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MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
Five Rivers Delta Resource Center
Spanish Fort, Alabama
September 15, 2011

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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 Five Rivers Delta Resource Center,
30945 Five Rivers Boulevard, Spanish Fort, Alabama,
on September 15, 2011, commencing at approximately
10:00 a.m.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
- Ms. Linda S. Casey
- Mr. Angus R. Cooper, III
- Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport
- Mr. Leo Allen
- Dr. A.F. Schlundt
- Mr. George Barber
- Dr. George Crozier
- Dr. Richard D. Holland
- Mr. John Woller, Sr.
- Dr. Robert O. Lawton

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

- Mr. Everett Johnson
- Mr. James W. Porter
- Mr. Raymond A. Keller
- Dr. Robert W. Taylor

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COMMISSIONER GUY: I appreciate everybody
 coming to our September 15, 2011,
 Forever Wild Board Meeting. So at this
 time I'm going to call roll, and please
 indicate your presence by voice.

Linda Casey?

MS. CASEY: Here.

MR. GUY: Hey, Linda. I didn't see you here.

1 How are you?

2 Good to have you here, Linda.

3 MS. CASEY: Snuck in.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Crozier?

5 DR. CROZIER: Here.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton?

7 DR. LAWTON: Here.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Schlundt?

9 DR. SCHLUNDT: Here.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Davenport?

11 DR. DAVENPORT: Here.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Taylor?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Barber?

15 MR. BARBER: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cooper?

17 MR. COOPER: Here.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Keller?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Holland?

21 DR. HOLLAND: Here.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Woller?

23 MR. WOLLER: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Johnson?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

4 MR. ALLEN: Here.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Leo, I didn't you see you

6 either.

7 And Mr. Porter?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. I believe we

10 have — we have ten present, and that

11 constitutes a quorum. So we'll go ahead

12 and begin our business for the day.

13 All right. At this time I think

14 what I'm going to do next is I'm going

15 to call on Hank Burch. And Hank is just

16 going to welcome everybody here and talk

17 a little bit about our Five Rivers

18 facilities, I believe.

19 Thanks, Hank.

20 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Commissioner. And I

21 want to take a moment to welcome

22 everyone here. The board — the Forever

23 Wild Board has actually had one other

1 visit here back in 2006 before we were
2 open. Some of you may remember that
3 time. Some of you are new to the board
4 now. I hope the ones who saw it back
5 then are seeing a vision that's becoming
6 realized at this point.

7 We formally opened in 2007 to serve
8 as a gateway to this Mobile-Tensaw River
9 Delta for purposes of concepts of
10 outdoor recreation, conservation
11 education and, very importantly, land
12 stewardship. We want folks to realize
13 the vision that this board has in
14 conserving the land and also realize the
15 fact that we need to be engaging youth
16 to take that mission forward and
17 continue maintaining the land and taking
18 care of it.

19 It's no overstatement to say that
20 this place wouldn't be here without the
21 efforts of this board. The purchases
22 within the Mobile River Delta sort of
23 changed the dynamic of everything and

1 allowed people to see the possibility of
2 large conservation purchase. And we
3 hope to serve as a gateway and a
4 communication mechanism for the vision
5 that this board has and engage folks of
6 all ages to come out here and see this
7 tremendous resource we have. We're a
8 very rich state in terms of our
9 biological resources, and that's the
10 kind of mission that we have here.

11 You're here on a pretty good day.
12 Because you may not realize it, but
13 somewhere around here there are 80
14 first-graders running around on a field
15 trip experiencing a little taste of the
16 delta in our exhibit hall and our
17 trails. They're on a boat tour
18 experiencing the delta.

19 So that's really, to me, where the
20 rubber hits the road is getting these
21 young folks in here and experiencing
22 this resource. And we did that to the
23 tune of nearly 9,000 students last year,

1 and we're very proud of that. And we
2 will continue doing that as long as we
3 can. Quite frankly, there may be one of
4 these children sitting in your chair one
5 day. I at least hope that the rest of
6 them are voting when it comes time to
7 keep this mission going forward.

8 I welcome you. I encourage you as
9 the day progresses to look around the
10 facility. If you see any of my staff,
11 feel free to ask us any questions about
12 what we're doing around here. We hope
13 you have an enjoyable visit and look
14 forward to seeing you again.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Hank.

17 Let me just add to that, I want to
18 really thank Hank and all his staff for
19 what they do. I've had the occasion to
20 come down here several times, and they
21 just do a fantastic job. And what they
22 do with the school children and other
23 people that come through here is

1 fantastic. It's a great public outreach
2 type of facility. And y'all just do a
3 great job. And we appreciate you
4 hosting us for our Forever Wild Board
5 meeting here.

6 One thing that I want to mention
7 just very briefly. I know a lot of
8 people have things to do today, so we're
9 going to try to make this meeting as
10 quick as we can, as long as we get our
11 business conducted.

12 But one of the — one thing that
13 came up during the legislative session
14 that I'm going to bring up a little bit
15 later in our business is the fact that
16 there was a large outcry for more public
17 awareness about the Forever Wild
18 program. And the Lands Division and
19 myself and Greg Lein, everybody, Patti
20 Powell — we sat down and took all —
21 what they had said to us about we need
22 to know more about the program, we need
23 to know where the land is located, we

1 think — you know, we need to make sure
2 the public knows where they have access
3 to it, that kind of thing.

4 And so we're going to be talking to
5 you a little later about that in the
6 form of probably a motion that I'm going
7 to bring about trying to reach out to
8 the public, you know, advise them about
9 the program, advise them about where
10 property is located, how they can get
11 access to it, just try to make it —
12 make the public more aware of what we
13 have there to offer to them.

14 Because it's important — you know,
15 it's nice that we have this program and
16 it's nice that — I think we're doing an
17 excellent job of acquiring the
18 appropriate kind of properties, but we
19 need to make sure that the public —
20 it's their land. We need to make sure
21 that they know where it is and how to
22 get access to it and to enjoy it.

23 And if no other reason, I think that

1 just adds to the economy. And the money
2 that is spent to access the property and
3 use it, then, just helps the whole state
4 of Alabama as well. So I'm going to
5 talk about that a little more later in
6 business.

7 At this time, I guess it's time for
8 public comments. Do we have — do I
9 have a list to call on?

10 Do we have anybody signed up for
11 public comments?

12 FEMALE SPEAKER: Let's double-check.

13 MR. GUY: Sorry. If not, we can just go
14 around the room and you can raise your
15 hand.

16 I know John Hall is here.

17 MR. HALL: Yeah. I'll lead off.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Why don't you just lead,
19 Mr. Hall.

20 MR. HALL: Thank you.

21 Commissioner, I appreciate the
22 opportunity to update you and the
23 members of the Forever Wild Board on the

1 Weil tract — the Weil Trust tract. It
2 is located in Elmore County. Forever
3 Wild purchased the Yates Lake west tract
4 December 30th of '09, and it's 3519
5 acres. And the Weil property is 1975
6 acres which joins the Yates Lake west
7 tract on the north side, is contiguous
8 to it. And I wanted to bring y'all up
9 to date on the status of that.

10 A year and a half or so ago I
11 approached the owners of this property
12 along with Greg Lein. We explained to
13 them about the Forever Wild program.
14 This property had never been offered for
15 sale before. The family was not aware
16 of the Forever Wild program, but once we
17 explained it to them, they became very
18 interested in it. And they had owned
19 this property for 50, 60 years.

20 The Weil family is part of the old
21 Weil Brothers Cotton family out of
22 Montgomery, a 130-year-old company. And
23 the family is very philanthropic. They

1 are good citizens. And they agreed to
2 let State Lands option the property for
3 15 months, and that option is expiring
4 November the 9th. So this is the last
5 opportunity for the Forever Wild Board
6 to decide whether to exercise the option
7 to go ahead and acquire the property or
8 not.

9 The property option price is
10 four-million-nine. And I realize that's
11 a big number because I'm keenly aware of
12 the funding situation with Forever
13 Wild. I've been very active on the
14 Alabama Wildlife Federation Board for
15 many, many years, and we've been leading
16 the fight to try to reauthorize funding
17 for Forever Wild.

18 I'd like to review briefly some of
19 the reasons why you voted to buy this
20 property in the first place — or to
21 option this property in the first
22 place.

23 Like I said, it joins the 3519 acres

1 that Forever Wild already owns, and this
2 would make 5500 acres in one tract.
3 That's a 57-percent increase in the size
4 of what you already own.

5 Yates Lake west, which is now a
6 Community Hunting Area, has been very
7 popular with the public since it was
8 acquired almost two years ago. I think
9 we all agree that when it comes to
10 hunting more land is better. How many
11 times have we been out there on a
12 beautiful spring morning calling up a
13 big ol' gobbler and only to find he's
14 just across the property line on
15 somebody else's property.

16 So more is better when it comes to
17 hunting. This adds — this land would
18 add two more miles of Lake Yates
19 waterfront to what you already own.
20 That would give you about 80 percent of
21 all the land on the west side of the
22 lake.

23 On the east side of the lake, there

1 are already two or three subdivisions
2 that are about 20 or 30 houses. I
3 brought pictures of those houses if you
4 need to see them for any reason.
5 But this lake will probably end up
6 getting developed if we don't take this
7 opportunity — this land could probably
8 be developed if we don't take this
9 opportunity to buy it now.

10 The property has a whole lot of
11 timber types and a lot of longleaf
12 pine. It's been managed professionally
13 by the Regions Bank Trust Department for
14 over 40 years. It has great views, an
15 old gold mine, Indian artifacts.

