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MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
PRICEVILLE EVENT CENTER
250 MARCO DRIVE
DECATUR, ALABAMA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024 10:00 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PROCEEDINGS TAKEN BEFORE: JAMIE MCCRACKEN
Certified Court Reporter
State of Alabama
ACCR #451

1

2 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

3

COMMISSIONER CHRIS BLANKENSHIP

4

MR. JAMES CHILDERS

5

MR. JACK DARNALL

6

MR. JAKE HARPER

7

DR. HEATHER HOWELL

8

MR. RAYMOND B. JONES, JR.

9

DR. BRIAN KEENER

10

DR. JAMES B. MCCLINTOCK

11

MR. JIMMY PARNELL

12

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1 (WHEREUPON, the meeting of
2 the Alabama Forever Wild Land
3 Trust Board was called to
4 order and proceedings
5 commenced at 10:00 a.m.)
6

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

8 Good morning, everybody, and
9 welcome to the November meeting of
10 the Forever Wild Land Trust Board.
11 I appreciate the opportunity to be
12 here in Priceville at the
13 Priceville Event Center. Let me
14 call the roll and make sure we have
15 a quorum, and then we will -- we
16 will get started with everything
17 else.

18 When I say your name, just
19 please let us know if you are here,
20 indicate by saying here.

21 Chris Blankenship is here.

22 Mr. Childers?

23 MR. CHILDERS: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
2 Darnall?

3 MR. DARNALL: Here.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
5 Harper?

6 MR. HARPER: Here.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
8 Howell?

9 DR. HOWELL: Here.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
11 Jones?

12 MR. JONES: Here.

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
14 Keener?

15 DR. KEENER: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
17 McClintock?

18 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Here.

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
20 Oates?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
23 Parnell?

1 MR. PARNELL: Here.

2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
3 Valentine?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
6 Neumann?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
9 Powers?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
12 Saloom?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
15 And Ms. Stanley?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --
18 are all not here, so that would be
19 -- We have nine members here, we
20 can conduct business. We do have a
21 quorum.

22 I appreciate Mr. Childers
23 working out us the opportunity to

1 have our meeting here in
2 Priceville. Priceville is
3 definitely a growing community here
4 next to Decatur. I appreciate you
5 working this out so we can meet
6 here, very convenient, right off
7 the interstate.

8 MR. CHILDERS: My pleasure,
9 sir.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: As
11 a bit of information that probably
12 nobody cares about, my great -- my
13 grandfather was here from -- born
14 here in Priceville. Just down the
15 road where the big cross is, as you
16 go down the street, just past that,
17 there used to be a peach orchard,
18 that was my great-grandfather's
19 peach orchard. And now it's a
20 bunch of houses and a horse barn
21 and a bunch of other stuff in
22 there.

23 So, this is -- that's almost

1 -- almost home for me. My people
2 are from up here. So, I am glad to
3 be back in the area.

4 Anybody got any other comments
5 before we start the public comment
6 period?

7 All right. We do have several
8 speakers this morning. When I call
9 your name, if you will, just come
10 up to the podium and make your --
11 make your comments or remarks.
12 We've got a three-minute time --
13 time limit to make sure everybody
14 has a chance to speak. Is there
15 anybody that wants to speak that
16 did not fill out one of the green
17 slips?

18 (No response).

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
20 don't see anybody's hands.

21 All right. So, we will start
22 with the public comment period.
23 Our first speaker is Regina Enlaw

1 Aycock on the Freedom Hills Sugar
2 Camp Branch, that's tab 4-B, page
3 15.

4 If you will give us just a
5 second to find that, tab 4-B, page
6 15. And we've got a handout, if
7 you will make sure everybody gets
8 the handout before you get started.

9 MS. MCCURDY: And I will just
10 -- while the handout's going out,
11 just so the Board knows, that is a
12 -- our map but the handout is -- is
13 coming from the speaker, as opposed
14 to staff.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
16 right. Go ahead, Ms. Aycock.

17 MS. AYCOCK: Good morning. My
18 name is Regina Aycock, I am from
19 Muscle Shoals, Alabama. I am here
20 with Mr. Mark Pruitt. I have
21 inherited and own the 240-acre
22 tract in Colbert County known as
23 Freedom Hills Sugar Camp Branch.

1 I reached out to the State
2 earlier in the year to request a
3 crossing permit to gain entry.
4 When I did so, Mr. Harris asked me
5 if I might be interested in the
6 sell of my property to the State.
7 And at that point, I went through
8 the nomination process and -- and
9 that's what finds me here.

10 So, Mr. Pruitt is more of a
11 subject matter expert on this
12 property than I am. And, if I may,
13 I would like to yield the rest of
14 my time to him.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
16 right. Thank you.

17 So, the next speaker is Mark
18 Pruitt on this same piece of
19 property.

20 MR. PRUITT: Yeah. I am Mark
21 Pruitt, I work with King Realty and
22 Auction. And you-all have got this
23 pamphlet here?

1 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

2 Yes, sir.

3 MR. PRUITT: And we've got the
4 240 acres that joins your property
5 on the south. We've got a timber
6 cruise that's involved, you know,
7 in that packet. As of this
8 morning, the timber cruise is down
9 nine percent from the date -- This
10 was cruised on March of '24. This
11 morning it was down nine percent.
12 So, I deducted that and that's --
13 that brought it down \$29,554.

14 So, what we are asking for the
15 property is timber cruise and
16 \$1,068 an acre for the dirt. And I
17 got that dirt number from property
18 -- 80 acres that sold next to it,
19 it joined it. And that sold in
20 May, the 12th, of 2022. So, that's
21 how I arrived at my numbers.

22 I've got a topo that's in this
23 packet, y'all can look at it and

1 see what -- and, I mean, we -- The
2 State has a pretty nice road. I
3 hadn't been down it. It comes off
4 Coon Dog Cemetery Road, it goes to
5 this property. But since it joined
6 State property or Forever Wild, we
7 just figured it might be something
8 y'all would be interested in.

9 And if you have got any
10 questions, I will be here to answer
11 them, whatever I need to do.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
13 questions? Mr. Jones.

14 MR. JONES: Sir, you know we
15 can't just -- y'all can't dictate
16 the price, right? We have to get
17 an appraisal --

18 MR. PRUITT: Right. Yes, sir.

19 MR. JONES: Okay. I just want
20 to make sure you're clear --

21 MR. PRUITT: Well, I didn't
22 know if we had to have a starting
23 point but --

1 MR. JONES: No -- No, we -- we
2 have to go out and get an appraisal
3 --

4 MR. PRUITT: Get an appraisal,
5 yes, sir, I understand that.

6 MR. JONES: I just wanted to
7 make sure y'all are aware of that
8 process.

9 MR. PRUITT: Yes, sir.

10 MR. JONES: Okay.

11 MR. PRUITT: Yes, sir.

12 MR. CHILDERS: Would you
13 repeat the change in the value of
14 timber, please.

15 MR. PRUITT: The -- It was
16 down nine percent this morning.

17 MR. CHILDERS: Minus nine.
18 And what did you equate that to?

19 MR. PRUITT: Nine percent
20 brought it to --

21 MR. JONES: How many dollars
22 an acre?

23 MR. PRUITT: Like I said, it

1 was down \$29,554 from that cruise.

2 MR. CHILDERS: What's that an
3 acre?

4 MR. PRUITT: And that was an
5 approximate nine percent, we didn't
6 --

7 MR. HARPER: Was that all
8 classes of timber or one particular
9 thing --

10 MR. PRUITT: It was different
11 -- different -- the white oak soft
12 timber was down. The gray-white
13 oak was down. The gray-white oak
14 was down more than any. The red
15 oak soft timber was down some.
16 Miscellaneous soft timber was down
17 three dollars a ton. The poplar
18 soft timber was down four dollars a
19 ton.

20 I guess the biggest one was
21 the gray-white oak, it was down \$15
22 a ton. And I've got that on an
23 e-mail, I just didn't -- I didn't

1 get it till ten o'clock last night.

2 MR. HARPER: That's fine.

3 MR. PRUITT: I didn't get it
4 printed off.

5 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
6 questions? Thank you, sir.

7 MR. PRUITT: Hey, I appreciate
8 it.

9 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
10 next speaker is Darci DeBrunner
11 with Alabama Forestry Commission on
12 the Dugdown Mountain Corridor.
13 Dugdown Mountain Corridor, that's
14 4-B, page 11.

15 MS. DEBRUNNER: And there is a
16 map that is being handed out
17 that'll help provide some
18 clarification.

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Let
20 me make sure I've got that right.

21 So, it's the Dugdown Mountain
22 Corridor, not the Dugdown Corridor,
23 to differentiate the two.

1 MS. DEBRUNNER: This is -- I
2 will be speaking to a phase-two
3 part of this whole corridor. So,
4 back in May, a couple of y'all --
5 we invited some of the Board
6 members out to a field trip to go
7 look at this phase two of this
8 corridor property. And it was a
9 potential, we didn't know if we got
10 funding. We learned a couple weeks
11 ago that we got funding from the
12 Federal Forest Legacy Program. So,
13 we will have that ready to go.

