that's
16 within the area that we have or have
17 already lost.

18 MR. SYKES: And that's exactly what we're
19 doing. Ray and Drew are working
20 diligently on identifying areas that we
21 have lost in the past, identifying holes
22 within the state where we do not have
23 adequate public hunting opportunities.

1 As soon as we get this in writing where
2 we can do everything, we will have a
3 plan together, and we will present it to
4 y'all as soon as possible where you'll
5 have all the facts.

6 MR. KELLER: For us to think about what we've
7 already lost. I mean, that would be
8 something that y'all would want us to
9 do, wouldn't it?

10 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

11 MR. KELLER: Or about to lose.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: So that's what I think
13 Chuck means. He wants to make sure he
14 gets the letter -- when he gets the
15 letter the Division is already working.
16 And you're talking about a physical
17 presentation to the board --

18 MR. SYKES: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- for what you would
20 envision if they wanted to consider it?

21 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: And then who -- Leo, you
23 had your hand up.

1 MR. ALLEN: So basically, Chuck, what you were
2 saying, we need to keep in reserve three
3 to five million, probably five at the
4 top, three at the lowest, to be able --
5 when your written agreement comes back
6 to be able to match that?

7 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: At some point to be able to
9 obligate it next year. That's what --

10 MR. SYKES: That's correct.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: It doesn't have to be right
12 this second, but it has to be --

13 MR. SYKES: No, it doesn't have to be right
14 this second.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- over a period of time if
16 this board wants to consider it.

17 So we just --

18 MR. ALLEN: We need to have that money ready
19 and available though. We don't need to
20 spend it if the board agrees on it.

21 DR. HEPP: That's not -- I mean, excuse me. I
22 mean, that 15 million, that's not next
23 year. It's over a course of several

1 years; right?

2 MR. SYKES: No, sir.

3 MR. ALLEN: Next year.

4 MR. SYKES: That's next year.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Every year you get an
6 allotment, and if you don't obligate --

7 MR. SYKES: Just for an example, Dr. Hepp, a
8 couple of years ago our apportionment
9 was like \$8 million. This year it was
10 roughly 18. We just don't have access
11 to enough match to get to it. And what
12 our projections are is over the next at
13 least three years it's not going
14 anywhere. I'm trying to be conservative
15 and just say the 15 because I -- you
16 know, y'all have got a lot of things to
17 look at.

18 MR. SMITH: And you're saying that annually?

19 MR. SYKES: Annually.

20 MR. SMITH: You're saying over three years --

21 MR. SYKES: No, no. I'm saying annually.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: So what he's talking about
23 really is the difference of what the

1 Department has the ability to match with
2 already versus what they don't. That's
3 where the three to five is coming at.

4 MR. SYKES: That's right. That's right.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: So, again, the Department
6 has -- it has in the past had the
7 ability to match up to a certain amount.
8 We've just now gone over that threshold,
9 Dr. Hepp.

10 And so -- and I -- you know, Chuck
11 is right. We don't know. I mean, it
12 just happens to be the highest it's ever
13 been this year, 18 mil. And I believe
14 it was 12 last year and only -- I think
15 when I came into office it was around
16 eight or nine. So it's just -- which is
17 the good news. I mean, that's a good
18 thing. I mean, the law was set up to,
19 you know -- anyway, y'all read about it.

20 But, anyway, so that's -- the only
21 reason -- again, we just didn't -- we
22 just thought -- Chuck had been talking
23 to me. I thought it was a good time to

1 come to the board and let you know.
2 Like Patti says, it's an obligation that
3 we have to let the board know. It's
4 simply, you know, really trying to
5 communicate and educate the board so
6 that when you're making decisions on
7 anything you make a decision on, then
8 you have that information in front of
9 you and you can use it to your wisdom
10 and benefit.

11 And did I miss anybody else that had
12 a question down there?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: So did that answer your
15 question, Dr. Hepp?

16 DR. HEPP. Yeah. It just amazes me that we're
17 up to 18 million when -- when I was
18 checking the figures not too long ago,
19 it was four or five million, and then it
20 started getting up to 11 or 12 when
21 President Obama was elected and -- I
22 mean, how many guns can people own?