16 But mainly we have a family here
17 that's been very, very cooperative and
18 very patient in allowing Forever Wild to
19 tie up this land for 15 months. We
20 explained to them if we didn't get this
21 Forest Legacy grant money that we may
22 not — Forever Wild may not could buy
23 the property. But we told them, on the

1 other hand, that Forever Wild might buy
2 the property if we don't get the Forest
3 Legacy grant.

4 We did apply for the grant. That's
5 the reason we needed a 15-month option.
6 State Lands applied for the grant
7 through the U.S. Forestry Service and
8 were — we were unsuccessful in getting
9 the Forest Legacy grant.

10 But the family did understand that,
11 that if we didn't get the grant, Forever
12 Wild may not buy the property. However,
13 they did allow Forever Wild — State
14 Lands to tie up the property for 15
15 months with no option, and I ask the
16 question, how many of us would be
17 willing to tie up a five-million-dollar
18 asset for 15 months for no money.

19 I think this clearly demonstrates
20 the family was very, very interested in
21 allowing — in hoping that their land
22 would be used for the citizens of
23 Alabama for their enjoyment and

1 perpetuity. So I ask you this morning
2 to please consider voting to go ahead
3 and exercise the option to buy this
4 property.

5 I appreciate your time and will just
6 be glad to try to answer any questions
7 if anybody has any.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Anybody have any questions
9 for John?

10 DR. LAWTON: I've got one question.

11 Did we get any feedback from the
12 Forest Service on why the Legacy grant
13 was not successful?

14 MR. DUMONT: Well, it's a nationally
15 competitive grant, and it just didn't
16 score high enough. You know, they have
17 a certain pot of money that Congress
18 allots them and —

19 DR. LAWTON: I understand how it's done.

20 MR. DUMONT: Off the top of my head, I think
21 they were able to fund about 24
22 projects, and this one scored like 28, I
23 think, like that. So, you know, just a

1 question of where it ranked in the
2 nationally competitive —

3 DR. LAWTON: Well, I was wondering why its
4 ranking was low. That was what I was
5 particularly interested in.

6 MR. DUMONT: Well, the national panel that
7 reviews these things just thought some
8 of these other projects around the
9 country were more compelling, you know,
10 at that time based on the competition.

11 DR. LAWTON: Do you have anything else, Greg?

12 MR. LEIN: I would add that the program's
13 funding is lower than it has
14 historically been. So that bar has
15 gotten lower and lower.

16 I think it was a good proposal.
17 It's a good property. It's just
18 extremely competitive, as Dan said.
19 There are projects that come out of the
20 northeast that are very large because
21 they're conservation easements, and the
22 program does favor projects like that
23 sometimes, you know, over projects like

1 this.

2 MR. DUMONT: I will say that at our
3 southeastern regional meeting of the
4 people that administer the Forest Legacy
5 program last year we went around and
6 scored each other's tracts so that we
7 could see — you know, that we could
8 critique them and make the submittal
9 better. And so we all tore into
10 Tennessee's and Georgia's and everybody
11 else's tracts. And when it came to that
12 particular proposal, all the other —
13 all my counterparts from around the
14 Southeast just thought that was a
15 wonderful proposal that didn't need any
16 changes and looked like a great
17 property. So you just never know how it
18 works.

19 DR. CROZIER: John, what's the timber
20 arrangements on that property?

21 MR. HALL: Arrangements meaning —

22 DR. CROZIER: Are they reserving timber rights
23 on that or —

1 MR. HALL: No. It's got a lot of timber
2 value. I don't know if it's a thousand
3 dollars an acre or more. But it has a
4 whole lot of mature hardwood and pine, a
5 lot of longleaf pine. Even in this
6 depressed market I would venture to say
7 that the timber value was probably over
8 a thousand dollars an acre, but I've
9 never seen the appraisal or the cruise.

10 DR. CROZIER: That's nice.

11 MR. HALL: Yes, sir.

12 MR. WOLLER: Jo, do you know — it's been
13 quite a while, but do you know how this
14 property scored on, you know, rec area
15 and WMAs and all that, what it ranked?

16 MS. LEWIS: Not specifically, but it's
17 definitely on the short list. I think
18 it was presented with the west tract,
19 and it was number one — I think number
20 one and number two —

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's actually listed in
22 here as number three for state park and
23 WMA for central district.

1 MR. WOLLER: So three?

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah, in this — in the
3 document we have in our ...

4 MR. WOLLER: Yeah. But the short list we got
5 now, it's not even on there — or the
6 last one I saw at the last meeting.

7 MR. LEIN: That's correct. Once —

8 MR. WOLLER: Because it was on prior to that.

9 MR. LEIN: Yes. Once a property goes through
10 the appraisal process, it's removed from
11 the short list. But this property is
12 itemized on your list of appraised
13 properties, and I believe the historic
14 ranking is listed there with it.

15 MR. WOLLER: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any other questions for
17 Mr. Hall?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, John. Any other
20 comments you want to make?

21 MR. HALL: I just remembered that it scored
22 well in all four categories and that's
23 one reason y'all voted to buy it. And

1 that's unusual that a property scores
2 well in all four categories.

3 I do thank you for your time.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, John.

5 And, as usual, I will — I had been
6 provided these names. I just wasn't —
7 I think Dr. Crozier covered them up.
8 But I should have known my staff was
9 right on and I wasn't.

10 Taylor Steele. Mr. Steele.

11 MR. STEELE: Well, I want to thank you,
12 Commissioner and Board, for this
13 opportunity. And I want to kind of
14 ditto what Hank's comments were.

15 I'm the resident manager of the
16 Turkey Creek tract up in Pinson,
17 Alabama, in Jefferson County and work
18 for Birmingham-Southern. And I just
19 wanted to give you my gracious thank you
20 for all your work in making Turkey Creek
21 become a part of the Forever Wild
22 program, as well as State Lands, with
23 Greg and his staff, for their continued

1 support of our program, like Five
2 Rivers. This is my first time down
3 here. I wanted to come down, obviously,
4 and see the beautiful facility and the
5 interpretive center.

6 We have a small interpretive center
7 at Turkey Creek. We have — we see
8 about 2,000 kids annually. This is our
9 third year in being part of the
10 management entity for that tract up in
11 Jefferson County. And, truly, it has
12 become really a highly respected day-use
13 area for recreation, conservation
14 education.

15 And we just wanted — you were
16 mentioning about getting the word out
17 about the Forever Wild program. And on
18 a daily basis I see folks from all over
19 the state, if not the country, and we
20 talk about the Forever Wild program, how
21 successful it is. And people are very
22 complimentary of the program that we
23 have at Turkey Creek, among all the

1 other facilities and their tracts in the
2 state of Alabama.

3 And just to kind of close, we would
4 just love to help in any way with the
5 upcoming vote and would love for the
6 board members who have not been to the
7 tract to come out and see it, our small
8 interpretive center, and look at some of
9 the enhancements and the things that we
10 have done over the past three years.

11 Thank you very much.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

13 Anybody got any questions?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Steele.

16 Appreciate it very much.

17 Cynthia Howell.

18 MS. HOWELL: Good morning.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

20 MS. HOWELL: My name is Cynthia Howell, and I
21 am the development director for south
22 Alabama for Fresh Air Family.

23 Fresh Air Family is a nonprofit

1 organization that was founded five years
2 ago. And what we do now, we have grown
3 to be the state's largest provider of
4 outdoor educational opportunities to
5 people. And that's all throughout the
6 state.

7 Last year we hosted over 400 events
8 and we served 11,000 people. Every year
9 we invite thousands of people to come
10 with us to enjoy Forever Wild
11 properties. You may not be aware of
12 that, but down here in south Alabama we
13 just really got started as of last
14 February, and we have — we've hit upon
15 so many properties. Here at Five Rivers
16 we've had many, many activities, Weeks
17 Bay. But throughout the state we've —
18 we've done all sorts of things.

19 Taylor at Turkey Creek — we have a
20 program out there now called Gross Out
21 Camp. And that is a science camp for
22 kids who actually can go during the
23 summer and they learn at some of the

1 Forever Wild properties. And he and his
2 facility have done a wonderful job with
3 working with us in getting kids in.
4 Back in July we had the wonderful
5 opportunity to be able to have one of
6 those camps here at Five Rivers. It was
7 wonderful. The staff was fabulous.

8 This property is wonderful.
9 We just can't tell you how wonderful the
10 Forever Wild properties are. We want
11 you to know that we want to be a beacon
12 in this state and let people know about
13 Forever Wild, and we want to get
14 children and families out into the area
15 so that they can enjoy these properties
16 and know what a real gift this is. So
17 we thank you very much for that.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Did you say it's called
19 Gross Out Camp?

20 MS. HOWELL: Gross Out Camp. And under there
21 it says, "It's science, but don't tell
22 the kids."

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Oh, okay. Interesting.

1 MS. HOWELL: We do things like snakes and
2 lizards and, you know, dirt painting,
3 really things that kids love that's
4 disgusting.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any questions for
6 Ms. Howell?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.
9 Dan.

10 MR. DUMONT. Thank you, Commissioner, Board
11 Members.

12 I just wanted to take a moment to —
13 I put an article about the Live Oak
14 Landing project on your things, and I
15 just wanted to point out to you that
16 they snagged a big fishing tournament to
17 bring in the Florida Log a Load for Kids
18 project here. Where they normally have
19 like 140 boats and 280 people, that by
20 moving it to Live Oak they project
21 they'll have 600 people fishing in
22 this. And Baldwin County officials
23 expect that Live Oak, together with

1 their Bicentennial Park, will have a
2 12-million-dollar annual income impact.
3 So you know if Florida gives up
4 Pensacola and brings 600 fisherman to
5 Baldwin County to fish for Log a Load,
6 Live Oak Landing has a tremendous
7 potential in the future, you know, to
8 bring people into this area to enjoy the
9 delta.