14 So, our goal right now is to
15 get this tract nominated to the
16 Board here soon. But this is an
17 absolutely gorgeous piece of land;
18 it's 9,888 acres that connects the
19 State line tract, the phase one
20 that y'all are very familiar with,
21 to the Talladega National Forest,
22 and it sort of goes across. And
23 it's got a beautiful, sort of,

1 peninsula out-looking the
2 reservoir. It's got loblolly
3 plantation, with the eventual goal
4 to convert to longleaf pine. It's
5 got beautiful hardwood pine on the
6 ridge tops.

7 It's got beautiful creeks with
8 mountain laurels along it. It's a
9 really beautiful, unique place. If
10 it goes through and if we get it,
11 it will become part of a new State
12 forest managed by a commission of
13 -- with, hopefully, Forever Wild
14 support as -- as -- as cost share
15 amount. But it'll provide more
16 acres to public funding process in
17 Alabama. And this -- this space,
18 too, is absolutely huge.

19 And it would be the single
20 biggest Forest Legacy Program ask
21 from the State of Alabama in the
22 history of the program since
23 Alabama joined back in 2002.

1 So, this is a momentous
2 occasion. This is a chance to ask
3 for this much money. And there is
4 a lot of support for this whole
5 Dugdown Corridor, from the
6 Talladega National Forest, to the
7 Paulding Sheffield Management --
8 Wildlife Management area in
9 Georgia, at the national level to
10 see this corridor connected through
11 Alabama and Georgia.

12 And so, the map you see, that
13 light green is the phase-two tract
14 that we would be looking to buy and
15 that will eventually be nominated
16 here soon to the Board to be asked.
17 So...

18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
19 let me -- let me help -- help the
20 Board, clarify that.

21 So, this is not -- the one
22 that she's speaking on has not been
23 nominated, it's not in the packet.

1 So, we have -- I was -- It is -- I
2 wanted to make sure I cleared that
3 up. It's a new piece of property.

4 MR. PARNELL: It's actually on
5 page 10 -- tab 4, page 10.

6 MS. MCCURDY: No.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
8 It's actually another one. It's
9 not -- It's neither of the ones
10 that are in your book.

11 MS. MCCURDY: Yes, the -- this
12 --

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
14 one that we've been working on --

15 MS. MCCURDY: Darci is --

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --
17 the -- Hang on. Hang on.

18 It is the ones that we've been
19 -- the one we have been working on,
20 the Dugdown Mountain Corridor, the
21 nine -- 1,984 acres is the one that
22 we've been discussing for some
23 time. That was the first Forest

1 Legacy grant that AFC got.

2 The second nomination that's
3 in your book, the Dugdown Mountain
4 Cleburne County addition, is a new
5 nomination and is not associated
6 with what Darci's speaking on,
7 which is actually a third piece of
8 property in the Dugdown Mountain
9 Corridor that has not been -- so
10 far, is not in your book either on
11 a short list or in the nominated
12 parcels. So, is that clear as mud
13 for everybody?

14 MR. DARNELL: So, this is not
15 in the book.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
17 That's right.

18 MR. DARNELL: All right.
19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
21 It's a new -- a new nomination that
22 will be forthcoming -- it will be
23 forthcoming. They've gotten the

1 initial information that they have
2 received the grant for that.

3 MS. DEBRUNNER: Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
5 they will be nominating this new
6 9,000 acres.

7 MS. DEBRUNNER: Yes. We
8 didn't want to nominate it before
9 we knew we were going to have the
10 money in hand.

11 MR. HARPER: Is this the tract
12 that Commissioner Oates had been
13 trying to get -- I mean, sort of
14 been trying to get for the last
15 several meetings?

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
17 one that's in the books is.

18 MR. HARPER: Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
20 Yes, sir.

21 MR. HARPER: Okay.

22 MS. MCCURDY: Darci's map, the
23 light green is what she is speaking

1 on that has not yet been nominated,
2 the light green.

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Can
4 I get one of those maps?

5 MR. CHILDERS: I've got yours.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
7 Okay. Thanks. Any -- Now that,
8 that is clear as --

9 Clear as it can possibly be,
10 is there any questions for Darci?

11 All right. Thank you. The
12 next speaker is Steve Northcutt on
13 Dugdown Corridor. I have no idea
14 which one. I will let Steve --

15 MR. NORTHCUTT: I will see if
16 I can --

17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
18 will let Steve talk. It's
19 somewhere in that area.

20 Go ahead, Steve.

21 MR. NORTHCUTT: So, this is
22 the Dugdown Mountain Corridor
23 1480-acre tract that has been

1 scored. It made the short list and
2 I will discuss that once you get --
3 I guess my time has run out here.

4 MS. MCCURDY: It's -- It's --
5 we will restart your time.

6 MR. NORTHCUTT: Okay. All
7 right.

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
9 that is going to be --

10 MR. JONES: The Cleburne
11 County tract.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
13 That is going to be the one that is
14 on page --

15 MR. JONES: Ten.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --
17 ten.

18 MR. CHILDERS: Ten in Cleburne
19 County.

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
21 4-B, page 10. All right. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. NORTHCUTT: So, I -- I am

1 glad Darci kind of started this off
2 because what she's saying is
3 incredible, in terms of -- I've
4 worked with the Nature Conservancy
5 since 2001, worked on a lot of
6 Forest Legacy projects. The State
7 has never had this level of funding
8 before. They've never requested
9 it, they've never received it till
10 now.

11 So, it shows you how quality
12 this area is, in terms of the
13 cooperation with the Georgia
14 project that they've done. And
15 that is the -- the Paulding
16 Sheffield WMA and the Conservation
17 Fund and the Nature Conservancy
18 acquiring properties that have this
19 connective corridor. And, you
20 know, the State of Alabama, through
21 ADCNR -- and Forever Wild have --
22 have a history of working cross
23 state on projects: Grand Bay

1 National Wildlife Refuge with Grand
2 Bay Savannah; Perdido River with
3 the Florida acquisitions; The Walls
4 of Jericho and -- and the Skyline
5 WMA and all the projects they've
6 done in Tennessee.

7 So, with Mississippi, now this
8 -- this Corridor -- this Dugdown
9 Corridor is what we are calling it
10 -- is an incredible opportunity to
11 enlarge protected area from
12 Paulding Sheffield, which is 28,000
13 acres. They've been working on
14 this for a while. They've spent
15 \$78 million dollars in Georgia to
16 acquire these properties. The
17 funding sources have come through
18 Forest Legacy; the Georgia Outdoor
19 Stewardship Program, which is kind
20 of like Forever Wild except a
21 Georgia version of it. Now, they
22 were very late to the game but,
23 after they saw what a good job you

1 were doing, I think in 2016, they
2 -- they started this fund. Also,
3 private foundations: The National
4 Wild Turkey Federation and, of
5 course, Pittman-Robertson Fund.

6 So, today I am -- I am hoping
7 that you would look at this
8 particular 1,480 acres. And if you
9 look at her map, Darci's map that
10 showed you the large 10,000 acres,
11 this has a -- a great connectivity,
12 these parcels, and it would be
13 something that I would hope you
14 would consider as an acquisition.
15 It does not have Forest Legacy
16 funding but it would be a great
17 addition to this protected
18 landscape between these two states.

19 I would hope that you would
20 consider a first appraisal on these
21 properties. And I am just so proud
22 to see what the Alabama Forestry
23 Commission has done in getting this

1 Forest Legacy funding for this
2 area.

3 Any questions that I can
4 answer?

5 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
6 Thank you, Steve.

7 MR. NORTHCUTT: Okay. Thanks.

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
9 next speaker is Tom Brickman on the
10 Dunnivant Valley Oaks in Shelby
11 County, 4-B, page 13, 4-B, page 13.
12 And a handout is coming.

13 Hold on just a minute and make
14 sure everybody gets that.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. BRICKMAN: Good morning.
17 I am Tom Brickman. I am a forester
18 and land broker with the Cyprus
19 Partners in Birmingham. We are the
20 listing agent on a 1,600-acre
21 property in north Shelby County on
22 the south facing slope of Oak
23 Mountain near -- near Dunnivant.

1 It is about 30 minutes from
2 Birmingham, about three minutes to
3 Shoal Creek Country Club, and we've
4 got it on the market.

5 The -- The main overview
6 information's in the brochure that
7 you've got there that we've just --
8 just handed out so I am not going
9 to go through all that with you. I
10 want to emphasize three points in
11 it: One is the habitat that's
12 there. We -- When we first took on
13 this listing, we hired a certified
14 arborist from Auburn to come in and
15 do a biological diversity survey
16 and it revealed some interesting
17 things. For example, they found a
18 colony of Boynton Oaks on the
19 ridge. They found confederate
20 daisies. They found a lot of
21 plants that you only find in those
22 kind of micro habitats that -- on
23 those south-facing slopes of Oak

1 Mountain.

2 As you come down the ridge,
3 there's a couple hundred acres of
4 longleaf pine, some of it with
5 significant age to it.

