

NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2025
9:08 A.M.

Volume 1
Pages 1 through 75

A P P E A R A N C E S

Board of Trustees:

John Wilson, Chairman
Jason Walser, Vice-Chairman
Ann Browning, Chairman Restoration, Innovative
Stormwater and Planning Committee, and Chairman
Flood Risk Reduction Committee
Amy Grissom, Acquisition Committee Chairman
Jimmy Broughton
Clement Riddle
Darrel Williams
Mike Rusher
David Womack

Staff:

Will Summer, Executive Director
Zoe Hansen Burnet, DNCR Assistant General Counsel
Steve Bevington, Restoration Program Manager
Marissa Hartzler, Acquisition Program Manager
Marie Meckman, Acquisition Project Manager
Christina Benton, Acquisition Project Manager
Justin Mercer, Stewardship Manager
Terri Murray, Executive Assistant
Damon Hearne, Western Field Representative
Chelsea Blount, Central Field Representative
Jill Fusco, Eastern Field Representative
Nicolle Montero, Stewardship Specialist

Also present:

Pamela Cashwell, Secretary of N.C. Department of
Natural and Cultural Resources
Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary of N.C. Department
of Natural and Cultural Resources
Hervey McIver, Onslow Bight Project Manager for
The Nature Conservancy

P R O C E E D I N G S

9:08 A.M.

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Chairman Wilson: I'd like to call today's meeting of the North Carolina Land and Water Fund Board of Trustees to order. I'm John Wilson, the board chair, and I'd like to welcome everyone who's with us today, however you are managing to do that, and I will now call the role of our nine trustees. Please indicate that you're here; Jimmy Broughton?

Mr. Broughton: Here.

Chairman Wilson: Ann Browning?

Committee Chair Browning: Here.

Chairman Wilson: Amy Grissom?

Acquisition Chair Grissom: Here.

Chairman Wilson: Clement Riddle; not here, are you Clement?

Mr. Riddle: Here.

Chairman Wilson: I know you're here.

Mr. Riddle: Here.

Chairman Wilson: Oh, there you are.

Mr. Riddle: Right.

Chairman Wilson: Mike Rusher?

Mr. Rusher: Here.

1 Chairman Wilson: Say again,
2 Mike.
3 Mr. Rusher: Here, here.
4 Chairman Wilson: Did you all
5 hear Mike? I didn't hear him. No; is Mike here, Will?
6 Executive Director Summer: I saw him.
7 Mr. Broughton: Yeah, I saw
8 him.
9 Executive Director Summer: Mike is present
10 and he's trying to speak. I can see his lips moving
11 and his thumb going up. There he is.
12 Chairman Wilson: Okay.
13 Mr. Rusher: I'm here. I'm
14 having technical difficulties. I apologize.
15 Chairman Wilson: There you are,
16 okay. I heard you there, Mike. All right, Mike's
17 here; Jason Walser?
18 Vice-Chair Walser: I'm here and
19 you'll see me in about three or four minutes; sorry I'm
20 out of picture.
21 Chairman Wilson: Okay, Darrel
22 Williams?
23 Mr. Williams: Here.
24 Chairman Wilson: David Womack?
25 Mr. Womack: Here.

1 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson
2 is also. That was a very exciting roll call. All
3 right, General Statute § 138A-15 mandates that the
4 chair inquire as to whether any trustee knows of any
5 conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of
6 interest with respect to matters on the agenda. If any
7 trustee knows of a conflict of interest or the
8 appearance of one, please state so at this time.

9 Committee Chair Browning: Mr. Chairman, I
10 do have one item I need to recuse myself from. It's a
11 restoration committee amendment request 1997A-076.

12 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank
13 you, Ann; so noted; any other conflicts or appearances;
14 all right, hearing none, we'll move on. I just want to
15 ask everyone to please make sure that your phones and
16 computers won't make any noise, and if you're a guest
17 joining us remotely, please mute your audio and turn
18 off your video unless you're called upon to speak. And
19 I'll now ask the trustees if there are any suggestions
20 of revisions or additions to today's agenda.

21 Committee Chair Browning: I move approval
22 of the agenda.

23 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thanks,
24 Ann; is there a second?