10 So we should get the appraisal back
11 on Live Oak in the next day or two. And
12 at that time Greg and his people will be
13 able to score it. So we'll be back in
14 front of you soon hoping that you'll
15 consider the acquisition of Live Oak
16 Landing.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

19 Any questions for Dan about Live Oak
20 Landing?

21 MR. COOPER: Just one question. If some board
22 members are here and wanted to go up and
23 see it — I know it's not far — is

1 somebody available today if they
2 wanted —

3 MR. DUMONT: Yes. I'm going up this afternoon
4 after the meeting. It's straight up 225
5 if any of you are going back up that
6 way. And if you'd meet me after the
7 thing, I would lead you up there and
8 give you a short tour and you can see it
9 on the way back. You know, it's right
10 up 225 just where you get onto I-65. So
11 if you'll see me right after the
12 meeting, I'll be glad to take you up
13 there and give you a tour.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Dan.

15 MR. DUMONT: And anybody in the audience that
16 would like to go up, I'd be glad to.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Walter Ernest.

18 MR. ERNEST: I thank you, Commissioner. I
19 wanted to briefly mention the Swift
20 tract addition. It's been nominated to
21 Forever Wild, and Chris Smith informed
22 me that it's on your short list.

23 That parcel is actually three

1 parcels from three willing owners on Bon
2 Secour Bay. It's in the Weeks Bay
3 Reserve acquisition boundaries. And the
4 parcel also adjoins the Weeks Bay
5 Mitigation Bank and the reserve,
6 615-acre Swift tract. So this would
7 really be a great acquisition. It has
8 over a mile of waterfront on Bon Secour
9 Bay, and it would be great also down the
10 road for restoration opportunities.

11 I wanted to thank y'all for
12 everything you do on behalf of the Weeks
13 Bay Foundation and our members.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for
15 Mr. Ernest?

16 MR. ERNEST: These are three tracts from three
17 separate willing landowners. One is
18 Regions Bank. The other is the Lipscomb
19 family. And the other one is a trust,
20 the Meyer Foundation Trust. And we
21 would like to see you guys purchase
22 these three parcels. And it's an
23 11-acre parcel that the reserve has in

1 the middle of these, and then the Weeks
2 Bay Mitigation Bank backs up to it,
3 which is over 1400 acres, and then the
4 Swift tract is 615 acres. So it would
5 be a great addition.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

8 That was all of the members of the
9 public that had signed up that I know
10 of. Is there anybody else here that for
11 one reason or another wants to speak and
12 didn't sign up?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. At this time I
15 think we are going to go into our
16 executive session. And I have to read
17 this for the minutes, so y'all bear with
18 me. If I don't do that, I've done
19 something wrong.

20 By regulation, appraisal values are
21 confidential during periods of
22 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
23 discuss tract appraisal values, the

1 board will need to go into recess for
2 executive session. Consistent with the
3 new guidance from the public examiner's
4 office, it's my recommendation as
5 chairman that we adopt a new process
6 whereby the board entertains a motion
7 for recess for executive session.

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

11 DR. CROZIER: So moved.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is there a second?

13 MR. COOPER: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: As I call your name, please
15 state your position on this motion to
16 recess, those in favor indicating so and
17 those against indicating so.

18 Ms. Casey?

19 MS. CASEY: Approve.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Crozier?

21 DR. CROZIER: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton?

23 DR. LAWTON: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Schlundt?

2 DR. SCHLUNDT: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Davenport?

4 DR. DAVENPORT: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Barber?

6 MR. BARBER: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Cooper?

8 MR. COOPER: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Holland?

10 DR. HOLLAND: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Woller?

12 MR. WOLLER: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Allen?

14 MR. ALLEN: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't think I left

16 anybody off.

17 All right. At this time we'll

18 recess for about 20 minutes and we'll be

19 back. Thank you.

20 (Recess for Executive Session

21 taken.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks, everyone, for their

23 patience. By law we have to discuss

1 appraisals in executive session. So
2 that's all we do back there. But it
3 just takes a few minutes to do that, and
4 now we'll continue on with the business
5 of the board.

6 At this time I'm going to call on
7 Greg Lein for some report on the status
8 of the program.

9 MR. LEIN: Thank you, Commissioner.

10 For the benefit of the public, my
11 name is Greg Lein. I work in the State
12 Lands Division within the Conservation
13 Department. At this time I'll be
14 reporting the financial data for the
15 program for this meeting,
16 September 15th, 2011.

17 At present the program's cash
18 balance is \$14,039,878.00. This year
19 the program's operations and activities
20 have concluded the following purchases:
21 In Lauderdale County, the Lauderdale
22 WMA-Denson tract, 195 acres; the
23 Riverton Community Hunting Area-Boone

1 Branch addition, 80 acres; the
2 Lauderdale WMA-Whitsett Hollow tract,
3 376 acres; the Pike County
4 Pocosin-Sellers addition, 142 acres; the
5 Freedom Hills Wildlife Management
6 Area-McCollough addition, 160 acres; the
7 Little River Canyon Hancock/TNC
8 addition, 1,536 acres approximately;
9 and, lastly, the Barbour WMA-Dixon
10 addition, approximately 2,566 acres.
11 The last two properties have recently
12 closed since the last board meeting,
13 both of which are additions to Wildlife
14 Management Areas.

15 The following adjustments represent
16 projects that the board has approved by
17 motion for purchase. They are as
18 follows:

19 The Weeks Bay-Meadows addition,
20 approximately 685 acres here in Baldwin
21 County.

22 The Lauderdale WMA-Denson tract, 20
23 acres. This is a holdover from a

1 previous acquisition where there was a
2 title problem. We are working to
3 resolve that matter and see whether, in
4 fact, that can be a final purchase to
5 that addition.

6 The Post Oak Flat-Patrick addition
7 in Jackson County, approximately 2,125
8 acres. We are working with the
9 landowner on the purchase option
10 agreement for that property and hope to
11 take that toward closing in the near
12 future.

13 The Weeks Bay Reserve-Metcalf
14 addition here in Baldwin County,
15 approximately 29.5 acres. That property
16 is also in the process of concluding the
17 purchase option agreement.

18 The Heron — the Heron
19 Bay-Portersville Bay property in Mobile
20 County, approximately 1,102 acres in
21 size. We are working to basically
22 exercise the option that we have on that
23 property and take that toward closing

1 this fall.

2 And, lastly, the Freedom
3 Hills/Riverton land exchange. This was
4 a property that the board approved at
5 the last meeting. It's a land swap.
6 And our legal section has been working
7 to conclude the exchange agreement with
8 that landowner, and that ought to
9 resolve itself very soon.

10 The sum total for those approved
11 acquisitions is approximately
12 \$4.6 million. That would leave an
13 available balance to the board for
14 consideration of new acquisitions of
15 approximately \$9.4 million. The board,
16 of course, has to operate within its
17 budget authority. The capital spending
18 authority for the program is presently
19 \$6.3 million.

20 Now, I want to add to the board for
21 your consideration that as of October 1
22 your new capital spending authority
23 starts, and that's 12-and-a-half million

1 dollars. So while it looks like you
2 only have \$6.3 million in spending
3 authority — capital spending authority
4 for land acquisitions today, you'll have
5 12.5 additional million dollars that
6 adds to that 6.3 beginning on
7 October 1.

8 So the sum total of that is around
9 18 million and change for, again, the
10 support of land acquisition. Land
11 acquisition is a capital action and it's
12 a unique subset of your budget
13 authority.

14 On the next page of your report, we
15 itemize expenditures associated with the
16 stewardship fund. This is the fund that
17 is set up when the Forever Wild program
18 acquires property. 15 percent of the
19 appraised value is transferred into this
20 fund. It's an interest-bearing fund.
21 And the board seeks to expend the annual
22 interest earnings from this fund in
23 support of the management and

1 maintenance of properties that it has
2 acquired.

3 This year the budget authority for
4 this fund was \$890,000. At the time of
5 preparing this report we had expended
6 \$781,170 from that fund. There are a
7 few additional transactions that are
8 associated with the fund that will
9 conclude in the next two weeks as we
10 complete this fiscal year.

11 But the take-home message there is
12 that this year we have had a lot of
13 activity on our properties, and we have
14 very much needed to rely on this fund
15 for the maintenance of the properties
16 and the maintenance of the program. The
17 expenditures are itemized by the object
18 codes in the central accounting system
19 for the State of Alabama, and we will
20 provide you a report at the December
21 meeting where it actually itemizes the
22 expenditure by property so that you can
23 see what money was spent where. But we

1 have to conclude the FY before we can
2 compile that complete report.

3 Now, I would also like to add that
4 one of the things that was new this
5 year — and it's itemized in conjunction
6 with professional services — is that we
7 did, as the Commissioner mentioned at
8 the beginning of the meeting, undertake
9 the process to make the public more
10 aware of the program. We looked into a
11 number of opportunities that were
12 available to us this summer.

13 One example would be that we went
14 through the process of buying a
15 newspaper ad. That newspaper ad will
16 run in the next two weeks in 74
17 newspapers and it will be specific to
18 making the public aware of the Forever
19 Wild program's support of the WMA system
20 and what WMAs, Wildlife Management
21 Areas, in Alabama have received the
22 attention of the Forever Wild program.
23 And, of course, the ad references the

1 reader back to the Website where they
2 can gain more information about the
3 program.