6 And then, as you come on down
7 to the lower slopes, there's an
8 intact canopy of hardwood forest
9 that we estimate to be over 75
10 years of age, one of those forests
11 where there's hardly any understory
12 and -- and it is -- it is a
13 beautiful thing, a lot of white
14 oak, red oak poplars over 20 inches
15 in diameter.

16 There's an old narrow-gauge
17 railroad that runs through it, it
18 was used for logging purposes back
19 in the early part of the 1900s.

20 It has four points of public
21 access, so -- on -- on County or
22 State maintained roads.

23 The -- The second point I

1 would like to make is -- is the
2 proximity to other conservation
3 projects in the area. Of course,
4 Oak Mountain's only about seven
5 miles away. It joins the 7,000
6 acres of Birmingham Water Works
7 property. The Freshwater Land
8 Trust has a project within a mile
9 or two. Shelby County's recent
10 acquisition of the FSBO lands were
11 a few miles away. So there's a lot
12 of proximity there and the
13 opportunity to enhance connectivity
14 between various conservation
15 projects that are there.

16 The third point I would like
17 to make is that we believe the
18 highest and best use of the
19 property is residential
20 development, high-end residential
21 or mixed use. This part of Shelby
22 County is right in the path of
23 Birmingham's southern growth.

1 Within eight miles of this, there's
2 five major residential
3 developments: You've got Mount
4 Laurel, Shoal Creek, Greystone,
5 Highland Lakes and -- and one or
6 two others.

7 There is a lot of population
8 growth going on in this part of the
9 world. And what's unique about
10 this property is that there's some
11 -- a lot of steep land in Shelby
12 County. Some of this property's
13 steep but not much; we figure about
14 80 percent of it is up on Oak
15 Mountain, which makes it highly
16 developable. There's 80 percent
17 that are -- not level but it -- it
18 is not steep. And the natural
19 course of things would be for this
20 property to be developed.

21 So, this is an opportunity to
22 preserve for public use, education,
23 a piece of land that -- very

1 unique, wild habitat to -- for the
2 benefit of that growing population
3 in that area.

4 I've been walking the woods of
5 Alabama for almost 50 years now
6 professionally. And rarely do you
7 see a property like this that has
8 so many potential uses in so many
9 directions from development, to the
10 conservation side of things. It is
11 hard to put it all into words here
12 in three minutes but I will -- if
13 there's any interest, I would
14 encourage y'all to come take a look
15 at it. It is -- It will be a fun
16 day in the woods if you do nothing
17 with it.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
20 questions?

21 (No response).

22 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

23 Thank you, sir. The next speaker

1 is Mr. Jerry Joe Ingram on Cooper
2 Branch, it is tab 4-B, page 7.

3 MR. INGRAM: Good morning, Mr.
4 Commissioner Blankenship and Board
5 members. Thank y'all for giving us
6 the opportunity to come this
7 morning. I don't know if they got
8 time to add this to your packet. I
9 do have a letter of support from
10 the City of Pelham on this -- on
11 this property. They felt like --
12 you know, when I described to them
13 where it was and all that, they --
14 they really felt like -- you know,
15 even though it is a quarter of a
16 mile away from Oak Mountain State
17 Park, this is -- this property's
18 kind of book-ended by a couple
19 pretty good residential
20 developments.

21 And talking with the -- the --
22 the City of Pelham, you know, they
23 -- they really see these with --

1 you know, with Oak Mountain State
2 -- State Park and all that is real
3 economic development opportunities
4 for them. They're getting, you
5 know, people coming to Pelham now
6 as kind of a final destination for
7 mountain biking and stuff like
8 that. So, you know, I did mention
9 to them, in a purchase like this,
10 that sometimes if it was -- you
11 know -- you know -- you know, that
12 was going to be part of the park
13 system, you know, would they be
14 interested in doing some in-kind
15 service, probably, at some point in
16 time. They -- you know, they
17 didn't say no but -- but -- but
18 they did recognize that they
19 already have ongoing kind of cost
20 participation with y'all already
21 with the Oak Mountain State Park.

22 So, I think they -- there's a
23 -- there's an opening there that

1 they -- I -- I think they realize
2 the economic development potential
3 of this and -- and so I -- I think
4 they would be open to some in-kind
5 service, probably, participating.

6 We also have spoken a couple
7 times with Chad Scroggins, that is
8 the County Manager for the County
9 Commission. I don't actually have
10 a letter from him today but he's
11 always been in support of this. He
12 sees it, you know, for what it is.
13 They -- you know, they -- they see
14 these green spaces throughout these
15 big metropolitan areas like this as
16 a big plus. So...

17 And I think Dr. McClintock
18 actually went out there with us.
19 We did a field trip on it one day
20 and cut down a few trees that had
21 fallen across the road. We had a
22 good field trip, I think, that day,
23 so.

1 DR. MCCLINTOCK: We did.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. INGRAM: But that's about
4 all I've got, unless y'all have any
5 questions.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
7 questions?

8 (No response).

9 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
10 right. Thank you, Jerry Joe.

11 MR. INGRAM: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
13 last speaker I have is Marcus Kruk.
14 He wants to speak on the -- an
15 easement request on the Bon Secour
16 Swift Tract. That's tab 5-H, it is
17 a memo.

18 MR. DARNALL: Tab 5-H?

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
20 5-H. It is in your green folder, I
21 think.

22 Give us just a second to make
23 sure everybody finds that.

1 All right. Go ahead, sir.

2 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir. Guys,
3 thank you so much for the
4 opportunity to be here. I feel
5 like a duck out of water. I am a
6 private landowner, I own 15 acres
7 in -- in Bon Secour, right adjacent
8 to 250 acres that you guys have,
9 which is the Bon Secour Swift-Cole
10 School Trace.

11 What I would like to propose
12 is for me to give you guys five
13 acres for .083 percent of an acre,
14 basically 3,500 square feet, so
15 that I can get from my property
16 right here, out to Shutt Creek for
17 a -- for a boathouse. And it is
18 real simple but I -- I am using the
19 word land swap. I've used the word
20 easement. I don't really know what
21 -- what the right word would be to
22 use or what the best terminology
23 would be.

1 I am -- I am open to anything
2 if -- if there's -- if you guys see
3 that this is an opportunity just to
4 -- and it is adjacent to your
5 existing property on the little
6 handout I've got.

7 We did a little diagram
8 cutting off that five acres, which
9 is right there next to your
10 property, and then the little
11 section where I would cross over to
12 get the -- the boat -- to walk out
13 to the boathouse out on Shutt
14 Creek.

15 That's all I have. Thank you
16 so much.

17 MS. MCCURDY: And there's --
18 there's a map of 5-H that shows --
19 I did confirm -- shows the location
20 of the -- the requested easement or
21 swap, and we won't get tied up on
22 words but --

23 MR. HARPER: Is all this marsh

1 land that you propose?

2 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir, it is all
3 -- it is all marsh land. It is
4 real tall -- eight-foot-tall marsh.
5 That whole -- Well, I say the whole
6 250 but you can see here, this is
7 all -- all marsh land that's right
8 there next to me.

9 And I am going to do a
10 single-family residence; we are
11 going to, hopefully, start in
12 January. And this would just be an
13 opportunity for us to have an
14 access out to the creek to -- we've
15 got a little -- small, 17-foot MAKO
16 that I can do some fishing with,
17 so. That's all. We are -- we are
18 seeing if there was any interest
19 there. So...

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
21 Parnell.

22 MR. PARNELL: On -- On this --
23 this map, have you got this?

1 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir. Yes,
2 sir.

3 MR. PARNELL: The blue is --
4 is yours -- the blue outlined areas
5 is yours.

6 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PARNELL: Of that, what
8 are you trying to trade?

9 MR. KRUK: Yeah. So, the --
10 what I am trying to trade is the
11 five acres -- so if you took that
12 blue line -- yeah, if you took that
13 blue line here on the edge, you can
14 see how this has a perforated -- a
15 little line here. I would give you
16 guys that five acres out of my 15.

17 MS. MCCURDY: And for -- And
18 correct me if I am wrong but if I
19 can help the Board. But, please,
20 we -- we talked a little before the
21 meeting just this morning. I -- If
22 I understand, the -- the five acres
23 would be within the blue, adjacent

1 to us, and would be -- for lack of
2 a better word -- sort of a
3 rectangle shape adjacent to us --

4 MR. KRUK: Exactly.

5 MS. MCCURDY: -- in the blue.

6 MR. KRUK: Exactly. Right.
7 Right there adjacent to you. The
8 -- My -- My total 15 acres goes
9 from here, to here. So I am just
10 drawing a line right here and
11 giving you guys all that five acres
12 for that 0.83 percent acre to -- to
13 just -- basically, 10 feet by 360
14 feet to an elevated walkway over
15 the saw-grass, over the marsh, to
16 get out to Shutt Creek.