25 Mr. Broughton: Second.

1 Chairman Wilson: Second from
2 Jimmy; any discussion of the agenda; all right, I'll
3 call the roll. Please vote on the agenda; Jimmy
4 Broughton?

5 Mr. Broughton: Yes.

6 Chairman Wilson: Ann Browning?

7 Committee Chair Browning: Yes.

8 Chairman Wilson: Amy Grissom?

9 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Clement Riddle?

11 Mr. Riddle: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: Mike Rusher?

13 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: Jason Walser?

15 Vice-Chair Walser: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Darrel

17 Williams?

18 Mr. Williams: Yes.

19 Chairman Wilson: David Womack?

20 Mr. Womack: Yes.

21 Chairman Wilson: And John

22 Wilson's yes, also. All right, we've adopted our

23 agenda, and we'll move on to the minutes from our

24 December board meeting. Is there any discussion

25 regarding those minutes? The meeting was on December

1 10th.

2 Committee Chair Browning: I have a couple
3 of things, corrections. The first, page 13, line 23,
4 there's the words part of. I think they were intended
5 to be PARTF, so the PARTF program or grants, PARTF.

6 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

7 Committee Chair Browning: And then I have
8 three others had our comments attributed to me. And so
9 my takeaway from this is that I need to enunciate
10 better. So I'm going to be working on that, but the --
11 the first one is page 22, line 15. It says third
12 discussion. I think third should be thorough. It's
13 page 22, line 15, and two on page 30, line 21, fixes,
14 F-I-X-E-S should be fix, two words, fix is. And then
15 still on page 30, line 23, perspective changes should
16 be prospective changes.

17 Chairman Wilson: Good catches.

18 Committee Chair Browning: That's it --
19 that's it for me.

20 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thanks,
21 Ann; any more changes, questions; okay, we have a
22 motion from Ann to change on page 13, line 23, so that
23 it reads PARTF, P-A-R-T-F, the abbreviation for Parks
24 and Recreation Trust Fund; page 22, line 15, change
25 third to thorough; page 30, line 21, change fixes,

1 plural, to fix is, two words; and page 30, line 23,
2 change perspective to prospective. Did I get all those
3 right, Ann?

4 Committee Chair Browning: (Nods
5 affirmatively.)

6 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

7 Committee Chair Browning: Thank you.

8 Chairman Wilson: Thank you;
9 anything else; all right, let's vote on adopting the
10 minutes with these changes. That -- Ann, can that be a
11 motion from you?

12 Committee Chair Browning: It can.

13 Chairman Wilson: Okay, do we
14 have a second on that?

15 Mr. Womack: Second, David.

16 Chairman Wilson: David, thank
17 you; any more discussion before we vote; all right, how
18 do you vote, please, Jimmy?

19 Mr. Broughton: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

21 Committee Chair Browning: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

23 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Yes.

24 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

25 Mr. Riddle: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Mike?
2 Mr. Rusher: Yes.
3 Chairman Wilson: Jason?
4 Vice-Chair Walser: Yes.
5 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?
6 Mr. Williams: Yes.
7 Chairman Wilson: David?
8 Mr. Womack: Yes.
9 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
10 yes also. Okay, we are now at -- Will, do we have
11 Secretary Cashwell with us?

12 Executive Director Summer: I do not
13 believe yet, so perhaps we can go on and come back to
14 that section later.

15 Deputy Secretary Michael: Yeah, Will, I
16 was just going to say, I was going to let you all know
17 I texted her assistant to see if she has a sense that
18 she's going to be able to join us, and if so, when.
19 And, Will, I'll text you separately so you can
20 discreetly and appropriately weave it in when she is
21 able to, if she is.