23 MR. CAUTHEN: One thing I was fixing to say,

1 Gunter --

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

3 MR. CAUTHEN: -- we better be preparing for a
4 change in administration when the
5 interest in buying guns is going to go
6 down.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, and that won't --
8 yes. And the only thing there is -- you
9 know, just so you've got a perspective,
10 again, we're talking about the
11 difference in what we have the ability
12 to match. I mean, we're always
13 promoting, you know, hunting and fishing
14 license sales just because the
15 Department in and of itself uses that
16 money to match to do the work that a lot
17 of you don't understand about, you know,
18 internally on wildlife management areas
19 and, you know, what they do to preserve
20 and manage all the wildlife and all that
21 kind of stuff. And that's the money
22 they use. Because all the other money
23 has to go to enforcement. We don't get

1 money for enforcement. That comes from
2 the license sales.

3 So this just happens to be a -- you
4 know, it could be a once-in-a-lifetime,
5 could be. And so Chuck -- and I've got
6 to give props to Chuck and his staff --
7 just decided, well, look, WMAs are
8 something this board looks at. They
9 said we could -- we could both benefit,
10 we being Wildlife and Freshwater
11 Fisheries and the board, from this
12 possible once or twice-in-a-lifetime
13 issue, where instead of spending all the
14 dollars here, you could leverage it,
15 again, talking about what Patti said.
16 So that was simply --

17 MR. KELLER: I think we should consider
18 what -- be even thinking about, what Leo
19 said, retaining what money we can to
20 make sure that happened for Chuck.

21 MR. ALLEN: Be prepared.

22 MR. KELLER: Yeah. I think that would be a
23 great idea.

1 MR. CAUTHEN: Sounds like a no-brainer to me.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right. Well, and I think
3 the charge that I think I would just say
4 for the board is the sooner -- when you
5 get that information --

6 MR. SYKES: As soon as we get it, we'll get it
7 to Patti and let her --

8 MS. POWELL: Commissioner, I would just add
9 one point. I'm stating -- I know I'm
10 stating the obvious. But we're in a
11 little different situation, so I'm going
12 to state the obvious.

13 Because of the time constraints and
14 the scenario with sort of an expiration
15 or sunset on the money when it has to be
16 spent, the board also needs to be
17 keeping in mind of how our meetings and
18 our process works and how action takes
19 place at scheduled meetings because of
20 the public process.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right.

22 MS. POWELL: There's not going to be -- it's
23 not something if -- we're going to be

1 able to handle in between or behind the
2 scenes. It all happens here. And then
3 coupled with getting our deposits on a
4 quarterly basis.

5 I'm just throwing out this -- and
6 that's the other reason that Chuck has
7 been working hard to go ahead and -- and
8 we wanted to bring this forward now.
9 This is -- there's going to be a lot of
10 details and being very cognizant of
11 timing in a lot of different ways. And
12 I know y'all know that, but I just bring
13 that up, too, along with Mr. Allen's
14 point.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: And there has to be
16 opportunities. But I think -- Chuck, I
17 think the board -- you know, I'm
18 speaking for the board now in saying
19 that I know y'all are going to work hard
20 at it. But until they have that
21 information and kind of can see the
22 picture and then you can provide
23 opportunities -- because, I mean, you

1 could have money, but there might not be
2 opportunities, so --

3 MR. SYKES: We will get it to Patti where she
4 can get it to the board as soon as
5 possible.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right.

7 MR. SYKES: Thank y'all very much.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Hold on.

9 MR. CAUTHEN: One more and I'm through.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Go ahead, Sonny.

11 MR. CAUTHEN: I see Chris Oberholster sitting
12 out there.

13 Chris, is this something that you
14 could participate in if -- for a short
15 period of time if he was to get in a
16 bind?

17 MR. OBERHOLSTER: I think I should have
18 brought my wallet with me. I'd say
19 yes -- the answer is, yes, we could. I
20 have colleagues in my counterparts, and
21 all the other state chapters around the
22 country have -- we talk a lot. And they
23 have had similar conversations with

1 their counter -- you know, with their
2 counterparts of Wildlife and Freshwater
3 Fisheries.

4 And an example of where we actually
5 did play that role in a sense was on the
6 Jacobs Mountain deal, you know, where we
7 actually went -- in that case we
8 actually went and got some private-donor
9 money and put something like a million
10 dollars or so into that deal, and that
11 was -- as the nonfederal match to use
12 some of this --

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Correct.