17 MR. CHILDERS: So the five
18 acres you're giving is adjacent to
19 what we own already?

20 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

21 MR. CHILDERS: The length of
22 that blue line there on --

23 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir. Yes,

1 sir.

2 MR. CHILDERS: It wouldn't be
3 very wide.

4 MR. KRUK: Exactly, not very
5 wide. I don't have that -- I have
6 not had it surveyed yet, that would
7 be the next step if you guys were
8 open to this --

9 MR. CHILDERS: Well, how long
10 is that line right there on that
11 east side -- or west side?

12 MR. KRUK: That line right
13 there --

14 MR. CHILDERS: How many feet?

15 MR. KRUK: How many feet? I
16 would say that's -- Oh, that's
17 probably -- it is probably about
18 850 feet, approximately. I -- I am
19 not a hundred percent sure because
20 I've not had that -- that piece
21 surveyed yet. But we would get it
22 surveyed and -- and -- and whatever
23 section -- And, really, for me, I

1 am not too stuck on which section I
2 would use to cross over, I am -- I
3 am kind of open to that.

4 And, also, too, I do have some
5 more land that's up at the top that
6 could give you guys access to Cook
7 Road so, you know, just to -- if
8 there's an interest in you guys
9 having access to Cook Road off of
10 all your land there, I could make
11 that happen as well, that could be
12 a possibility.

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
14 other questions?

15 So, I have a question.

16 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

17 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
18 Looking at your requested easement
19 over to Shutt Creek, have -- did
20 you explore the idea of going
21 straight down the -- our property
22 line to that little bay, you know,
23 in -- I guess into the Bon Secour

1 River portion where it wouldn't cut

2 --

3 MR. KRUK: You know, I -- I --

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --

5 directly across our property --

6 MR. KRUK: -- I have thought

7 about that, yeah. The -- The only

8 -- The only challenge with that is

9 that little spot there off the

10 river is very shallow, that's about

11 two feet deep. And that's -- My

12 boat can get in there probably 70

13 percent of the time.

14 So, that's why the preferred

15 path would be over to Shutt Creek.

16 Shutt Creek's actually six to eight

17 foot deep in most spots but -- but

18 that is -- that is another option.

19 You know, the goal was just to --

20 to get the boat -- boat in the

21 water. You know, I am getting too

22 old to take it down to the ramp

23 anymore.

1 MR. PARNELL: Talk to us more
2 about the easement that you're
3 talking about -- access might be a
4 better word -- to that road.

5 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PARNELL: What are you
7 thinking there?

8 MR. KRUK: Well, you know, it
9 had been told to me that -- that
10 you guys may be interested in
11 having easement to that road and I
12 haven't really, to be honest with
13 you, put too much thought into it.
14 We could, conceivably, adjust the
15 line slightly where that northern
16 section -- we could possibly do
17 something where we took that entire
18 northern section and -- this is the
19 easement here to Cook Road, we
20 could, maybe, bring it out and cut
21 it down and -- and just do a
22 little, you know, adjustment, in
23 terms of the lines, so. But it can

1 be really -- I guess I am saying
2 that to say I am open to any kind
3 of thoughts or ideas you guys may
4 have. I am not hardcore set on
5 that straight -- that straight
6 line.

7 Yes, ma'am.

8 DR. HOWELL: My concern is
9 that it might prove a barrier to
10 people using forest like the
11 Forever Wild property and, also, a
12 barrier to animal movement. So, in
13 my opinion, it would have to be
14 very elevated.

15 MR. KRUK: Right.

16 DR. HOWELL: Completely
17 elevated above the habitat --

18 MR. KRUK: Most definitely, I
19 agree with you.

20 DR. HOWELL: -- to be at all
21 conceivable.

22 MR. KRUK: And there's really
23 -- nobody can get out unless you're

1 a zombie. It is -- It is just
2 hardcore saw-grass. Now, animals,
3 you're exactly right and I
4 completely agree, it has got to be
5 elevated to -- to get out but it is
6 -- it is -- this side here is --
7 all this land here is just
8 completely marsh and saw-grass.

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. JONES: Usually when you
11 -- You've said boat, the word
12 boathouse --

13 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

14 MR. JONES: -- a minute ago.
15 Then you've said, you know,
16 elevated pier. First of all, which
17 is it? And who governs that as far
18 as -- usually when you put a
19 boathouse in, up here it is TVA.
20 Another area it is Alabama Power.
21 It is other people that have
22 jurisdiction over that. Who has
23 jurisdiction over --

1 MR. KRUK: The Corp --

2 MR. JONES: Army Corp.

3 MR. KRUK: Army Corp, yes,
4 sir. And it would be both: It
5 would be an elevated walkway out to
6 the boathouse, so -- to house --

7 MR. JONES: Is that a Corp
8 permit --

9 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

10 MR. JONES: -- that you would
11 have to get?

12 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

13 MS. MCCURDY: And there would
14 actually be a role with a different
15 hat on for our division, in
16 addition, but the Corp permit is --
17 would be -- would be the key there.

18 MR. KRUK: And I've been
19 working with somebody to help me
20 through that whole process. Matter
21 of fact, my -- my property is on
22 wetlands, I am part -- partial on
23 uplands and wetlands, so we've had

1 -- we've had to get a letter from
2 the Corp to be able to -- to -- to
3 build over that, that wetlands
4 section.

5 I went over my time.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Any
7 other questions?

8 All right. Thank you, sir.

9 MR. KRUK: Thank you, guys, so
10 much. I appreciate all the
11 questions.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
13 Thank you for the information --

14 MR. KRUK: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --
16 additional information.

17 All right. That's the end of
18 comments that I have -- the green
19 slips that I have for comments; are
20 there -- anybody else that wanted
21 to speak that didn't sign up?

22 All right. Seeing no hands,
23 we will move to the next section,

1 which is our recess for executive
2 session. By regulation, appraisal
3 values are confidential during
4 periods of negotiation.

5 Accordingly, in order to discuss
6 tract appraisal values, the Board
7 will need to go into recess for an
8 executive session. Is there a
9 motion for the Board to now recess
10 into executive?

11 MR. DARNALL: Motion.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
13 Darnall has made the motion.

14 MR. JONES: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
16 Second by Mr. Jones.

17 As I call your name, please
18 state your position on the motion
19 to recess. Those in favor, make it
20 by saying "aye," and "no's" by
21 saying "nay."

22 Chris Blankenship, aye. Mr.
23 Childers?

1 MR. CHILDERS: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.

3 Darnall?

4 MR. DARNALL: Yep.

5 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.

6 Harper?

7 MR. HARPER: Yeah.

8 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Ms.

9 Howell?

10 DR. HOWELL: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I

12 am sorry. Dr. Howell? I

13 apologize.

14 Mr. Jones?

15 MR. JONES: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.

17 Keener?

18 DR. KEENER: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.

20 McClintock?

21 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.

23 Parnell?

1 MR. PARNELL: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
3 right. All nine members have voted
4 to dismiss for executive session.
5 It is 10:33, we are in executive
6 session and we will be back in
7 approximately 20 minutes.

8 (Brief recess for executive
9 session.)

10 (Meeting resumed.)

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
12 right. It is 10:53. We are back
13 from executive session, it was
14 exactly 20 minutes.

15 So, we will move on in the
16 agenda now to the program status
17 financial data, section five on the
18 agenda.

19 Ms. McCurdy, take it away.

20 MS. MCCURDY: All right.
21 Board members, if you would, look
22 at your tab 2-A. For the benefit
23 of the public, this is the portion

1 of the meeting where I would run
2 through just some financial
3 information regarding the program,
4 the Stewardship Fund, and just kind
5 of a review of where we are.
6 Currently we have -- the -- the
7 balance of the Forever Wild
8 acquisition account is
9 approximately \$34 million. I do
10 need to run through those and, as I
11 always say, the checks that you
12 have -- have us trying to write and
13 spend to get to the balance that
14 would be available to the Board for
15 action.

16 The properties that are in
17 some portion or form of the
18 negotiation and closing process are
19 the following: Bon Secour River
20 Wetlands Addition, Baldwin County;
21 Freedom Hills WMA, Sutton Hill
22 Addition, Monroe County; West Fowl
23 River Tract, Mobile; the Davidson

1 Creek Tract in Coosa County; and
2 the Red Hills Section 23 Tract in
3 Monroe County.

4 We do now have the due
5 diligence back on that Red Hills
6 property. It will be, probably as
7 we are standing here, moving into
8 the in-closing section. So that
9 one is progressing, I just didn't
10 have it where I could move it up
11 before this meeting.