4 That's the first time we've
5 undertook a purchase, an expenditure in
6 that manner. Historically, we've relied
7 on press releases when we buy property,
8 the brochures, the Website. So this ad
9 is in response to what the Commissioner
10 spoke of at the beginning of the
11 meeting.

12 And we've looked at a number of
13 other opportunities. We undertook a
14 contract process with the University of
15 Alabama and the University of Auburn to
16 have in-stadium advertising in
17 conjunction with the football games this
18 season. And that process has actually
19 started. We've had calls, people that
20 have seen that advertising in the
21 stadiums and, also, on the radio in
22 conjunction with the football games.
23 And that is new and different.

1 Lastly, in support of those
2 contracts at the two universities, we
3 bought billboard advertising in
4 association with the travel corridors to
5 Auburn and Tuscaloosa. And each of
6 those locations — I think we secured
7 three billboards that basically have the
8 program logo and the name of the program
9 and reference to the Website and
10 Facebook, again, trying to make the
11 public more aware of the program, what
12 it is, and referencing citizens back to
13 another source where they can learn more
14 about it.

15 So those are unique and new to the
16 expenditures under the stewardship
17 fund. And we are working to resolve all
18 of that. Our goal was basically that if
19 there were monies left over this year in
20 the stewardship account, we wanted to
21 try and secure some advertising this
22 summer as a means of understanding what
23 those costs can be, learning from that

1 experience, and being able to report
2 back to you how that has worked and
3 possibly what future opportunities might
4 be.

5 That concludes my report on the
6 stewardship fund.

7 Commissioner, the next section is
8 pending transactions. And if there are
9 no questions — Dr. Lawton, do you have
10 a question?

11 DR. LAWTON: Less a question than a comment.

12 A few days ago I was hiking on the
13 Certain property that's administered by
14 the land trust in Huntsville that we
15 contributed to the purchase of. There
16 was no signage out there congratulating
17 us and the state for having contributed
18 to that. I was this morning up at
19 Blakeley, which I recollect we bought
20 some property for, and there was no
21 Forever Wild kind of thing.

22 We've cooperated with a lot of state
23 parks, land trusts, and the like in the

1 state, but we're not getting any public
2 credit for it. Can we just get some
3 signage up, like in partnership with
4 Forever Wild, you know, so that people
5 visiting these places will know that
6 this is one of the things Forever Wild
7 has done?

8 That would be a good use of
9 stewardship funds.

10 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir. And, actually, we're
11 looking into some other options as well
12 in conjunction with the highway
13 department and our signage that leads to
14 these properties.

15 I believe the Certain tract did have
16 a sign at the parking lot when we opened
17 it up. Sometimes the signs get removed
18 by what I like to think of as "yutes,"
19 which are like youth run wild.

20 But, yes, we will check on that.
21 And, in fact, when the Forever Wild
22 purchase was made at Blakeley, there was
23 a big sign acknowledging that

1 contribution, and it may have just over
2 time, through attrition, have been taken
3 down or who knows what. But we will
4 look into that, and we will talk to our
5 partners that have benefited from the
6 program and see if we can't get some
7 better exposure.

8 MR. WOLLER: Well, to kind of add to what you
9 said, Dr. Lawton, you know, I feel as a
10 board that we have a responsibility to
11 the public to let them know where this
12 money of theirs that we're spending is
13 going. And I think every piece of
14 Forever Wild property should have a
15 minimum of signage on it to let them
16 know how this property was acquired.
17 Because it wasn't many years ago on the
18 WMAs that we were losing leases and
19 leases and leases. And they were just
20 dwindling down to nothing and then all
21 of a sudden when Forever Wild came into
22 being and the properties started being
23 purchased by the state. So the state

1 owns it now, these WMAs. And the same
2 thing is true with nature preserves and
3 state parks and everything else.

4 But I think it's within our
5 responsibility to do that, to let the
6 public know, you know, that this is
7 state land and it was acquired through
8 the Forever Wild Land Trust.

9 MR. LEIN: There are, in fact, other internal
10 activities that are taking place on this
11 same subject.

12 Gary Moody, who's here today, he and
13 his staff have undertaken a process this
14 summer where there is more information
15 about Forever Wild in the
16 Hunting & Fishing Digest, including a
17 map. Their table that shows all the
18 Wildlife Management Areas now denotes
19 which properties have been supported by
20 Forever Wild. And I believe every one
21 of their Wildlife Management Areas that
22 has Forever Wild property now will have
23 a new poster that shows the map of the

1 WMA and what properties were bought by
2 Forever Wild. And I think there's an
3 example on the board outside here, the
4 display board, of one of those posters.

5 MR. WOLLER: I think that's a good move.

6 MR. LEIN: So there are a lot of things that
7 speak to this, that address this that
8 are underway and —

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me say this, too,
10 Greg. And, you know, part of the public
11 awareness campaign that we're talking
12 about is, in fact, as much as just
13 making sure they go to the Website.
14 Which if you go to the Website, you can
15 locate all the properties and where they
16 are and information about them. So I
17 think that's one of our goals in the
18 public awareness to start associating
19 that Forever Wild Land Trust with the
20 Website. And they can go to it and say,
21 okay, now I can — I know where I can go
22 if I'm in this area of the state.

23 MR. WOLLER: Right.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Here's the Forever Wild
2 lands. And that's kind of what we're
3 trying to do.

4 So we've got multiple issues there,
5 but — signage is one, but also just
6 getting them to the right place so they
7 can know where to get to a Forever Wild
8 tract and then other things like that.

9 MR. LEIN: And one of the challenges we do
10 have — and the Certain tract is an
11 example and all of these properties that
12 are in the WMA system are another
13 example — is when we mark the
14 boundaries of a Forever Wild property,
15 we have to be careful not to mark it in
16 a way where it confuses the user of that
17 property.

18 By way of an example, if you're a
19 hunter and you're on one of the Wildlife
20 Management Areas and you suddenly cross
21 over the boundary from one ownership in
22 the Wildlife Management Area into the
23 Forever Wild ownership, we don't want to

1 confuse that user with some kind of odd
2 signage that makes them think that
3 they're off or they have to stop and
4 consult their permit. God knows, all of
5 that's complicated to begin with. But
6 it's one of the challenges that we have
7 in communicating that to the public.
8 And we continue to strive to do that
9 better, and we welcome everyone's
10 comments on how to do that better.

11 Ms. Casey, did you have a question?

12 MS. CASEY: Just a comment. And it goes back
13 to something that Gunter just mentioned
14 and that's getting the word out is as
15 important as the signage, just making
16 sure people know that — you know, where
17 it's located and all that.

18 And I think — and y'all may already
19 be doing this. But working with the
20 different natural-resource-related
21 conservation groups out there who have
22 Websites — I mean, I know our agency
23 would be very pleased to put it out

1 there with some description, linkage to
2 your sites and help get that word out.
3 So that may be something y'all want to
4 do is expand, you know, share links with
5 other organizations and agencies.

6 MR. LEIN: Yes, ma'am. Wonderful idea.

7 Yes, sir, Dr. Crozier.

8 DR. CROZIER: Greg, are y'all utilizing the
9 welcome centers? Is there a three-fold
10 that might do this too?

11 Because we've had good success with
12 the brochures. A lot of people stop at
13 the welcome centers.

14 MR. LEIN: I know that we have distributed
15 some of the brochures, historically, to
16 Tourism and they've ended up in the
17 welcome centers. I don't know that
18 that's been a continuous campaign on our
19 part to maintain that.

20 DR. CROZIER: Would you be more comfortable —
21 would you like a motion from the board
22 to approve expenditure from the
23 stewardship account to pursue these

1 activities?

2 I sense there's some ambivalence in
3 your mind about it's the first time
4 we've done this and —

5 MR. LEIN: Well ...

6 DR. CROZIER: I don't know that it's
7 necessary. I'm just asking would it
8 make you feel better.

9 MR. LEIN: Under the law expenditures from the
10 stewardship account do not require a
11 motion by the board. The law provides
12 the department with the authority to
13 undertake those expenditures each year
14 per the budget.

15 DR. CROZIER: Okay.

16 MR. LEIN: But expenditures out of the main
17 fund would, in fact, likely require such
18 a motion.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I was going to address
20 that a little bit later on. But, I
21 mean, I don't want to keep anybody from
22 asking questions about it, but I was
23 going to actually just bring that motion

1 up at a little bit later time.

2 Any more questions of Greg?

3 I mean, I don't want to cut off that
4 discussion.

5 MR. LEIN: Dr. Davenport.

6 DR. DAVENPORT: In retirement from this board
7 I've taken on a new project, and it's a
8 book project called "Exploring Wild
9 Alabama." And it's meant to get people
10 out to the wild places of Alabama. It
11 will have complete information about
12 Forever Wild properties as well as the
13 state parks and every other publicly
14 accessible place that Alabamians can
15 go. So Forever Wild properties will
16 certainly be presented to the public in
17 this way with maps to tell them exactly
18 where to go and what to expect when they
19 see that. So buy my book.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Never too early to get out
21 a plug.

22 DR. DAVENPORT: No, no, no.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Greg.

1 MR. LEIN: If there are no other questions,
2 I'll move into the pending transactions
3 portion of the agenda.

4 As we had broken for recess to
5 discuss the appraisal values of
6 properties that the board has taken an
7 interest in or properties that we have
8 pursued grant-writing to leverage
9 potential costs of acquiring, we have
10 reported to the board those appraisal
11 values. For the benefit of the public,
12 I'll go through that briefly as to these
13 properties and their location.