14 MR. OBERHOLSTER: So that's the practical
15 example of how we have done that and --
16 but those are a case-by-case basis
17 there. So we don't have a stream of
18 revenue every time to put into it that
19 way. But it's -- anything that's
20 private, non-federal, state money, local
21 money -- any of that would count to
22 trigger more at this ratio.

23 MR. CAUTHEN: Thank you.

1 MR. SYKES: Yeah. We have worked closely with
2 Chris and The Nature Conservancy on
3 situations like this in the past.

4 Thank y'all for your time.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Chuck.

6 All right. Now, at this time on the
7 agenda we're open for general discussion
8 of any type or nominations for first
9 appraisals or purchases. So do I have
10 any -- anybody who wants to be
11 recognized for any particular -- okay.
12 Dr. Valentine.

13 DR. VALENTINE: Okay. In the spirit of what
14 Mr. Sykes just said, we have three
15 properties that seem like they're pretty
16 well leveraged with federal money. And
17 I don't know whether I should do these
18 one at a time --

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: If you would, I would
20 appreciate it.

21 DR. VALENTINE: -- or two at a time for the
22 board to consider.

23 But I'll start out with the Weeks

1 Bay-Benton Addition. And I would like
2 to nominate that for second appraisal
3 and, I guess, purchase. Is that the
4 correct wording for that?

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

6 DR. VALENTINE: That would be the first one I
7 would like to nominate.

8 MR. KELLER: I second.

9 MR. COOPER: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. We have a second by
11 Mr. Cooper. All right.

12 DR. VALENTINE: And this is the Benton
13 Addition I'm speaking about.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. I was just looking.
15 I'm trying to find it on my document.

16 All right. So we have a motion and
17 a second for second appraisal and
18 purchase of the Weeks Bay-Benton
19 Addition. Any discussion on the motion?

20 (No response.)

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

23 (All board members present respond

1 "aye.")

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion passes.

5 All right. And then your second
6 one.

7 DR. VALENTINE: I would like to nominate for
8 second appraisal and purchase the Grand
9 Bay-Drake Addition, which seems like a
10 bargain to me.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So there's a
12 motion for second appraisal and purchase
13 on Grand Bay-Drake Addition.

14 MR. COOPER: I'll second.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Second by
16 Mr. Cooper.

17 Any discussion on the motion?

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: Motion carries.

3 DR. VALENTINE: And then the last one I would
4 like to nominate for second appraisal
5 and purchase is the Heron Bay property
6 which is listed just above the Grand
7 Bay.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Right. All right. Do I
9 have a second on that motion?

10 MR. COOPER: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second by Mr. Cooper.

12 So that's a motion to purchase --
13 second appraisal and purchase on the 487
14 acres of Heron Bay.

15 All right. Any discussion on the
16 motion?

17 (No response.)

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

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

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

2 Any other -- any other discussions
3 or any other motions at this time?

4 DR. WOODS: Yes. I would like to make a
5 motion for a first appraisal on the
6 Natural Bridge Creek tract in Covington
7 County.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right, Dr. Woods. Say
9 it again.

10 DR. WOODS: Natural Bridge Creek tract,
11 Covington County, 1200 acres. It's
12 about halfway down the page.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. For a first
14 appraisal.

15 All right. Is there a second on the
16 motion?

17 MR. KELLER: I second.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Who seconded?

19 All right. Mr. Keller.

20 MR. KELLER: Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Any discussion
22 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. COOPER: I'd like to make a motion -- and
9 I'm going to mess this up maybe, so I
10 might need some help -- that we do the
11 swap for the Martin Timber tract in
12 Colbert County.

13 MR. ALLEN: I'll second that.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: So there's a motion to
15 approve the swap --

16 MS. POWELL: I would say proceed with closing
17 of the swap.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So as Patti said, a
19 motion to proceed with closing of the
20 swap on the Martin Timber Company
21 property in Colbert County. And there
22 was a second --

23 Was it you, Leo?

1 MR. ALLEN: Uh-huh (positive response).

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- by Mr. Allen.

3 Any discussion on that motion?

4 (No response.)

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

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

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

12 Any other motions or discussion at
13 this time?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Hearing none,
16 we'll move onto miscellaneous reports.

17 And I will call on Mr. Chris Smith again
18 for those reports.

19 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. Thank you,
20 Commissioner.