22 Executive Director Summer: That sounds
23 good.

24 Chairman Wilson: All right,
25 let's move on to the Executive Director's update from

1 Will Summer.

2 Executive Director Summer: All right;
3 thank you, Mr. Chair; well, good morning, trustees,
4 staff, and guests; I'm glad to see you at our first
5 board meeting of 2025. This is also the first under a
6 new administration, and I'm tickled to report that our
7 division continues to enjoy leadership that supports
8 what we do. From Deputy Secretary Michael to Secretary
9 Cashwell, all the way to Governor Stein, we're really
10 fortunate to have folks that understand the value of
11 what we do for the citizens. There are a few things
12 I'd like to share with you today before we move on to
13 our business. Change and uncertainty continues to
14 impact the federal government, and I'd like to take a
15 moment to share how that does and does not affect us.
16 First, as a reminder, all of our funding originates
17 from state sources, so North Carolina Land and Water
18 Fund staff and grant funds are not directly impacted by
19 changes in the federal funding landscape. We do have a
20 few positions on the natural -- natural heritage side
21 of the shop that are funded through federal grants, but
22 for the time being, they are continuing to do their
23 work. There are, however, a substantial number of our
24 grants that have leveraged federal funds against our
25 awards, and therefore, loss of federal funding may

1 leave those projects struggling to move forward.
2 At this point, we haven't had any projects withdraw due
3 to concerns over federal funding and I would expect --
4 I wouldn't expect anything until the dust settles, but
5 when it does, we'll let you know if there are any big
6 impacts. It's still a mixed bag, with some federal
7 programs feeling more vulnerable than others, and
8 frankly, all the people I know in federal agencies get
9 their information from the news anyway, so there's not
10 much inside information to be had, so we're just going
11 to have to wait and see. At the state level, bill
12 drafting deadlines will be behind us soon and
13 legislators are busy. Thus far, there isn't anything
14 that directly impacts the North Carolina Land and Water
15 Fund. There is a Helene Disaster Recovery Bill in the
16 Senate now, and while it has some things that are
17 similar to what we do, there are no additional funds
18 for NCLWF. It's titled Part 1, so perhaps we'll see
19 something in another part later. And, of course, once
20 the budget bill is drafted, we'll keep an eye on that
21 as well, so for now, not too much directly impacting us
22 at the state level. Regarding the impacts of Hurricane
23 Helene on our program, so far, we're not aware of any
24 acquisition projects that are not viable as a result of
25 Helene, though I know that our partners working that

1 area were certainly slowed down as they focused on
2 their own recovery in their communities. We have been
3 surveying our stream restoration projects in the area,
4 and it is as you might expect. Many fared well, but
5 there were some impacts to both completed projects and
6 some changes that may affect our active projects.
7 Steve will talk a little more about that during his
8 report later. As you all know, after squeezing all the
9 gains I felt I could out of technology and efficiency,
10 I've been trying to increase our capacity to serve our
11 customers through internal and external staff. On that
12 note, I'm pleased to report that we have an open
13 posting for a real property agent through the state
14 property office, currently. The primary purpose of
15 this position is to assist us in reviewing appraisals
16 and that's a place where we can decrease our bottleneck
17 a little bit. And secondary to that, it's critical
18 that we are not spread so thin that we're all wearing
19 too many hats and have no redundancy in critical skill
20 sets internal to the Land and Water Fund. For
21 instance, we don't have a dedicated PIO or GIS
22 specialist or business officer or database manager or
23 website manager for that matter, and all too often, we
24 end up spinning plates just trying to keep things from
25 breaking internally. To that end, I'm also pleased to

1 report that we're advertising a stewardship data
2 manager and permanent stewardship specialist that will
3 both report to Justin. One of those is posted now, and
4 I expect the other to be posted very soon. While their
5 primary purpose is stewardship, they'll also help
6 alleviate some of the mapping and other needs in the
7 division. The growth of this program is a direct
8 result of this board's support and investment in the
9 stewardship of our funded projects in recent years.
10 While funding new projects is the fun and glamorous way
11 to allocate funds I, again, want to commend this board
12 for also ensuring that we properly protect the work
13 we've already done over the last 28 years. Last thing
14 before I wrap up, while I appreciate the efficiency of
15 a virtual meeting to handle some of our routine
16 business and save you all time, there's no substitute
17 for getting together in person, breaking bread, and
18 experiencing firsthand the results of the good work we
19 all do. As we have in recent years, we will meet in
20 person for our May meeting and our fall funding
21 meeting, which falls right on the September-October
22 line this year. For our May meeting, we're going to
23 meet at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, and after
24 our business meeting on May 12th, we will spend May
25 13th visiting some excellent examples of restoration

1 and land protection projects in the area and plan to
2 have dinner both nights. So please mark your calendars
3 and perhaps you could book an Airbnb for yourself the
4 weekend before and celebrate Mother's Day at the coast.
5 That's just an idea. We're finalizing the itinerary
6 now, and I'll send out more details soon. So today,
7 you'll hear reports from the restoration acquisition
8 committees and a single item from the flood risk
9 reduction program. Last reminder because it's
10 important to me that trustees be able to see one
11 another during their deliberations and not be pushed
12 off the main screen, I would ask that any guests turn
13 off their camera, excluding the secretary, deputy
14 secretary, and likewise when staff are not speaking,
15 please turn off your camera as well. With that said, I
16 will conclude my report and be happy to take any
17 questions.