12 Taking all that into
13 consideration including the 15
14 percent transfer to the Stewardship
15 Fund of each of our purchases and
16 taking into account any cost-share
17 opportunities, you're approaching
18 \$5.8 million in property
19 acquisitions pending, which leaves
20 you roughly \$26 million available
21 for further action.

22 If there are no questions on
23 that, if you will flip the page,

1 you will see a recap of our last
2 fiscal year. Again, our fiscal
3 year began October first for the
4 State.

5 And so, at the end of the last
6 fiscal year, the program had
7 acquired an additional 600 --
8 excuse me -- 6,381 acres last year
9 of properties that we had been --
10 had motions for us to try to
11 acquire but we were unable to. We
12 had a decline acreage amount of 674
13 acres.

14 Right now, we have not had any
15 closings in the last month. So,
16 that's for this fiscal year, the
17 report, that, by fiscal. Any
18 questions on that?

19 (No response).

20 MS. MCCURDY: All right. If
21 you will move to tab 2-B. For this
22 meeting, which our November meeting
23 is always coming out of a fiscal

1 year and going in -- being in a new
2 fiscal year, I provided you two
3 separate pages related to the
4 Stewardship Fund. I wanted to
5 report -- and I will say, these
6 numbers will -- the remaining
7 amount from last year for the
8 Stewardship Fund probably continued
9 to go down once all the accounting
10 -- fiscal year accounting is
11 completed but we are fine. We
12 currently show \$193,000 remained
13 from the \$2.5 million that the
14 Board approved for our
15 expenditures. So, we are in good
16 shape.

17 Moving into this fiscal year,
18 as you would expect, we haven't had
19 a lot of expenditures but, for this
20 year, the amount approved by the
21 Board for our Stewardship
22 expenditures is \$3 million and so
23 that is what we are working with.

1 And we are just -- just about 2
2 point -- \$2,900,000 in expenditures
3 at this point.

4 If there are no questions on
5 that, we will move to tab 2-C. Tab
6 2-C is the report that gives a
7 little more detailed information
8 regarding the Stewardship Fund.
9 And we want to, again, thank the
10 State Treasurer's Office for
11 preparing that for us for each of
12 our quarterly meetings. The
13 current net asset value as of the
14 end of September -- that was their
15 most recent valuation for us -- was
16 just over \$50 million. This is the
17 account that sits and, you know, we
18 are -- provides the stewardship
19 needs for the program that we pull
20 from.

21 So, Commissioner, if there are
22 no questions on the financial
23 reports, I will keep moving.

1 If you will now look at tab
2 3-C. Excuse me. I said 3-C, I
3 meant 3-A. I don't know where that
4 came from. I do this every time
5 and just created a new tab. This
6 is also the point at the meeting
7 that I review for the public that
8 -- a reminder as to the appraisals
9 that we have in hand that provide
10 the Board information and provide
11 the opportunity for the Board to
12 take further action, if they
13 desire, toward acquisition of
14 property.

15 So, I want to run down what we
16 have in hand.

17 We have the Black River SOA,
18 Clapper Addition in Baldwin County;
19 Morgan Hollow, Lawrence; Upper
20 Delta WMA, Stiggins Lake Addition,
21 Baldwin. We did, for this meeting,
22 finally have available the
23 appraisal work that was done for

1 the Dugdown Mountain Corridor
2 property. Again, that is the
3 property that is benefiting from
4 grant funding from the US Forest
5 Service that the Alabama Forestry
6 Commission was able to obtain
7 through a grant award. And we --
8 that is a very complicated
9 appraisal process, that's finally
10 back in hand.

11 We also have the Davidson
12 Creek Tract. There had been
13 discussion at the last meeting and
14 a request by the landowner for that
15 property to have it -- the
16 nomination be revised to include a
17 timber reservation to be retained
18 by the landowner. We have that
19 appraisal work completed.

20 Are there any questions to
21 that point on appraisal
22 information?

23 (No response).

1 MS. MCCURDY: All right.
2 Seeing none, let's move to tab 5-A
3 in your packet.

4 This is the portion of the
5 meeting that I give an update to
6 the Board of either grant funds
7 that are currently being used to
8 leverage our acquisitions for
9 properties that are in closing or
10 opportunities to utilize some type
11 of cost share on other properties
12 and just general grants that we
13 pursue. We are always looking for
14 grants to try to offset the cost of
15 acquisition or our land stewardship
16 duties.

17 The properties that are still
18 moving along and are in closing
19 that have benefited from grant
20 funding is the Bon Secour River
21 Wetlands Addition, that tract has a
22 National Coastal Wetlands
23 Conservation Grant Program award

1 that was providing funding
2 contributing to approximately 69
3 percent of acquisition but, also,
4 we were able to include some
5 on-the-ground work for fire lane
6 installation and prescribed burning
7 and, also, some initial trail
8 development.

9 So, we are excited about that,
10 that money, and that is moving
11 along fine. We did get the
12 extension we needed to extend that
13 grant activity.

14 Next, we have the Red Hills,
15 Section 23 Addition. This was a
16 property that Chuck Sykes, our
17 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
18 Division Director presented to the
19 Board as an opportunity for an
20 approximate 75, 25 cost share
21 benefiting from the Pittman-
22 Robertson Funding that our Wildlife
23 Division receives.

1 Of the nominations that we
2 have under appraisal currently that
3 provide an opportunity to benefit
4 from some form of leverage funding
5 is the Blackwater River SOA-Clapper
6 Addition. Our Wildlife and
7 Freshwater Fisheries Division has
8 offered to utilize their
9 Pittman-Robertson Funding for
10 another approximate 75, 25 split
11 acquisition opportunity.

12 On our short list nominations
13 we have the Dugdown Mountain
14 Corridor. Again, that is the tract
15 that we just -- AFC was able to
16 complete the appraisal work on. We
17 still have it listed as a short
18 list nomination, even though
19 they've provided the appraisal,
20 because that appraisal had not been
21 motioned by the Board. But it was
22 performed by our contract
23 appraisers and has been reviewed by

1 staff but that's why it is still
2 considered a short list nomination.

3 We then -- I wanted just to
4 provide a brief update on some of
5 the other grant funding that we
6 utilize and will continue --
7 continuing to utilize our National
8 Fish and Wildlife Foundation
9 Cumberland Plateau-Southern
10 Appalachian Fund grant money. We
11 are using that on our Little River
12 WMA. And we are working on
13 supporting the establishment of a
14 shortleaf pine forest in an area of
15 approximately 375 acres. That's
16 moving along and we are hoping to
17 move on into the prescribed burn,
18 which will happen as soon as
19 weather permits this month.

20 And then we will begin a
21 containerized shortleaf seedling
22 plantings, end of the year, moving
23 into the spring on that.

1 And an update on the
2 Mobile-Tensaw Delta Bartram and
3 Perdido River Canoe Trails
4 improvements, the GOMESA funding,
5 we now have completed the final
6 site selection and we are hoping to
7 have the preliminary architectural
8 design done for the new shelters
9 and we believe that we will be in a
10 procurement of construction of
11 those shelters here in early 2025,
12 just after the first of the year.

13 So, that's the update on the
14 status of various grant funds or
15 leveraging funding that we are
16 utilizing. If there are no
17 questions, I will keep rolling.

18 And if you would, look at tab
19 4 of your packet. I now want to
20 run through our current short list
21 nominations. Again, sum up, for
22 the benefit of the public that is
23 here today, every nomination that

1 is presented to the program, our
2 first step is actually sending the
3 landowner a willing seller letter
4 to confirm that they are okay with
5 their property being discussed in
6 public and being evaluated through
7 our scoring process.

8 So, after we get that willing
9 seller letter, each nomination is
10 evaluated to see whether it could
11 provide a benefit in either of the
12 -- any of the four categories under
13 the constitutional amendment that
14 formed the program and that's:
15 Nature preserve; general
16 recreation, which that can include
17 hunting and does; WMA or SOA usage,
18 basically primarily hunting; or
19 addition to or new State park
20 acreage. Now, once acquired, we
21 manage all that for multiple uses
22 but the properties are evaluated in
23 those four categories.

1 They then compete amongst
2 themselves in the Northern,
3 Central, and Southern Districts as
4 defined for the program. And they
5 have to fall in the top three of
6 one of the four categories I
7 mentioned in their district so the
8 results -- resulting number of
9 tracts can vary.

10 But I am going to now run
11 through the ones that we have on
12 the short list that would be
13 available to the Board for some
14 form of further action and -- so, I
15 am going to run through those. As
16 always, sometimes I don't see a
17 hand go up if you have a question,
18 so please do just speak up and I
19 will -- I will pause and take that
20 question.

21 So, we will go in alphabetical
22 order. We have the Bennett Creek
23 Tract in Mobile and Washington

1 Counties; we have the Bon Secour
2 River, Cook Road Addition, Baldwin
3 County; we have the Cooper Branch
4 Tract in Shelby County; the Dugdown
5 Corridor Cleburne County Tract.