14 The first property is located in
15 Coosa County. This is the Coosa
16 WMA-Hancock Phase II property. It's
17 right around 842 acres in size. The
18 Yates-Weil property in Elmore County is
19 approximately 1,975 acres. The
20 Cathedral Caverns-Cedar Wind property in
21 Marshall County, approximately 10 acres
22 in size. The Coon Gulf-Blue Hole
23 addition in Jackson County,

1 approximately 120 acres in size. The
2 Weogufka State Forest addition in Coosa
3 County, approximately 762 acres in
4 size. The Perdido River-Swift addition
5 in Baldwin County, approximately
6 160 acres in size. The Coldwater
7 Mountain-Cassidy addition in Calhoun
8 County, approximately 20 acres in size.
9 And, lastly, the Mobile-Tensaw
10 Delta-Perdido Connector in Baldwin
11 County, approximately 6,053 acres in
12 size. The sum total appraisal value for
13 these properties is just over
14 \$25 million in total.

15 That is the information that we have
16 reported to the board. Of course, as
17 I've said, the individual appraisal
18 values for each of those properties is
19 confidential to the board by way of
20 regulation while the board is
21 contemplating the negotiation of
22 purchase. When properties are purchased
23 and that is concluded, the appraisal

1 value becomes public record.

2 And that concludes my report to the
3 board on pending transactions.

4 Are there any questions?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Greg.

7 MR. LEIN: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Before I call on Chris
9 Smith, I had noted that Representative
10 Randy Davis has come into the room.
11 Thanks for being here, Randy.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is there anything you want
14 to comment on or talk about?

15 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Keep up the good work.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you.

17 Chris, I think you have a report on
18 our grants.

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

20 Good morning.

21 For the benefit of the public, my
22 name is Chris Smith. I work with the
23 State Lands Division, Department of

1 Conservation and Natural Resources. The
2 State Lands Division participates in
3 submitting proposals for various federal
4 assistance and grant programs to try to
5 acquire matching funds for
6 nominations — Forever Wild nominations
7 that fit the criteria of that particular
8 federal-assistance program. And at this
9 time I'm going to report to the board on
10 reimbursements that we have and
11 different pending proposals and
12 projects.

13 Currently we have been reimbursed
14 for all of the grant proposals that we
15 had been awarded. We currently do not
16 have any tracts that have been purchased
17 and closed and have a reimbursement
18 pending.

19 Regarding pending proposals, a
20 couple that were briefly discussed
21 earlier today in the meeting. We had
22 submitted proposals in the Forest Legacy
23 program. Those were associated with the

1 Yates-Weil Trust tract and the Post Oak
2 Flat tract nomination. It appears that
3 neither one of those proposals at this
4 time is going to be funded.

5 Also, in the Forest Legacy program,
6 you know, we are in the development
7 stages of looking at nominations that
8 could be submitted for the next fiscal
9 year grant period. And we're looking at
10 the Coon Gulf-Blue Hole nomination,
11 Weogufka State Forest nomination, and
12 Perdido River-Swift nomination under
13 that program.

14 And a reminder to the board. We did
15 submit a proposal to the National
16 Coastal Wetland Grant Program and were
17 awarded that, a million dollars to go
18 toward the purchase of the Heron
19 Bay-Kuppersmith and Portersville Bay
20 nomination. Currently we're submitting
21 all the paperwork and everything that's
22 associated with reimbursement so that
23 when those tracts close we'll be able to

1 quickly get our reimbursement.

2 Lastly, since our last meeting, we
3 have submitted a Land-Water Conservation
4 Fund grant preapplication for the
5 Coldwater Mountain-Cassidy nomination.
6 This tract is an inholding within the
7 Coldwater Mountain Forever Wild tract
8 and would be an important purchase to
9 transition the trails and recreational
10 trails that we're currently working on
11 on that tract. And the Land-Water
12 Conservation Fund program is a 50/50
13 match program.

14 So that's all I have, Commissioner.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions for

16 Mr. Smith?

17 MR. WOLLER: Chris, when do these — normally
18 do you submit these grants? All year
19 long or ...

20 MR. SMITH: Different programs have different
21 periods. Like, for example, Forest
22 Legacy is in the fall. National Coastal
23 Wetland, usually their proposals are

1 submitted in June of each year. So it
2 varies within the different programs we
3 participate in.

4 MR. WOLLER: And when do they get acted on?

5 MR. SMITH: For example, the National
6 Coastal — usually it's six to eight
7 months. Like we submit a proposal in
8 June. We'll usually hear in December or
9 January whether we've been awarded. And
10 then in another few months we'll get the
11 paperwork from them saying you have been
12 awarded.

13 So sometimes it might take up to a
14 year to kind of get the full ball
15 rolling, but — or even maybe — in some
16 cases it might take that long to hear
17 about whether the proposal was
18 considered or not because of continuing
19 resolution with budgets of the various
20 programs and that kind of thing.

21 MR. WOLLER: Thank you.

22 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. At this time I

1 think we open up the floor for
2 discussion by the board of any tracts
3 that they want to talk about.

4 Is there any discussion by anyone?

5 MR. WOLLER: Commissioner, I would like to
6 propose that we seek the second
7 appraisal and offer to purchase not to
8 exceed the appraised value of the
9 120 acres of Coon Gulf-Blue Hole
10 addition.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

12 DR. LAWTON: I second that.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is there a second?

14 DR. LAWTON: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Dr. Lawton.

16 So am I understanding your motion is
17 to secure a first appraisal —

18 DR. LAWTON: Second appraisal.

19 MR. WOLLER: Second.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Second appraisal. Excuse
21 me.

22 MR. WOLLER: Second appraisal and offer —

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Move forward with a second

1 appraisal?

2 MR. WOLLER: And offer to purchase not to
3 exceed the appraised value.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: And just so I'm clear, does
5 that need to be — does that motion need
6 to contemplate whether the grant
7 application is approved or not? Do you
8 want it — does it matter?

9 MR. WOLLER: No.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

11 MR. WOLLER: Not in this case.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So we've got
13 a —

14 MR. WOLLER: We'll accept any reimbursement on
15 it.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. All right. So we've
17 got a motion and a second. Any
18 discussion on the motion?

19 MR. LEIN: Commissioner?

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

21 MR. LEIN: A point of clarification.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes.

23 MR. LEIN: Many of the grant programs have a

1 provision where if there's any action
2 like acquiring the property prior to the
3 processing of the grant, then it's not
4 eligible.

5 So there is — there is some care
6 that has to be taken in approaches to
7 acquire and secure properties that we
8 might be pursuing under a grant. And I
9 think for — one of the best ways that I
10 try and think of it is just, you know,
11 do you want to acquire this irrespective
12 of grant opportunities or do you want to
13 wait. Because, as Chris says, it is a
14 bit of a wait, and there is no
15 guarantee —

16 MR. WOLLER: And in this case, for 120 acres,
17 I move that we acquire it irrespective
18 of the grant.

19 MR. LEIN: Thank you for the clarification.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: And you're seconding to
21 that?

22 DR. LAWTON: Yes, I second that.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Any further

1 discussion — thank you, Greg.

2 Any further discussion on

3 Mr. Woller's motion?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Not hearing

6 any, all in favor say "aye."

7 (All board members present

8 responded "aye.")

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed, "nay."

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Motion carries.

12 DR. CROZIER: Commissioner, I would like to

13 propose a second appraisal on the

14 Perdido River-Swift addition in Baldwin

15 County, 160 acres. And with the same

16 provision. I don't think we have to

17 wait for the grant application.

18 MR. COOPER: I'll second.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Angus, was that

20 you?

21 MR. COOPER: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So there's a motion

23 and a second. Any discussion on the

1 motion?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Having heard
4 none, all in favor say "aye."

5 (All board members present
6 responded "aye.")

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed, "nay."

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

10 Any other discussions?

11 MS. CASEY: I'd like to make a motion on a
12 second appraisal on Weogufka State
13 Forest addition.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. There's a
15 motion for a second appraisal on the
16 Weogufka State Forest addition.

17 DR. DAVENPORT: I second it.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right, Dr. Davenport.

19 DR. LAWTON: I've got a question. We have no
20 clue as to what the first appraisal is
21 yet because we don't have one.

22 MR. WOLLER: Yeah. Yeah, we do.

23 DR. CROZIER: We do.

1 DR. LAWTON: Oh, we do?

2 MR. WOLLER: Yeah.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir, on that one we
4 do.

5 MR. LEIN: That is provided in the update that
6 was provided this morning.

7 DR. CROZIER: The new one.

8 DR. LAWTON: Okay. Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Did you find it,
10 Dr. Lawton?

11 DR. LAWTON: I got it.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Just wanted to make
13 sure. Kind of like when I lost those
14 names awhile ago. Lots of paperwork to
15 shuffle around.

16 MR. LEIN: Commissioner, I have a question,
17 point of clarification on the motion.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes. Please. Okay.

19 MR. LEIN: Is the motion simply to secure a
20 second appraisal, or is the motion to
21 secure a second appraisal in support of
22 acquisition of the property?

23 MS. CASEY: It's the latter, in support of

1 acquisition of the property.

2 MR. LEIN: Okay. And that's irrespective of
3 potential grant —

4 MS. CASEY: Can we just leave that up to
5 y'all's discretion, or do we need —
6 then irrespective, then.

7 DR. CROZIER: Yeah.

8 MS. CASEY: If it has to be one way or the
9 other, it's irrespective of the grant.

10 MR. LEIN: So we — by way of example, we
11 could make an offer on the property
12 based on the first appraisal. If the
13 seller accepted that offer, we would
14 secure the second appraisal and other
15 due diligence and move toward closing as
16 rapidly as possible.