18 Chairman Wilson: Thank you,
19 Will; any questions for Will; all right --

20 Mr. Womack: Yeah, John,
21 real quick question; the September-October meeting,
22 I've got on my -- the invite said Teams meeting, but
23 you're telling me now that it's going to be in person
24 in Raleigh. Is that right, Will?

25 Executive Director Summer: Yes, David; I'm

1 sorry. It's also a Teams meeting for guests that want
2 to tune in remotely, but my intention is for trustees
3 to be in person.

4 Mr. Womack: In Raleigh?

5 Executive Director Summer: Yes, sir.

6 Mr. Womack: Okay, perfect;
7 just wanted to know; thank you.

8 Executive Director Summer: Well, thank
9 you; my apologies for that not being clear; and, John,
10 Jeff has informed me that the secretary is on the call,
11 so I will give you that piece of information to do with
12 that, please.

13 Chairman Wilson: Okay, well, then
14 I'll just say I now have the pleasure of congratulating
15 and introducing my friend Pamela Cashwell, who became
16 secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural
17 and Cultural Resources in January. Prior to joining
18 the department, this -- this -- this department, Pam
19 served as secretary of the North Carolina Department of
20 Administration from 2021 through 2024. She was and
21 will always be the first American Indian woman to head
22 a cabinet department in North Carolina. And finally,
23 I'd just like to point out that Pam is a double Tar
24 Heel, having earned her undergrad and law degrees at
25 UNC Chapel Hill, so go Heels, and over to you,

1 Secretary Cashwell; welcome.

2 Secretary Cashwell: Thank you so
3 much, Mr. Chair and friend; it's great to see all of
4 you this morning. As Will said, there's nothing better
5 than being in person, but I guess this is a good second
6 alternative, and I will look forward -- I was
7 frantically trying to get the Salter Path event on my
8 calendar for May so that I can join you all then,
9 because I really like to be in person. And I'll warn
10 you, I'm a hugger, and so random people get hugged by
11 me. And so just know that if I'm in your personal
12 space in advance, I'm giving you fair warning, you
13 know, back away from me and put your hands up if I come
14 near you. I just wanted to join for a few minutes this
15 morning to introduce myself to you and primarily thank
16 you for what you do. But first of all, John gave a
17 little bit about my background. I have 30 years of
18 experience. Most of that has been in the public
19 sector, 10 years with the feds, and then I have spent
20 the last 12 years in leadership positions with state
21 government, and so at the State Ethics Commission and
22 then at the Department of Public Safety as the Chief
23 Deputy Secretary there, and then as Mr. Chair noted,
24 for the last four years was Secretary at the Department
25 of Administration. And so while I don't profess to

1 have all of the expertise in all of the things that we
2 do here at the Department of Natural and Cultural
3 Resources, I do feel very confident about my ability to
4 run a state agency, to develop a budget, to look at
5 systems like HR and our IT systems, to just try to
6 really analyze whether we are operating as efficiently
7 as we can. I've been -- I've spent this first two
8 months really, more than anything, in addition to
9 running across the street to the legislature to
10 introduce myself to them and get ready for my
11 confirmation hearing, spent a lot of time doing that,
12 really just digging into the budget here, our HR
13 process, how long it takes us to hire in this
14 department, which I can tell you already is too long.
15 And looking at our, you know, really looking at the
16 budget carefully in light of the budget forecast for
17 this year, we know that we're not likely to get any
18 increases in this department. I mean, frankly, that's
19 -- that's the hard truth, is that we're not likely to
20 get really any increases. At this point, I'm hoping to
21 hold stable actually, with maybe, there are a few
22 places that we're going to push really hard for some
23 increases, and frankly, one of those is that I know our
24 folks are not getting paid what they need to get paid.
25 This department is among the lowest-paid staff in state