6 And to clarify, this is the Dugdown
7 that has been nominated but does
8 not have grant funding currently,
9 anyway, that we are aware of that
10 would contribute to that purchase.
11 But it is right there in that area,
12 hence the Dugdown name. Maybe we
13 need to come up with a new name.

14 The next is our Dugdown
15 Mountain Corridor. This is the
16 nomination that does benefit from
17 the US Forest Service Forest Legacy
18 Program Grant Funding. If
19 acquired, this would have
20 approximately a 75, 25 split with
21 the Alabama Forestry Commission;
22 Dunnavant Valley Oaks that crosses
23 Shelby and Jefferson Counties; we

1 have the Freedom Hills WMA, Sugar
2 Camp Branch Addition, Colbert
3 County; the Hales Spring Tract in
4 Jefferson County; Mount Vernon
5 Tract, Mobile County; Weeks Bay
6 Reserve Holly Addition, also
7 Baldwin County; as well as the
8 Weeks Bay White Addition in Baldwin
9 County.

10 So, those are our short list
11 nominations. I will pause just for
12 a moment to see if there are any
13 questions, Commissioner, before we
14 would move into our general
15 discussion portion of the agenda.

16 (No response).

17 MS. MCCURDY: I don't see any.

18 All right. Commissioner,
19 turning it back to you.

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
21 right. Thank you.

22 So, this is the general
23 discussion portion of the meeting

1 where, generally, if any motions
2 are made for appraisals, this is
3 where it happens.

4 So, I will kind of open the
5 floor up now from any -- anything
6 from the Board?

7 Mr. Jones.

8 MR. JONES: I would like to
9 motion to the -- for the Board to
10 move to a second appraisal on the
11 Upper Delta WMA Stiggins Lake
12 Addition.

13 DR. MCCLINTOCK: I will second
14 that.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Who
16 was that? I am sorry.

17 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Jim
18 McClintock.

19 MS. MCCURDY: Dr. McClintock.

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
21 right.

22 MS. MCCURDY: And is that for
23 just the second appraisal or also

1 to proceed to purchase?

2 MR. JONES: To -- Second
3 appraisal, proceed to purchase.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
5 right. So, the motion was for a
6 second appraisal and move to
7 purchase on the W -- the Upper
8 Delta WMA Stiggins Lake Addition.

9 MS. MCCURDY: And, Dr.
10 McClintock, do you -- let's be sure
11 he seconds.

12 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
14 McClintock was the second, Mr.
15 Jones made the motion. Any
16 discussion or questions?

17 (No response).

18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
19 those in favor, please raise your
20 hand.

21 MS. MCCURDY: I view
22 unanimous, Commissioner.

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All

1 right. Motion carries. Thank you.

2 DR. MCCLINTOCK: Commissioner
3 Blankenship.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Dr.
5 McClintock.

6 DR. MCCLINTOCK: I motion for
7 the Board to approve staff
8 proceeding with the second
9 appraisal to purchase Davidson
10 Creek Tract as described in the
11 memo dated November 7, 2024.

12 MS. MCCURDY: And that would
13 be with the timber reservation.

14 MR. DARNALL: Second.

15 DR. KEENER: And I will second
16 it.

17 MR. CHILDERS: Question.
18 Davidson Creek, I couldn't hear
19 you.

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
21 Yes, sir.

22 MS. MCCURDY: Davidson Creek.

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,

1 the motion is for -- for the second
2 appraisal with purchase with -- as
3 outlined in the memo of November
4 7th on the Davidson Creek Tract.
5 The motion was made by Dr.
6 McClintock and seconded by Mr.
7 Darnall and others but I think --
8 Mr. Darnall's sitting closest to
9 me, I heard that.

10 Are there any -- any
11 questions, comments on that?

12 (No response).

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
14 those in favor, please raise your
15 hand.

16 (Board members raising
17 hands).

18 MS. MCCURDY: Commissioner, we
19 have eight. So, that would not be
20 able to pass.

21 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
22 right. Motion -- Motion fails. We
23 need nine for --

1 MS. MCCURDY: It would be
2 everybody today because we need
3 nine, and we have nine.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
5 Okay. Mr. Jones.

6 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I
7 would like to move to -- for a
8 first appraisal for the Freedom
9 Hills WMA Sugar Camp Branch
10 Addition of 240 acres.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Is
12 there a second?

13 MR. CHILDERS: I will second
14 that.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
16 Seconded by Mr. Childers.

17 So, that is for a first
18 appraisal on the Freedom Hills WMA
19 Sugar Camp Branch Addition 240
20 acres. Any discussion or
21 questions?

22 (No response).

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All

1 those in favor, raise your hand.

2 (Board members raising
3 hands).

4 MS. MCCURDY: Okay.

5 Unanimous, Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
7 right.

8 MR. CHILDERS: Passed?

9 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: The
10 motion -- The motion passes?

11 MS. MCCURDY: Passes, yes.

12 DR. KEENER: Mr. Commissioner,
13 I would like to make a first motion
14 for -- excuse me -- the first
15 appraisal for the Dugdown Corridor,
16 the 1,480-acre --

17 MS. MCCURDY: And for those
18 who may not have heard -- and,
19 Commissioner, I will let you get
20 your notes down.

21 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
22 the -- the motion is for a first
23 appraisal on the Dugdown Corridor

1 in Cleburne County -- the Cleburne
2 County Tract; is there a second?

3 DR. MCCLINTOCK: I will second
4 it.

5 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
6 Seconded by Dr. McClintock.

7 Any discussion on that?

8 MR. DARNALL: Yes, I have -- I
9 have a question.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
11 Yes, sir.

12 MR. DARNALL: I -- That is
13 this one right here, this -- the
14 chopped up one?

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
16 Yes, that is correct.

17 MS. MCCURDY: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Let
19 me point you to a page number.

20 MR. DARNALL: I am sorry.
21 Page -- Tab 4, page 10. And my --
22 had there not been a motion, my
23 request to Patti would have been

1 for the staff to approach the
2 landowner to see if we could get
3 separate appraisals or -- or, more
4 importantly, consider the one tract
5 that's in the lower right hand
6 because that's contiguous -- Well,
7 let me back up. I am interested in
8 all of this, assuming that this
9 first one passes, the -- the one on
10 page 12 passes, you know.

11 So, it is kind of, if page 12
12 passed, then I would be more
13 inclined to accept page 10.

14 But I really wanted -- but
15 what I am really interested in, I
16 -- I don't know how all of this
17 overlays with this and all that
18 kind of stuff.

19 So, what I am really
20 interested in is asking the
21 homeowner if -- the landowner --
22 excuse me -- if they would consider
23 breaking that up and so we are -- I

1 am not -- I am not saying we are
2 not going to vote for the motion,
3 but that -- that was a question
4 that I had looking through all the
5 information. I hope that was
6 clear.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: It
8 was.

9 MR. JONES: It was. And I
10 have the same -- the same
11 reservations as Mr. Darnall does as
12 well. It is -- It doesn't seem
13 like the -- I am not sure this is
14 ready at this time for -- for that.

15 MS. MCCURDY: Would -- Would
16 it -- And we can -- If it is
17 helpful, we can work with -- with
18 Forestry Commission and get sort of
19 an overlay of the upcoming grant,
20 but the award announcement they
21 recently received, we, obviously,
22 can -- can do that, Commissioner, I
23 would just -- however you would

1 like to proceed.

2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: And
3 I know we need to handle the motion
4 up or down but -- unless there's a
5 change in the motion, but I would
6 -- might be a -- might be good to
7 get some more information.

8 DR. KEENER: I can pull the
9 motion until such time we have an
10 overlay of all the land activity
11 going on there.

12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: If
13 that -- If that suits you and the
14 seconder to pull that motion, we
15 will commit to working with the
16 Forestry Commission to get an
17 integrated overview of all of what
18 they're working on right there and
19 how this fits into it so that the
20 Board has --

21 MS. MCCURDY: Yeah, we will
22 get the grant --

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --

1 make a good decision.

2 MS. MCCURDY: -- grant acreage
3 and private landowner, not -- not
4 leveraged purchase acreage, in --
5 in one -- in one map, if that would
6 be helpful.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
8 Thank you, Doctors. All right.

9 Mr. Darnall.

10 MR. DARNALL: Yeah. So,
11 Commissioner Blankenship, as far as
12 the -- the Dugdown Mountain
13 Corridor, which is page 12 -- and,
14 Patti, I may need some help on this
15 -- I would like to make a motion to
16 adopt the first appraisal that's
17 been offered and for the staff to
18 proceed with the second appraisal
19 and purchase of the Dugdown
20 Mountain -- Mountain Corridor
21 nomination contingent upon Alabama
22 Forestry Commission writing funds
23 for its acquisition of acreage

1 equaling approximately 75 percent
2 of the total appraised value for
3 this nomination.