21 In Tab 4 we have a few miscellaneous
22 items to cover. And the different
23 issues that I'm going to be talking

1 about are separated within that tab by a
2 different-colored piece of paper. I
3 apologize. We didn't have -- we didn't
4 put the sub-tabs in there to make it a
5 little bit easier to find those. But I
6 just wanted to point that out, that if
7 you see a different-colored piece of
8 paper you can go from one to the next as
9 I move through these.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: We still love the tabs.

11 Don't do away with them.

12 MS. POWELL: They will be back, I assure you.

13 MR. SMITH: We won't.

14 The first item is -- we have, you
15 know -- the amendment calls for within a
16 year of Forever Wild Land Trust Board of
17 Trustees purchasing a piece of property
18 that we need to -- that they need to
19 approve some management and use
20 guidelines or, as we call them,
21 management plans.

22 So we've got eight different recent
23 acquisitions that need to have those

1 management plans approved. Seven of
2 those are adjacent to existing Forever
3 Wild Land Trust properties and,
4 therefore, have an existing management
5 plan already approved. And so we have
6 offered or recommended to the board that
7 seven of those be just adopted under the
8 already approved existing management
9 plan. And I'll just mention those seven
10 to you.

11 One of those is the Coosa
12 WMA-Hancock Phase II tract. We're
13 recommending or asking the board to
14 consider that that be adopted under the
15 Coosa WMA-Cahaba and Columbiana tract
16 management plan.

17 We have actually a couple of recent
18 acquisitions down in the Week Bays
19 Reserve area. They include the Weeks
20 Bay Reserve-Number 1 Swift tract Martin
21 Addition and the Number 3 Lipscomb
22 Addition. And we ask the board to
23 consider to just add those to the

1 existing management plans associated
2 with the previously purchased Weeks Bay
3 management -- or excuse me -- Weeks Bay
4 purchases.

5 We also have the Yates Lake-Weil
6 Trust Addition. This is in Tallapoosa
7 County. It's adjacent to previously
8 purchased Yates Lake-West tract. And
9 we're asking the board to consider just
10 to adopt this Yates Lake-Weil Trust
11 Addition under that management plan.

12 And then we have three recent
13 closings in the Sipsey River area in
14 Tuscaloosa County. They include the
15 Sipsey 2012 tract, Sipsey-TH Robertson,
16 Sipsey-Springer. Those are adjacent to
17 the already existing Sipsey River Swamp
18 Recreation Area and Forever Wild
19 property. And we're asking the board to
20 consider just to adopt those three
21 purchases under that existing management
22 plan.

23 And so that's seven tracts that are

1 adjacent to existing Forever Wild
2 holdings with existing management plans.

3 We have one recent purchase that
4 does not have a -- is not near an
5 existing Forever Wild property and does
6 not have a nearby existing management
7 plan to cover it, and that is the Blue
8 Springs State Park Addition located in
9 Barbour County. That's an addition to
10 the Blue Springs State Park. So what we
11 have done -- and we have included this
12 in your packet -- we have looked at
13 other Forever Wild Land Trust purchases
14 adjacent to existing state parks and
15 molded a recommendation for a management
16 plan that fits that management style,
17 and that was included in your packet for
18 your consideration and review.

19 So if the board is agreeable to what
20 I've just talked about about adopting
21 some of these in existing management
22 plans and then approving this new
23 management plan associated with the Blue

1 Springs State Park, we certainly -- we
2 would need a motion to adopt those
3 management plans.

4 MR. KELLER: So move.

5 MR. CAUTHEN: Second.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I didn't see
7 who made the motion.

8 MR. KELLER: I did.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay, Mr. Keller. Who made
10 the second?

11 MR. CAUTHEN: I did. I'm ready.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: You're ready, Sonny. In
13 deference to Sonny, if that's okay,
14 Dr. Woods.

15 DR. WOODS: That's fine.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: A motion and a second. Any
17 discussion on the motion?

18 (No response.)

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

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

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

2 Go ahead.

3 MR. SMITH: Okay. Actually, Commissioner,
4 Will Brantley is going to come up and
5 talk about some upcoming forestry
6 activity actions on Forever Wild
7 property for FY15.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Brantley. How are you,
9 sir?