1 government, and that is not a good thing. And in a
2 climate where it's already hard to fill positions, that
3 just makes it even harder. So know that that's how I'm
4 spending my time right now, largely, is just really
5 digging into our organization. And, you know, the
6 budget was due -- I started on January 5th, our budget
7 was due to the -- to OSBM two weeks after I got here,
8 so, you know, a lot of like mad scramble on that at the
9 outset. And then I'm also, of course, trying to meet
10 our staff, and I really look forward to getting through
11 the confirmation process so I can get out across the
12 state and meet the great folks who work for DNCR. And
13 I will tell you, you all may already know this, the
14 thing that I already love about this department, let me
15 be clear, I sought this position, like, I have coveted
16 this position for many years, as I've sat in cabinet
17 meetings and heard the secretary of DNCR talk about all
18 the great and fun things that impact North Carolina
19 and, you know, bringing land into state parks and
20 natural areas and wonderful art exhibits and saving
21 various endangered species, like having those
22 announcements and then when you follow that and you're
23 a Department of Public Safety leader where something,
24 you know, awful has happened over the weekend or at DOA
25 where the announcement is, you know, we're raising fees

1 on the state motor fleet or it's something about
2 procurement, you know, kind of really important but
3 mundane in comparison to what the Secretary of DNCR is
4 announcing. You know, we're having a naming contest
5 for some polar bears at the zoo, like everybody who
6 sits next to the DNCR Secretary is like, I want that
7 job. And so I feel very blessed and fortunate to be in
8 this role. And I named those things because they're
9 the fun parts of the job, but obviously, there's so
10 much hard work to be done as well, so thank you all for
11 what you do; thank you, thank you, thank you for what
12 you do. You're not getting paid for your time with us.
13 I know that. And I know that it is a gift to the
14 state, the service that you provide. And so know that
15 that time and work and energy is really, really
16 appreciated. We cannot do what we do without people
17 like you giving their time, talent, and often treasure
18 to help support our efforts. So I really appreciate
19 the time that you all spend with us and all the work
20 that you do when you're not with us. And so I look
21 forward to meeting you. I certainly hope to be there
22 in May in Salter Path and look forward to the next four
23 years together. And I, you know -- some of the things
24 -- Will, I'll tell you, my antennas were up with some
25 of your report, and I was like, whoa; wait a minute; we

1 got to get some -- we got to look at that and get some
2 support in for Will on some of those things, so we'll
3 be chatting about some of that. That is -- that is my
4 main goal here is to really support the divisions in
5 this agency to do their job in the best way possible,
6 to serve North Carolina in the best way possible for us
7 to utilize taxpayer dollars in the most effective and
8 efficient way. I feel very strongly about that
9 responsibility to serve well, so thank you all, and
10 thank you for letting me take a little bit of time, Mr.
11 Chair, to introduce myself. I look very forward to
12 working with you all.

13 Chairman Wilson: Thank you very
14 much, Secretary Cashwell; any questions for the
15 Secretary or comments or -- okay, well, thank you so
16 much for being here, and we look forward to seeing you
17 in person in Salter Path, and hopefully, Jeff Michael
18 can be there as well. All right, we will now move on
19 to the business section of our agenda, and we'll start
20 out with the restoration innovative stormwater and
21 planning committee, and I'll hand it over to Chair Ann
22 Browning.

23 Committee Chair Browning: All right,
24 thank you, John; our committee met on February 11th.
25 We received a good report and discussed update on

1 active projects and Helene impacts, and then we
2 considered two items that we bring to you today, both
3 of which were unanimous recommendations from our
4 committee. So I'll just turn it over to Steve and let
5 him take us through those, and Justin.