4 MR. JONES: Second.

5 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
6 Seconded by Mr. Jones.

7 To make sure, we are --
8 everybody's -- this is the one that
9 the Forestry Commission has been
10 working on that they do have the
11 Forest Legacy Grant on. And this
12 one, I think, has been on here
13 eight or nine meetings and we are
14 -- hopefully, the Forestry
15 Commission is to the finish line on
16 this one. Is there any questions
17 about that? Everybody -- Everybody
18 good?

19 (No response).

20 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
21 right. All those in favor of
22 adopting the appraisal that was
23 provided by the Forestry Commission

1 and having the second appraisal
2 done and move to purchase on the
3 Davidson Mountain -- sorry --
4 Dugdown Mountain Corridor, please
5 raise your hand.

6 (Board members raising
7 hands).

8 MS. MCCURDY: That's
9 unanimous, Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
11 Pass -- The motion passes. All
12 right. Thank you.

13 Any other business?

14 (No response).

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
16 right. Thank you. I think back to
17 -- I am sorry. I am sorry that
18 Commissioner Rick Oates is not here
19 from the Forestry Commission to --
20 the Director of the Forestry
21 Commission to see the vote on that.
22 I know he'll be very, very pleased
23 to hear that. Thank y'all for your

1 work on that over the many, many
2 months.

3 MS. MCCURDY: And he's out
4 doing other good things today so I
5 let him skip today. All right. If
6 y'all are okay, we will move in --
7 really, what I just call a
8 miscellaneous section.

9 And so, if you will turn to
10 tab 5, the items that we, maybe,
11 have not naturally covered already,
12 I sort of put in tab 5.

13 So the first item is tab 5-B.
14 This is our routine report at each
15 meeting where we let you know the
16 appraised and short list
17 nominations that have been pending
18 so long that they will roll off and
19 not be available at the next
20 meeting unless there's a Board
21 member, and a single Board member
22 can request that something remain.

23 So, I -- if you will look at

1 five -- tab 5-B, we have one short
2 list nomination, Bon Secour River
3 Cook Road Addition, that would roll
4 off; and we have one appraised
5 nomination, the Blackwater River
6 SOA Clapper Addition. Just two
7 this time. But I did want to
8 highlight those for the Board.

9 All right. We had the -- tab
10 5-C we've discussed already and the
11 motion did not carry to move
12 forward with the Davidson Creek
13 Tract with the timber reservation.

14 Commissioner, I would like to
15 see if the Board wants to go back
16 to proceeding and talking with the
17 landowner under the prior
18 nomination structure. It doesn't
19 matter, I just want to be sure; it
20 would take further action by the
21 Board to pick back up with the
22 landowner without the timber
23 reservation.

1 And so, I guess I just want to
2 see if the Board wants me to engage
3 in -- and I don't need to -- a
4 motion necessarily, but do you want
5 me to engage and continue
6 discussion with the landowner?

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
8 think it would be appropriate to
9 provide the landowner the
10 information of the vote today and
11 --

12 MS. MCCURDY: Just see where
13 -- where we are.

14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --
15 see if -- see if they're interested
16 in moving forward at all or if this
17 is declined and we can move on.

18 MS. MCCURDY: Very good.
19 Thank you, Commissioner.

20 All right. Our next item is
21 really just an update in a report.
22 And you have two memos, one in your
23 packet, tab 5-D, and then in your

1 green folder, you have a memo that
2 is 5-I. So, I am going to be
3 referencing both 5-D and 5-I. So,
4 I will give you just a second.

5 When we go into each, prior to
6 the beginning of the fiscal year,
7 we presented the Board at the
8 August meeting with what we think
9 will be anticipated forest
10 management decisions of note. We
11 also always note that we never know
12 for sure what's coming at us. But
13 I did want to provide just an
14 update.

15 No secret that the current
16 situation with the Southern Pine
17 Beetle is giving many landowners
18 some problems with the timber.
19 Obviously, we are no different. We
20 have been working -- And I want to
21 thank the Alabama Forestry
22 Commission for their work that
23 they've been doing and the

1 information they have provided;
2 they have shared a lot of
3 information from their monitoring
4 flights.

5 So, in addition to what we are
6 seeing on the ground as we are
7 doing our routine inspections, we
8 have the benefit of AFC's
9 information. So, I want to -- want
10 to thank them for that.

11 As most landowners, you know,
12 our issues range from, we are just
13 having to closely monitor an area
14 to -- we do have some spots.
15 They're not that large, perhaps,
16 and we can maybe just put in
17 buffers and push down the trees
18 around them and try to contain that
19 and continue to monitor.

20 There are other sites where we
21 know that we are going to need to
22 take more intensive action. So, I
23 wanted to give you a little bit of

1 an update. We are going to need to
2 do some work on a 20 -- on a
3 parcel, about 360-acre area, within
4 the Gothard-AWF Yates Lake WMA. We
5 are going to be moving to the final
6 harvest in that area, and that's
7 what is discussed in tab 5-D.

8 And just before the meeting --
9 I don't have the precise
10 information -- we know that we are
11 going to try to -- need to do some
12 work on the Freedom Hills WMA. And
13 right now that could range from
14 harvesting from an area of about 50
15 acres, to 150 acres; we are trying
16 to -- I am having trouble
17 estimating that for you because we
18 are -- have some potential access
19 issues for the loggers to get in
20 there.

21 So, we are -- we are going to
22 have to do some more work to know
23 exactly what we are going to do.

1 But I want to thank my staff, Galen
2 Grider and Noah Runyan, who have
3 been very -- and the -- all of my
4 conservation enforcement officers
5 who are on the ground every day
6 with tracts who are helping us with
7 this on-the-ground evaluation.

8 But mainly I am just updating
9 you on what we know at this time is
10 going to require some action.

11 Don't really need a motion but I
12 wanted you to know what's going on.

13 Your next tab is 5-E. This is
14 our quarterly report as to the
15 feral swine mitigation efforts.
16 Now that we have a contractor on
17 board, the first tracts that we
18 have asked for plans and specific
19 contractor-led action -- we have
20 three tracts that are sort of our
21 first wave: The Little River SOA
22 in Escambia County; the Thigpen
23 Forever Wild Tract and Thigpen SOA

1 in Butler County; and the Grand Bay
2 Savanna Complex in Mobile.

3 Now, as you see from the
4 report that we've included, we are
5 working all over the place on the
6 issue but use of a contractor-led
7 effort is something new, as you
8 know.

9 And so, I wanted to let you
10 know that's our -- how we are
11 focusing on that, trying to make
12 future plans for additional tracts
13 for contractor assistance.

14 MR. DARNALL: Patti, I have a
15 question.

16 MS. MCCURDY: Yes, sir.

17 MR. DARNALL: And I apologize.
18 This is just what's occurred in the
19 three-month time period, correct?
20 You said quarterly, and that's what
21 -- it -- that's what it appeared to
22 be.

23 MS. MCCURDY: Quarterly but

1 let me confirm --

2 MR. DARNALL: When I looked at
3 the dates, it -- well, it looked a
4 little longer --

5 MS. MCCURDY: It -- it is
6 longer than that though.

7 MR. DARNALL: So -- So, if --
8 if I own some land -- if I own some
9 land next to a Forever Wild or any
10 -- and I guess any Department of
11 Conservation, they could make a
12 call to the Department and y'all
13 can say, it is on our schedule to
14 go in there, regardless of whose
15 land, or this is only for Forever
16 Wild land?

17 MS. MCCURDY: This is the
18 Forever Wild acreage specifically
19 because your Stewardship Funds are
20 -- can only be spent on acreage --

21 MR. DARNALL: But y'all may be
22 trapping on all kinds of State
23 land, we are just --

1 MS. MCCURDY: Correct.

2 MR. DARNALL: -- paying our
3 portion. Okay.

4 MS. MCCURDY: Correct. That
5 is correct because that's the only
6 place we can --

7 MR. DARNALL: Right.

8 MS. MCCURDY: -- we can spend
9 it. But we have had --

10 MR. DARNALL: So you -- you
11 may be trapping more swine in a
12 broader area contiguous to us, so
13 these numbers aren't -- they're
14 accurate for our land but they're
15 not accurate for the surrounding
16 Department of Conservation owned
17 lands. Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. MCCURDY: Yes, it is. And
19 -- And we have had calls from
20 landowners who we are working with
21 both as to access them through our
22 tract, us through their tract, as
23 to some of these efforts, so there

1 are those phone calls, as well as
2 problem areas that are identified.

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: If
4 anybody has questions about any of
5 the DC owned lands, you know,
6 Wildlife Freshwater Fisheries on
7 their WMAs and SOA, they're doing a
8 lot of the trapping --

9 MR. DARNALL: Right.

10 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --
11 as well as it doesn't show up here,
12 so if anyone has questions, they
13 can always just call --

14 MR. DARNALL: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: --
16 our office and we will put them in
17 touch with the right folks.