17 MS. CASEY: Yes.

18 DR. LAWTON: That's irrespective of the
19 grant. Why don't we — because that's a
20 good-size hunk of property. And the
21 Forest Legacy grant — it's not
22 implausible that we could get funding
23 for it.

1 MR. LEIN: It's not implausible. And this was
2 discussed somewhat at the June meeting.
3 And we represented to the board at that
4 time that this was a potential Forest
5 Legacy grant proposal property.

6 I will — I will say that our
7 experience — and I think the Yates-Weil
8 proposal is a good example of this.

9 There are good projects, good proposals
10 that we have forwarded that fall outside
11 of the areas where we've received grant
12 awards. And that is something of an
13 indicator of the odds of us receiving a
14 grant award.

15 This property, despite the fact that
16 it's adjacent to the state forest, is
17 not like other project areas, like the
18 delta, Perdido River, the Walls of
19 Jericho, Coon Gulf, where there are
20 large blocks of public land that the
21 Forest Legacy proposal is adding to.
22 And that, I think, is a big factor in
23 the process. That appears to weigh

1 out — Dan, do you have anything to add
2 to that?

3 MR. DUMONT: I would add that in this budget
4 situation we don't know — I mean,
5 Forest Legacy has been cut nationally to
6 the bone, I mean, and I just hate to
7 give you a whole lot of encouragement
8 until we know what the budget number
9 is. But right now it's zeroed out at
10 nothing. So we don't even know if there
11 will be Forest Legacy money available in
12 this coming year. So, like Greg, it's
13 a ...

14 DR. LAWTON: Don't count on it.

15 MR. DUMONT: Don't — I mean, you know, it
16 would be almost two years getting the
17 money anyway, and this budget situation
18 is pretty problematic.

19 MS. CASEY: Well, and I would just like to say
20 that based on, you know, what you just
21 said about it's zeroed out in the House,
22 in my discussions with Region 8
23 U.S. Forest Service, they're looking at

1 significant budget cuts. And there is
2 absolutely no guarantees in this
3 economic environment of it being funded
4 at all, so ...

5 MR. DUMONT: And another point is that our
6 stewardship — Forest Stewardship
7 Advisory Committee meets next Tuesday to
8 consider proposals which we'll submit in
9 November. So that's a whole different
10 board like this board, and we don't know
11 that this would be one of the tracts
12 that they would select.

13 MR. LEIN: Commissioner and Board, one other
14 factual point with respect to the
15 Weogufka property.

16 In contrast to a property like the
17 Weil property on Yates Lake, the
18 Weogufka property is presently owned by
19 a conservation organization. It's not
20 in private ownership at this time. So
21 that's a factor in this that's usually a
22 positive factor in our grant process.
23 And there's a representative to the

1 property here today.

2 I don't — I hate to put you on the
3 spot, Andrew, but you're here.

4 So if there are any specific
5 questions from the board with respect to
6 the present owner who nominated the
7 property, he's here today.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. LEIN: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So let's go
11 back to the motion.

12 Linda, do you want to — let's make
13 sure we know what you want to do with
14 all that having been said.

15 I think your motion was to secure a
16 second appraisal —

17 MS. CASEY: That's correct.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: — for purchase of the
19 property without regard to the grant.

20 Is that still —

21 MS. CASEY: The grant. That's absolutely
22 correct.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: — still your motion?

1 MS. CASEY: Yes, it is.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. And was there a
3 second to that motion?

4 DR. DAVENPORT: I seconded it.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Dr. Davenport
6 seconded the motion.

7 Any discussion on the motion?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Having heard none, all in
10 favor say "aye."

11 (All board members present
12 responded "aye.")

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

16 All right. Any further discussions?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Having heard no
19 further discussions on any property, I
20 guess we'll move in now to some
21 reports. Let me get my agenda straight
22 here.

23 Greg, I believe you have some

1 Forever Wild program reports.

2 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir, Commissioner.

3 Some of the board are new to this
4 segment of the annual schedule and are
5 seeing this for the first time. And,
6 again, for the benefit of the public,
7 each year in conjunction with the
8 government — state government's fiscal
9 cycle — budgeting cycle, we try to
10 report back to the board activities
11 undertaken by the Lands Division. As
12 you're all familiar, the Lands Division
13 is named within the law as
14 administrative support to the board and
15 the program. And, historically, the
16 Forever Wild Board has passed motions
17 directing Forever Wild funds to the
18 Lands Division in support of our
19 administrative efforts on behalf of the
20 board and the program.

21 And each year we report back as to
22 what we have undertaken this past year
23 since last October. And we provide to

1 the board a representation of the costs
2 that we've undertaken in support of the
3 program in the way of the Lands Division
4 personnel. And I'll go through that
5 briefly.

6 There are a number of personnel
7 within the Lands Division, including
8 myself and going all the way down to our
9 laborers who work on Forever Wild
10 projects all over the state of Alabama.
11 And these are land management efforts as
12 well as administrative efforts. And we
13 try to represent to the board a
14 percentage of our time.

15 None of these employees are
16 dedicated to the Forever Wild program
17 per se. Some of them spend large
18 amounts of their time on Forever Wild
19 properties. None of them spend all of
20 their time on Forever Wild properties.
21 And employees such my myself, you know,
22 might spend half the year in conjunction
23 with Forever Wild activities or it could

1 be a quarter of our time.

2 But we represent that to the board
3 numerically. That amounts to about
4 one-point — around \$1 million in salary
5 effort that's directed in support of the
6 Forever Wild program.

7 We also itemize additional costs,
8 like the government costs of employing
9 merit employees. This is their
10 retirement, their insurance, other
11 fringe benefits that go with employment
12 of merit employees.

13 Expenditure of contractual efforts
14 in support of the program. We have
15 to — the Lands Division has to transfer
16 administrative fees in conjunction with
17 our activities. That's what pays for
18 the staffing within the department's
19 administrative division. That's where
20 the attorneys, the accountants, the
21 engineers, the information/education
22 section, the IT personnel are located
23 within the Conservation Department.

1 They all have a supporting role to play
2 in helping the Lands Division serve the
3 Forever Wild program. And those costs
4 are itemized as well.

5 We go on to provide information on
6 supplies, transportation, equipment.
7 This all adds up to right around
8 \$2 million of expenditures in support of
9 the program.

10 And then we provide to you an
11 itemization of where we get funds to
12 leverage all of this. Some of this is
13 grant-writing and grants where we get
14 federal funds and we go undertake a
15 stewardship activity on a Forever Wild
16 property. In other instances it's the
17 Lands Division's money. And, lastly,
18 it's the money we receive from the
19 Forever Wild program.

20 We have historically, the last few
21 years, asked for \$425,000 in funding.
22 We consider that to be level funding.
23 And that's our request today to the

1 board.

2 There is, of course, an in-depth
3 report from a number of our staff that
4 describes the things that we've done on
5 these properties over the years. And
6 there's also a report from our forester
7 that details our timber operations on
8 Forever Wild properties this past year
9 as well as a proposal for future
10 forestry activities on Forever Wild
11 properties, and that requires a motion
12 by the board as well.

13 At this time that concludes my
14 report on that. I will be happy to
15 entertain any questions.

16 DR. CROZIER: Commissioner, I move that we
17 approve the request from the Lands
18 Division for the Forever Wild Land Trust
19 and to the \$425,000 for next year's
20 budget.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is that sufficient? Does
22 it have to have the timber sales part in
23 there, or is it just —

1 MR. LEIN: Well, that individual motion is

2 sufficient for the budget —

3 MR. WOLLER: Second the motion.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. We have several

5 seconds.

6 Any discussion?

7 DR. SCHLUNDT: Greg brought up additional

8 funding for some other projects.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: I was going to bring that

10 next.

11 DR. SCHLUNDT: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: I was going to bring that

13 next. I appreciate you mentioning it.

14 This will just be on the approval of

15 this budget here —

16 DR. CROZIER: This request.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: — this request here.

18 Any other discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. All in favor

21 say "aye."

22 (All board members present

23 responded "aye.")

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

4 All right, Greg.

5 MR. LEIN: Commissioner, with reference to the

6 forest management activities, our

7 forester is here today, Galen Grider.

8 Galen, if you would stand up,

9 please.

10 I was negligent in my

11 responsibilities at previous meetings

12 and never introduced Galen, I think.

13 But Galen is here and he can answer any

14 questions the board might have on the

15 sale of timber from Forever Wild

16 properties. He's provided a detailed

17 proposal on what we think we might be

18 able to undertake this next year. And,

19 again, this is traditionally how we do

20 this with the board, that we seek to

21 represent in advance what these projects

22 might be and we seek board approval of

23 those efforts.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any questions to Galen or
2 Greg on the management plan?

3 MR. LEIN: Timber management plan.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Timber management plan.

5 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: I guess that's part of what
7 we've got in our package; right?

8 MR. LEIN: It is. It's at the very back of
9 the report.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Just so everybody's clear
11 on that, I think it's ...

12 Any questions about that?

13 DR. CROZIER: Can we deal with this as a
14 package, Commissioner, rather than to go
15 through each one of them?

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: I think — can't we do that
17 as just a package of all those plans?

18 DR. CROZIER: As presented.

19 MR. LEIN: Yes. You can just approve the
20 proposed timber management document as
21 provided to the board.

22 DR. CROZIER: Commissioner, I move for
23 approval of the forest management plan

1 as presented in the document that's
2 dated August 30, 2011.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do I hear a second?

4 MS. CASEY: Second.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Any discussions? Anybody
6 have any questions about that?

7 (No response.)

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

9 (All board members present
10 responded "aye.")

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

14 MR. LEIN: Thank you, Commissioner.

15 And I would add that Jo Lewis has
16 digital copies of those reports. If
17 there are any of the public that's here,
18 the media that's interested in that, she
19 can make those available following the
20 meeting.