10 MR. BRANTLEY: Just fine. Thank you.

11 Commissioner, Board, it's good to be
12 here this morning.

13 As we do every year, we come to you
14 guys with a request for approval to
15 initiate and implement some forest
16 management and restoration actions on
17 various properties throughout the
18 Forever Wild holdings. This year -- and
19 there's a memo in your packet -- you'll
20 see it -- that enumerates in greater
21 detail than I will probably go into,
22 unless you have questions, kind of the
23 areas we want to focus on.

1 There's eight focus areas this year
2 and eight tracts that we're going to
3 focus on and do reforestation work, do
4 regeneration work, selective thinnings,
5 harvests of different types. These
6 activities require board approval, and
7 we've come to you in the past for
8 similar approval. So we're really
9 seeking that approval today to implement
10 these as well. So I leave it there for
11 now unless there's any particular
12 questions folks have.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: So do we need a motion on
14 this?

15 MR. BRANTLEY: Yes, sir. We would need a
16 motion to authorize this activity.

17 MR. ALLEN: I'll make the motion to authorize
18 it.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can you be a little -- can
20 you make the motion more specific,
21 though, before --

22 MR. BRANTLEY: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: If you don't mind, Will.

1 MR. ALLEN: There's a printout in the --

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: I know, but for the

3 record -- oh, there you go.

4 MR. ALLEN: Who did this?

5 You make the motion, then. The man
6 who types it up ought to be able to say
7 it.

8 DR. VALENTINE: Okay. I'll make the motion
9 recognizing that Leo is hyped up on "War
10 Eagle" and simply say I'd move that the
11 board authorize the State Lands Division
12 to implement the recommended forest
13 management activities on Forever Wild
14 Land Trust properties for the 2014-2015
15 fiscal year as described in the forest
16 management activity memorandum to the
17 board dated September 18th, 2014.

18 And, yes, Leo, I did that just now.

19 MR. ALLEN: You might ought to repeat all
20 that.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: So you've got a second?

22 MR. ALLEN: I'll second.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: He probably did better than

1 you and I would have done.

2 MR. ALLEN: I know he did.

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

5 (No response.)

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

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

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

13 Thank you, Mr. Brantley. Anything
14 else?

15 MR. BRANTLEY: No, sir. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Y'all don't see Will that
17 much. But in addition to the hat he
18 wears working in the Lands Division, he
19 travels all over the country with Patti,
20 myself, and several others working on
21 the BP oil spill. And I want to tell
22 you, he does a really jam-up job, too,
23 on that. So y'all need to -- I just

1 wanted y'all to know.

2 Mr. Smith.

3 MR. SMITH: All right. The next couple of
4 items we had in the miscellaneous
5 section, obviously the board had
6 reviewed their packet extensively and
7 has already moved to authorize the swap
8 that I was going to explain a little bit
9 and also the Heron Bay grant.

10 So I will mention that, if you're
11 interested, in that section you'll see
12 the footprint of the swap acreage. You
13 can see the additional access that it
14 will provide to the Freedom Hills WMA,
15 this swap. But we will -- you know, we
16 will certainly move forward with those,
17 you know, moving forward with that swap,
18 as well as moving forward with the
19 grant -- the Heron Bay grant and the
20 substitution of acreage with the Grand
21 Bay Savannah-Drake property.

22 So I'll just -- if it's okay,
23 Commissioner, I won't dive into the

1 details of those and we'll move on into
2 the activity reports, unless somebody
3 has a question.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Seeing no hands raised, you
5 can just move right on. Thank you, sir.

6 MR. SMITH: Okay. Also, you'll notice in your
7 packet -- we typically -- several years
8 ago we started including at the
9 September board meeting what we call
10 activity reports just to kind of let the
11 board know different things that have
12 happened this past year -- this past
13 fiscal year. And I'm not going to dive
14 into each one, but I'll just mention the
15 different reports that you have for your
16 review or -- and if you have any
17 questions, you know, we -- I'm certainly
18 here and there's other staff members
19 here to answer questions if you have
20 any.

21 But you will see we have a forestry
22 management activity report. That's
23 basically -- you know, Will just got

1 done requesting what we're shooting for
2 this next fiscal year. That activity
3 report that you have in that section of
4 your packet is profiling or highlighting
5 what was done this past year, what you
6 had authorized to happen in FY14.

7 You'll also see a report from Ricky
8 Hunt, our chief enforcement officer, in
9 his section on different stewardship
10 activities that involve -- with
11 different enforcement and restoration
12 and treatment of exotic species and just
13 patrolling and different activities that
14 they do on the tracts throughout the
15 state.