18 MR. DARNALL: Well, at some
19 point I would be interested in that
20 because I -- I didn't think this
21 represented everything the State
22 was doing, so these numbers would
23 be a little bit confusing.

1 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:

2 Yes, sir.

3 MR. DARNALL: Thank you.

4 Sorry.

5 MS. MCCURDY: No. Good
6 question. All right. The next
7 item is tab 5-F.

8 Really just an update for
9 everyone. As you remember a few
10 meetings back, we had several
11 speakers on the Hale Springs short
12 list nomination, that's your tab
13 4-B, page 17. I mentioned at the
14 last meeting that, because of the
15 various interest between the City
16 of Hoover, Jefferson County, City
17 of Birmingham, and also some
18 acreage owned by the Freshwater
19 Land Trust, the Friends Group that
20 spoke to us -- and that's the
21 Shades Mountain -- Friends of
22 Shades Mountain Group -- the City
23 of Hoover has done a great job of

1 really working with that group
2 trying to help them organize and
3 identify the questions and
4 coordination between all those
5 local jurisdictions that will need
6 to come together for that tract to
7 really -- I will say -- be right
8 for our consideration; otherwise,
9 it will be a fairly isolated, small
10 tract with some parking issues.

11 So, you can read that update
12 but mainly just wanted to report
13 that the City of Hoover remains
14 consistent with its efforts working
15 with the Friends Group.

16 And the Friends Group has now
17 formally contacted and met with
18 some officials in the other
19 jurisdictions. So not really right
20 for action but I wanted to let you
21 know -- they wanted me to let you
22 know that the Shades Mountain Group
23 is working and they are still very

1 interested in coming back to the
2 Board on a -- the request as to
3 that nomination.

4 Just another update that I --
5 we give our annual activity reports
6 that staff provide at our August
7 meeting and it is -- doesn't quite
8 get the full fiscal year but it --
9 it is close enough that, that's
10 when we do it.

11 I just wanted -- I just had
12 included some information on a few
13 things that are exciting that I did
14 want to highlight as to both the M.
15 Barnett Lawley Field Trial area in
16 Hale County and then also the Wehle
17 Land Conservation Center in Bullock
18 County. We have two national
19 events that will be first time in
20 Alabama, two dog sporting events:
21 The AKC National Gun Dog
22 Championship and the AKC National
23 Vizla Gun Dog Championship, both

1 coming in February and are
2 week-long-plus each activities.

3 Those are in addition to our
4 regular routine sporting dog clubs
5 that come and have events there.

6 But we also had a very
7 successful dove hunt, youth dove
8 hunt that we do every year and I
9 wanted to highlight that to
10 everyone. We were thrilled to have
11 42 kids at that hunt.

12 And so, we are really growing
13 that program. And that is a --
14 sort of a program added usage there
15 at the field trial area, that's
16 more than a -- dog sporting events
17 but I wanted to note that.

18 Also, at Wehle, we had a great
19 turn out for the first senior
20 citizen fishing derby. And that is
21 a partnership we have with Children
22 and Mentors Outdoor or "CAMO," as
23 you may know of the group. I want

1 to very much thank Chuck Sykes in
2 our Wildlife and Freshwater
3 Fisheries Division for their
4 assistance with that event. And I
5 think that will be an annual event
6 now due to the interest from the
7 senior citizens. We had about 175
8 attendees on that one day in
9 Bullock County.

10 We also, again, where the --
11 Wehle was the host site for the
12 Bullock County Forestry and
13 Wildlife for Youth event and we had
14 approximately 150 attendees between
15 children and youth for that.

16 So, I just -- just included a
17 few pictures. I just wanted you to
18 know that those activities are
19 ongoing and these properties are
20 being used.

21 Commissioner, we've -- pretty
22 much have covered the other items
23 in tab 5 already so, unless there

1 are questions or something else
2 that's come to mind, I think that
3 -- think I am done.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
5 right. Thank you.

6 So the next order of business
7 is approval of the minutes from the
8 August 6 -- August 1st meeting at
9 tab 6.

10 MR. DARNALL: So move.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr.
12 Darnall has moved to approve the
13 minutes. Is there a second?

14 DR. MCCLINTOCK: I will second
15 it.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
17 right, Dr. McClintock. Thank you.

18 Second -- Is there any
19 questions, corrections, additions
20 to the minutes?

21 (No response).

22 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
23 those in favor of accepting the

1 minutes from the August 1st
2 meeting, please raise your hand.

3 (Board members raising
4 hands).

5 MS. MCCURDY: Unanimous,
6 Commissioner.

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
8 right. Motion passes.

9 The next meeting will be
10 February 6th in the Montgomery
11 area. As always, our first meeting
12 in the year, by statute, is always
13 in the Montgomery -- Montgomery
14 area so I look forward to that.

15 And then, as the last order --
16 the last order of business is we
17 have three members of our Board who
18 this is their last meeting for this
19 term: Dr. Saloom is not here. I
20 should have -- we should have -- he
21 -- given him his plaque at the last
22 meeting where we met in his
23 hometown down in Evergreen.

1 MS. MCCURDY: He's promised to
2 come back so y'all will see him.

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: So,
4 I will -- we will miss him, miss
5 his service on the Board.

6 And then we have Jack Darnall,
7 who is completing a term, so
8 finishing this term.

9 And then Mr. Raymond Jones,
10 Junior, who has served on the Board
11 for a long time, been very involved
12 member of the Board, appreciate
13 your work.

14 MR. JONES: I don't know if
15 that's good or bad.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I
17 appreciate the time all of you
18 spend going through the properties,
19 you know, deliberately looking
20 through these to make -- make good
21 decisions for the people of Alabama
22 and the work we do on this Board.

23 As I've said before, we are

1 putting property into ownership of
2 the citizens of Alabama for
3 perpetuity. And this -- this is
4 something that is really important,
5 I think, for our -- for our
6 citizens and for the people of our
7 State, protecting some really
8 beautiful and sensitive areas, and
9 very thankful for the work you-all
10 do.

11 So, can I get Mr. Darnall and
12 Mr. Jones to join me up front.

13 (Plaques presented to Mr.
14 Darnall and Mr. Jones.)

15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP:
16 Thank y'all. Thank you for your
17 service.

18 That is all I have on the
19 agenda. Are there any other
20 comments or questions or anything
21 before we go?

22 (No response) .

23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All

1 right. I will take a motion to
2 dismiss -- to adjourn.

3 MR. DARNALL: So move.

4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All
5 those in favor say "aye."

6 (Board members saying "aye").

7 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We
8 are adjourned.

9 Thank you-all.

10

11

12 (WHEREUPON, the Alabama
13 Forever Wild Land Trust Board
14 Meeting was concluded and
15 meeting was adjourned at
16 11:34 a.m.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF ALABAMA

3 TALLADEGA COUNTY

4 I, Jamie McCracken, Certified Court
5 Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of
6 Alabama at Large, certify on Thursday, November
7 7th, 2024, that I reported the proceedings in the
8 matter of:

9 MEETING OF THE
10 FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
11 PRICEVILLE EVENT CENTER
12 250 MARCO DRIVE
13 DECATUR, ALABAMA

14
15 On the 7th day of November, 2024, that
16 the foregoing 101 computer-printed pages contain a
17 true and correct transcript of the hearing set out
18 herein.

19 I further certify that I am neither a
20 relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of
21 the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of
22 such attorney or counsel, nor am I financially
23 interested in the results thereof. All rates

1 charged are usual and customary.

2 I further certify that I am duly licensed
3 by the Alabama Board of Court Reporting as a
4 Certified Court Reporter as evidenced by the ACCR
5 number following my name found below.

6 This 23rd day of December in the year of
7 our Lord, 2024.

8

9

10

11

Jamie McCracken
Jamie McCracken, CCR
ACCR NO. 451 Exp. 9/30/25
Certified Court Reporter and
Notary Public
Commission Expires 10/23/28

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COMMISSIONER
BLANKENSHIP: [115]
DR. HOWELL: [5] 4/9
45/8 45/16 45/20 50/10
DR. KEENER: [5] 4/15
50/18 70/15 73/12 77/8
DR. MCCLINTOCK:
[10] 4/18 35/1 50/21
68/13 68/17 69/12 70/2
70/6 74/3 97/14
MR. BRICKMAN: [1]
26/16
MR. CHILDERS: [16]
3/23 6/8 12/12 12/17 13/2
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41/2 41/9 41/14 50/1
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MR. DARNALL: [23]
4/3 35/18 49/11 50/4
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90/10 91/9 91/14 91/18
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MR. DARNELL: [2]
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MR. HARPER: [8] 4/6
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MR. INGRAM: [3] 32/3
35/3 35/11
MR. JONES: [22] 4/12
11/14 11/19 12/1 12/6
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