21 The next segment of this reporting
22 in the board's packet is what we, again,
23 traditionally do in the September

1 meeting is what we call the management
2 plans.

3 Under the law, whenever a property
4 is acquired by Forever Wild, the Lands
5 Division in the Conservation Department
6 is supposed to put together a management
7 plan for that specific property and
8 report that to the board for the board's
9 approval. This sets up the backbone of
10 what's going to happen on these
11 properties. It is not so specific as to
12 detail what future miles of trail might
13 be or what segment of stand of timber
14 might be cut. It's more of a generic
15 management plan that just itemizes what
16 will be undertaken there in reference to
17 the stewardship of the property and the
18 public's availability to the property
19 and the activities — recreational
20 activities that will be available to the
21 public on the property.

22 Historically what we've done each
23 year is that if properties have been

1 acquired that are in addition to an
2 existing project area where there's
3 already Forever Wild property and an
4 approved Forever Wild management plan,
5 we recommend to the board that the new
6 property just be adopted under the
7 existing management plan. In instances
8 where there's a new property and there's
9 no management plan that could be
10 utilized, we draft a new management plan
11 for that new property.

12 And we have done that this summer
13 and provided two new management plans to
14 the board for the board's
15 consideration. These are plans for the
16 Tannehill property — this was the
17 addition to the Historic Tannehill State
18 Park — and, also, the Coon Gulf-Glawson
19 tract, which is in Jackson County.

20 Again, these management plans are
21 all very similar to each other. There's
22 really nothing unique or distinct
23 necessarily from one to another unless

1 there are nuances to each individual
2 property that would require that.

3 But at this time we are prepared to
4 answer any questions the board might
5 have on those management plans. And if
6 there are none, we would request the
7 board approve those management plans so
8 that the department staff can begin to
9 manage them for the public under those
10 plans.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Those are in your package.

12 I think there's a memo dated September
13 15th.

14 DR. CROZIER: And you've got — the two new
15 ones are behind, aren't they, Greg, and
16 then you've got the additions of Monte
17 Sano, Red Hills, Lauderdale —

18 MR. LEIN: Yes. There is a cover memo that
19 sort of itemizes what I just said. And
20 we don't provide the old management
21 plans because it would make the packet
22 even thicker. The board has copies of
23 those. But we provide the new ones.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do I have a motion to
2 approve these management plans?

3 DR. CROZIER: Do I have to do it again?

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: George, you've done such a
5 good job of it. This is you're way out
6 of here, too, by the way.

7 DR. CROZIER: All right, Commissioner. I
8 would move that we accept the proposed
9 new management plans for Coon
10 Gulf-Glawson and Tannehill Land and
11 Ridges tract and the addition of the
12 others that are listed in the memo dated
13 September 15th from Greg Lein.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Eloquently stated. Do I
15 have a second?

16 MR. COOPER: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: A second. Is there any
18 discussion on the motion?

19 (No response.)

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

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

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Motion carries.

3 DR. CROZIER: Greg, by way of comment, I want
4 to thank you all. I really do read
5 these superficially admittedly. But I
6 think y'all do a really good job with
7 these management plans, and I appreciate
8 the effort that I know goes into it.

9 MR. LEIN: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Greg, why don't
11 you stay there. Because at this time,
12 this is where I was going to bring up
13 the issue about the discussion and/or
14 motion for kind of our public awareness
15 directive that we need from the board.
16 And I'm not going to go into it again,
17 but I'll be happy for Greg — Greg or I
18 can answer any questions.

19 But, again, just stating really what
20 it was — and Representative Davis is
21 here. He knows how — he can back me up
22 on this.

23 But, you know, during the effort to

1 seek reauthorization of the Forever Wild
2 program, there was just a lot of
3 feedback from legislators, in
4 particular, and the general public about
5 the need for more public awareness of
6 the Forever Wild lands, what they can be
7 utilized for, what they do, how to get
8 there, how to have access to them, those
9 kinds of things.

10 Pursuant to really that information
11 from the legislators and from the public
12 during that whole campaign, the
13 department felt like we just needed to
14 come to this board and ask for y'all to
15 approve, you know, our efforts to do a
16 better job. You know, we always want to
17 do a better job of making the public
18 aware of what we have and what there is
19 to offer out there.

20 So is there any discussion — I've
21 got a motion prepared that — well, let
22 me just state the motion, and then we
23 might want to discuss it. And I just

1 tried to draft this.

2 But what I would like to propose is
3 a motion to direct the Commissioner of
4 Conservation and Natural Resources and
5 the State Lands Division to take such
6 steps as necessary to increase public
7 awareness as to the Forever Wild program
8 and access to the Forever Wild lands.

9 That's really the motion that I
10 tried to draft to encompass all of
11 that. But is there any discussion —
12 well, let me say, is there any second to
13 the motion?

14 MR. WOLLER: Well, I —

15 DR. DAVENPORT: I second that.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank you,
17 Dr. Davenport.

18 All right. Any discussion?

19 MR. WOLLER: Well, I not only approve it, but
20 as I mentioned earlier, I think it's our
21 responsibility to inform the public of
22 what we're doing from that standpoint.
23 I don't know whether we even need this

1 motion, but if we do, fine.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, it's a good point.

3 But we felt like — we want the board's
4 input on that. You know, we want the
5 board to know what we are doing. Really
6 it is something we should be doing
7 anyway, and I think it's part of — one
8 could argue it's part of what we are
9 supposed to be doing. But we just want
10 to make sure we get the board's approval
11 of what we're trying to do and would
12 like to do it in the form of that
13 motion.

14 As Greg indicated, we will have to
15 expend some monies to do that
16 necessarily. But, you know, I think you
17 can see from our history that we'll be
18 very diligent and conservative in what
19 we do. But it's important that we get
20 that out. It's important that we let
21 the public know what's out there for
22 them to utilize in the way of public
23 lands, both for hunting, recreation,

1 biking, hiking. You name it, we've got

2 it. Public enjoyment even.

3 So any other discussion?

4 I don't want to take up —

5 DR. LAWTON: Well, this sort of outreach is
6 absolutely essential. The budgetary
7 issues are sort of interesting. Who's
8 going to fund this? Are we going to
9 fund this through the stewardship
10 monies, or is the Commission going to
11 fund it?

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Greg, you want to just kind
13 of address that and I'll follow up.

14 MR. LEIN: Dr. Lawton, as I reported, you
15 know, if there were expenditures out of
16 the stewardship account — and there has
17 been this summer — the law provides
18 that, you know, we can do that and we
19 don't have to go back before the board
20 for any specific motion.

21 Now, if money is going to be
22 expended from the main fund, the Forever
23 Wild fund, that is really where there is

1 the need for some motion direction from
2 the board to that effect to the
3 department similar to, you know,
4 directing us to acquire appraisals.

5 And, as I said, you know, we have
6 undertaken a couple of opportunities
7 this summer to understand how this
8 works, what some of the costs are.
9 I contacted a number of other state
10 agencies to inquire as to what type of
11 public awareness efforts they have
12 undertaken themselves.

13 One of the areas where I learned a
14 lot was in working with the Department
15 of Public Health. And the Department of
16 Public Health over the last few years
17 has done a lot of public awareness
18 campaigns for many public health type
19 topics. A good example is what was
20 known as the "Get 10" campaign. Those
21 of you that live down on the coast
22 really appreciate the "Get 10" campaign
23 because it was basically a public health

1 campaign directed at awareness of the
2 ten essential items you need in an
3 emergency.

4 They have a lot of emergencies down
5 here on the coast, especially during the
6 hurricane season. And that was what,
7 you know, "Get 10" was, in part, about.
8 And that was a statewide effort.

9 They — they made a very focused effort
10 for a year. And they were able to tell
11 me a lot about what it took to do that,
12 what they thought some of the best
13 mediums were for conveying that
14 message. And that, in fact, was one of
15 the places where we learned about the
16 advertising opportunities at the two
17 universities. Public Health felt that
18 sports forums were one of their best
19 vehicles for conveying that public
20 message. And so we paid attention to
21 that and looked into that further.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: It's a little bit like
23 this. If you look in there — that's

1 why we kind of need a directive because
2 it could come from really either of
3 those accounts.

4 MR. LEIN: Sure.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so, you know, it's kind
6 of a bit of ambiguity that we need just
7 help from the board on to clarify, but
8 it would probably come from either of
9 those accounts. And, you know, we
10 would, of course, report to the board —

11 DR. LAWTON: I think —

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: — the Lands Division —

13 DR. LAWTON: — of this as a stewardship
14 issue, right, as opposed to a land
15 purchase issue. We have stewardship
16 interests that arise, right. Do we have
17 any access to the stewardship capital?

18 MR. LEIN: Technically, no.

19 DR. LAWTON: Damn.

20 MR. LEIN: The law speaks to that, Dr. Lawton.

21 DR. LAWTON: Sure.

22 MR. LEIN: And it is part of the budget
23 process. And so by way of example, you

1 know, when we propose budgets for
2 Forever Wild, we do it almost two years
3 in advance.

4 So from the stewardship account this
5 year our authority was \$890,000. That's
6 what it will be next year starting
7 October 1. And that's fixed. It cannot
8 be changed budgetarily except by action
9 of the legislature. So that's really
10 fixed.

11 And I understand what you're
12 saying. To me, the newspaper ad that we
13 undertook for the Wildlife Management
14 Areas I feel is very
15 stewardship-specific to properties, but
16 there's other work that's more generic.
17 You know, when we bought brochures or we
18 produced the interim report two years
19 ago on the program, those were generic
20 efforts, and I believe they were paid
21 for out of the main fund. And, again,
22 that's where the cost of appraisal, the
23 administrative support of the board —

1 that's where those monies come from.