16 You'll see a report in there from
17 Doug Deaton, a natural resource planner
18 within the State Lands Division who
19 helps me with coordinating all the
20 different recreational activities that
21 we have on various properties. You'll
22 see in that report that we just each
23 year mention any additions and just --

1 and let the board see how many different
2 miles of trail and different projects we
3 have happening.

4 You'll see a report in there from
5 Bill Mason, the manager of the Forever
6 Wild Field Trial Area in Hale County,
7 and then also the -- Eric Soren, the
8 manager of the Wehle Land Conservation
9 Center in Bullock County. Both of those
10 are facilities that our State Lands
11 Division owns property or facilities
12 that are adjacent or surrounded by
13 Forever Wild property. We have
14 different activities, education,
15 recreation, and that kind of activity at
16 those.

17 And then, lastly, you'll see the
18 report from Jo Lewis, chief of the
19 Natural Heritage section, just profiling
20 what her staff members have done, doing
21 different inventory and collecting
22 information on Forever Wild properties
23 throughout the state.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I would just mention
2 because I often forget that, you know,
3 we've got a really good Website. And
4 so, you know, we're constantly working
5 on that to make it better, but -- if you
6 have any suggestions or anything. But
7 it's a good place for seeing all -- a
8 lot of this, seeing updates on
9 activities and tracts and, you know, all
10 those kinds of things. And we've got,
11 you know, a lot of good work there.

12 And might as well put a plug in,
13 too, for the new Department Website, the
14 Outdooralabama.com. We have redone the
15 Website. And, of course, there's a link
16 to the Forever Wild section. And I
17 would encourage you to take a look at
18 that if you get a chance.

19 MR. SMITH: That's all I've got, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any questions that
21 you might have for Chris on that, on any
22 of his reports or anything else?

23 (No response.)

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Chris, great job.

2 Thank you very much.

3 All right. I'm going to skip to
4 approval of the minutes of June 19,
5 2014. We need a motion to approve the
6 minutes or state any additions or
7 corrections thereto.

8 Is there a motion or any other --
9 yes.

10 MR. CAUTHEN: I make the motion.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's a motion to approve?

12 MR. CAUTHEN: To approve.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have a motion to
14 approve. Is there a second?

15 MR. KELLER: I second.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Got a second.

17 Any 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: Motion carries.

3 A list of tentative meeting dates.

4 The next meeting is in December; right?

5 MR. SMITH: That's correct.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: And we don't have a place
7 scheduled yet, do we?

8 MR. SMITH: No, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So I'll reiterate,
10 as we do, if there's anybody who has a
11 particular area or place we'd like to
12 meet, certainly we would love to -- let
13 Chris or Patti know or -- well, any of
14 the staff and we'll work on that.

15 I will tell y'all that I -- I have
16 told Dothan that -- you know, they would
17 like to get us back down there, and I'm
18 shooting for next year to go back to
19 Dothan again. We've closed on
20 everything; right? And there will be
21 some progress on that, so -- but that's
22 next year, so ...

23 MS. POWELL: And, Commissioner, I'd just

1 mention, you know, keep in mind we try
2 to move around a little bit, but I also
3 in that vein mention and remind everyone
4 the February meeting by law is required
5 to take place in Montgomery.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Correct.

7 MS. POWELL: So we may not know exact
8 location, but we will have to be in
9 Montgomery in February if that factors
10 into anything.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. And we should be
12 okay because the legislature doesn't
13 come back into session until March.

14 But, anyway, if you have a
15 suggestion on the December meeting, let
16 Patti or Chris know or myself, anybody,
17 and we'll try to work on that.

18 So any other -- any other discussion
19 today? Anybody got anything else they
20 want to say?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: I appreciate everybody's
23 attendance. Certainly thanks to

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everybody that showed up today to
participate in the meeting and hope
everybody has safe travels home. The
meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at
approximately 12:04 p.m.)

* * * * *

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

* * * * *

STATE OF ALABAMA:
MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified
Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of
Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported
the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board
Meeting on September 18, 2014.

The foregoing 98 computer-printed pages
contain a true and correct transcript of the
proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of

1 kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor
2 in any manner interested in the results thereof.

3 This 6th day of November 2014.

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Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2015
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large

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