2 DR. LAWTON: Do we have a crude idea of what
3 sort of outreach monies we're thinking
4 about?

5 MR. LEIN: No, we do not necessarily —

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: No, not really.

7 MR. LEIN: Well, crude is —

8 DR. CROZIER: I don't want to write you a
9 blank check.

10 MR. LEIN: Crude is a general word. I know
11 from speaking with Public Health what it
12 costs them to undertake a year-long
13 statewide campaign. And it was around a
14 million-and-a-half dollars.

15 Now, again, we're just beginning to
16 look into this. We're learning
17 something about some of the costs for
18 newspaper, radio, you know, other
19 mediums. But we don't have all those
20 answers at this time and —

21 DR. LAWTON: Could we get a provisional budget
22 by the December meeting?

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Well, the problem there

1 would be we would be so far — we're
2 going to need to do some RFPs and some
3 things to move along with the process is
4 one issue there, that we would be that
5 much further down the road — not to say
6 that that's not something we can
7 discuss. But we were — we were just
8 hoping that given our history and how
9 good Greg and his department have done
10 as far as, you know, constraint on
11 spending, to be honest with you —

12 DR. LAWTON: Sure.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: — that you would just give
14 us that discretion to use good
15 judgment. And we would, of course,
16 report at the December meeting what
17 we've done and provide that to you for
18 you to discuss and then comment or do
19 whatever is necessary. But it's just so
20 hard to actually, you know, figure out
21 exactly how much we need.

22 We're obviously going to be very
23 judicious in what we spend. We're not

1 going to, you know, just go spend wild,
2 but we're going to have to look at what
3 people tell us we need to do and how we
4 need to do it and then, obviously, give
5 us — they'll give us cost breakdown and
6 analysis with RFPs and that type of
7 thing.

8 So I guess, to answer your question,
9 you know, that was what we would
10 prefer. That's the reason we kind of
11 drafted the motion as we did, just so
12 that we could get moving on the effort,
13 because it does take some expenditure of
14 funds and that type of thing. I hope I
15 answered that right.

16 MR. LEIN: Yes, sir. And, again, similar to
17 appraisals, you know, when we undertake
18 the effort to respond to the board
19 motion to secure appraisals, we don't
20 know what that's going to cost. We have
21 ball-park ideas, because we do it every
22 year, but those motions are not specific
23 to, you know, what the cost of that

1 effort is going to be.

2 MR. WOLLER: Commissioner, we'll be getting
3 reports on this, and I move we call for
4 the question.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Call for the question. Is
6 there a second?

7 MR. COOPER: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. All in favor
9 of — let me get — I've got a motion
10 calling for the question, I believe, and
11 all in favor say "aye."

12 (All board members present
13 responded "aye.")

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. GUY: All right. Now we're back to the
17 original motion, and there was a second.

18 MR. WOLLER: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: So all in favor of the
20 motion as previously stated —
21 And I won't go into it unless somebody
22 needs me to. All in favor say "aye."

23 (All board members present

1 responded "aye.")

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Motion carries.

5 Thank y'all.

6 And we will be reporting back to you
7 on that, Dr. Lawton, so we'll all be on
8 the same page.

9 DR. LAWTON: Sure.

10 MS. CASEY: If I could just make a comment
11 too. One suggestion is that as the
12 awareness program is developed, I would
13 certainly look at a component of that
14 being maintenance going forward.
15 Because you can spend money on a
16 campaign — awareness campaign and
17 really move the needle on it, but if
18 there's not some component to try to
19 keep —

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Continue.

21 MS. CASEY: — yeah, continue, then it will be
22 lost over time. So that would just be a
23 suggestion that that be part of it.

1 MR. LEIN: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

3 Any other discussion about that?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Thank, y'all.

6 Okay. One of the next things I have
7 here is, I think, the schedule of our
8 next meeting which is set for
9 December 8th.

10 John Woller expressed to me that he
11 drove a long way today, as did others.
12 And we appreciate that. We really do.
13 And so because he drove so long today —
14 so far today, we were thinking about
15 trying to schedule our next meeting in
16 the Huntsville area, in that area, if
17 everybody doesn't have any particular
18 objection to that. Also, just trying
19 to, you know, move our program up there
20 and let people come in that are in the
21 north part of Alabama that may not want
22 to drive all the way down here or to
23 Montgomery or even to Birmingham last

1 time that want to come to our board
2 meetings and see how we conduct business
3 and be able to speak.

4 So that's just a proposal. We're
5 going to be looking — if there's
6 anybody that can help us looking for a
7 place to have a meeting or have any
8 ideas about that, we welcome those as
9 well.

10 DR. LAWTON: I've got a great recommendation
11 if you can get it. The new lodge at
12 Monte Sano State Park. Very attractive
13 venue. It's on top of a mountain.
14 It'll be a little bit cooler. In fact,
15 it may be icy in December. But it's a
16 lovely spot. So we would have to check
17 with the state park on its availability.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure.

19 MR. LEIN: Dr. Lawton, that was one of the
20 examples we provided the Commissioner.
21 And I actually late yesterday sent an
22 e-mail to you and Dr. Taylor. You
23 probably — you may or may not have

1 gotten it.

2 DR. LAWTON: I got the e-mail.

3 MR. LEIN: But the two universities were also
4 other settings that we've considered.
5 And because we have board members at
6 those two universities in Huntsville,
7 that was an option we wanted to
8 explore. It is important to try to have
9 the meetings in public places where the
10 public can get to them. Even though
11 this is largely a business meeting, it's
12 a public business meeting for this
13 program, and we do really value the
14 public's participation. So that is
15 always something to think about. But
16 we'll continue to work with the board
17 members up there and explore the
18 opportunities.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: We also have Joe Wheeler.
20 We also have — Lake Guntersville is
21 also in that area up there. So if
22 anybody has any input, I'm sure if y'all
23 will just e-mail or call Greg or Patti

1 or myself, we'll take that into
2 consideration.

3 I think a couple of more items
4 here. We need to approve the minutes of
5 our June 16, 2011, meeting and —

6 MR. WOLLER: So moved.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: And are there any — well,
8 are there any additions or corrections
9 before we move to approve them?

10 (No response.)

11 Okay. And was that you, John?

12 MR. WOLLER: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So there's a motion
14 to approve the minutes. Do I have a
15 second?

16 MR. COOPER: Second.

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

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

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Minutes are approved.

23 I think we've got one other piece of

1 business. I believe Dr. Davenport and
2 Dr. Crozier will be leaving us. And
3 we're going to miss you guys.

4 And, Dr. Crozier, I believe your
5 replacement is here. You want to
6 introduce him.

7 DR. CROZIER: Yes. I'm sorry. Dr. John
8 Valentine is the — will be the new
9 director at the end of this month at the
10 Dauphin Island Sea Lab. John has done
11 an enormous amount of research on the
12 delta. I believe that he was involved
13 in the early Natural Heritage program
14 identifying the organisms in the coastal
15 area. And I think you're going to find
16 that Dr. Valentine is a very interested
17 and engaged member of the board. And I
18 look forward to him taking over.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: If you would, would you and
20 Dr. Davenport stand up. I'm just going
21 to —

22 DR. CROZIER: We get to share a plaque?

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: No. Actually, we've got

1 two. We've got two. But they both say
2 the same thing other than the name. So
3 I'm just going to — the second time
4 around for George. He's just trying to
5 get plaques.

6 But I'll read George's: Know all by
7 these presents that Dr. George Crozier
8 has shown a commitment to the
9 conservation in the state of Alabama and
10 has demonstrated dedication to the
11 protection of Alabama's unique natural
12 heritage through participation in a
13 program to acquire public lands in order
14 that current and future generations of
15 Alabamians may continue to appreciate
16 and enjoy the state's diverse natural
17 resources. In sincere gratitude we
18 recognize and commend your outstanding
19 efforts to insure that part of Alabama
20 remains Forever Wild. Signed by
21 Governor Robert Bentley and myself.

22 Thank you, George.

23 DR. CROZIER: Thank you. Appreciate it.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: And thank you,

2 Dr. Davenport.

3 DR. DAVENPORT: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. Any other

5 business?

6 Representative Davis now would like

7 to speak.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: I would just like to

9 say thank y'all for everything that you

10 do as volunteers to this board and,

11 George, all that you've done and have

12 meant to me personally in this region.

13 Let me welcome you to District 96.

14 You're in that legislative district.

15 But I would say that Greg's work in

16 getting the PR campaign is going to be

17 essential for us to reauthorize the

18 Forever Wild in the 2012 election. It

19 was obvious there.

20 I would encourage you that we have

21 gotten significant commitment from

22 Tourism and highway department, ALDOT,

23 to work with us in notifications and

1 maps. Anytime we do a map we need to
2 all do things together and inclusive,
3 State Parks and Lands Division and
4 Forever Wild and all the activities that
5 support conservation in this state. And
6 good luck as we continue on and thank
7 you for your service.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: And, Randy, we thank you
9 for all your help and support for this
10 program as well. So thank you very
11 much.

12 Any other comments?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do I hear a motion to
15 adjourn?

16 MR. WOLLER: So moved.

17 DR. CROZIER: Second.

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

19 (All board members present
20 responded "aye.")

21 (Meeting adjourned at
22 approximately 11:50 a.m.)

23 * * * * *

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
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STATE OF ALABAMA:
MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board Meeting on September 15, 2011.

The foregoing 105 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

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

This 7th day of November 2011.

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2012

Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Larg