6 Mr. Bevington: All right,
7 thank you, Madam Chair; I'm going to take us through
8 two items. The first one is just an information item,
9 the second one an action item, and then Justin will
10 describe the second action item after that. Let me
11 share my screen here, be right with you. So this item
12 is a slight update from what the committee saw, make
13 sure people can see my full screen. On February 11th,
14 as -- obviously the state is dealing with the recovery
15 of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina. Staff
16 had identified 89 sites that we thought may have
17 received damage, and we're working with our partners to
18 accurately describe the conditions we find at
19 restoration sites, either active ones or recently
20 completed sites, or vulnerable sites throughout that
21 portion of the state. And at the time on February
22 11th, we reported the committee to Madam Chair and all
23 on 54 sites, I believe, or 56 sites. We now have
24 information on 62 I'd like to present today.
25 Basically, it breaks down, and these are all evaluated

1 partially by our own great staff getting out, the field
2 representatives get out some of these sites, but
3 primarily this is from our partners reporting what they
4 have seen. I think it's important to note that we're
5 still collecting this information and hope to have
6 further information, maybe in May, a really good handle
7 on what's out there. Damien continues to remind me
8 that, of course, the most damaged sites are probably
9 the ones we'll hear from last. But the bottom line is
10 of these 62 sites we have information now on, we
11 believe about 11 of those sites, or 18 percent have
12 received major impacts, and I'll give you quick
13 examples in just a second about what we mean by major
14 impacts. 20 sites have reported self-reported mostly
15 moderate impacts; 22 sites have minor impacts; and nine
16 sites really have no visible effects, believe it or
17 not, even though they received very high waters, and I
18 was very pleased about that. Let me just give you a
19 little sense, and feel free to interrupt if you wish.
20 The first is the Bakersfield area, severe damage done
21 to a recently completed project. I'm just going to
22 flip to the next slide to show you sort of the before
23 scene. The plantings you could -- probably difficult
24 to see, but there are live stakes, small pieces of
25 material put into the bank here that was recently

1 rebuilt and graded back that given a year or two would
2 have been much more robust, but it got caught in a
3 vulnerable situation where these sticks essentially had
4 not yet grown roots and this, you know, blank cover of
5 grass really had to provide a very limited restoration,
6 long-term protection. You can see some structures here
7 in place, and this isn't exactly the same spot, but
8 it's within 100 yards of it; this kind of severe damage
9 and a greenway completely removed at this site as well.
10 So that's sort of what we see with major damage.
11 Moderate damage is where the stream is still in its
12 original course, but there's major sediment debris,
13 loss of trees, and you can see in this case here on the
14 south fork of the New River a new channel being cut
15 right through a bar, through a point bar. My sense is
16 that kind of damage, there's a debate of what to do.
17 It may need to be repaired. You may have to let nature
18 take its course and have some repairs on that, but --
19 but serious erosion, serious damage to vegetation, but
20 the stream's still in its original general
21 configuration. This is sort of an example of light
22 impacts. It doesn't look very light in some ways, but
23 you can see the structure's recently put in place, the
24 toe roots, the toe wads, and the branch work that's put
25 on in the ground to help resist erosion are still in

1 place, but the real damage here is so much sediment was
2 brought in and dumped on the floodplain that it
3 essentially killed the plantings that were done and
4 it'll have to be replanted on the mouth of Hardin
5 Creek, and a New River -- again another New River
6 project. And this is a similar situation. I wanted to
7 point this one out for the town of Morganton just
8 because we have some numbers in, and Chelsea visited
9 this site. Again, just believe it or not, we're
10 considering this just a minor impact really, because
11 again sediment was put in. There were a few spots
12 where the channel actually avulsed a little bit and
13 eroded heavily, but essentially up to 18 inches of
14 sediment was placed on top of newly planted work. What
15 I think is amazing was this stuff was just sitting
16 there this exposed and I think this broad floodplain
17 really helped preserve this during huge flood waters.
18 The town of Morganton reported they think this project,
19 even its current state, it's two phases there protected
20 homes that this new parkland, well, this newly graded
21 parkland protected neighboring homes by holding water
22 back and then looking for further opportunities to
23 expand this work. But they, in their own park system,
24 experienced 16 million dollars' worth of damage they
25 estimate at this point, and on this site luckily, it

1 was only \$120,000.00 they have to do to sort of clean
2 this up and replant it, but they do feel -- they're
3 sort of it's out of pocket. We did not have repair
4 funds to offer them. Other partners, cooperating
5 partners don't have extra funds. Everyone's
6 scrambling, so they're hoping to receive 40 or more
7 million dollars city-wide from FEMA. If that doesn't
8 come through, I don't know how they're going to really
9 recover obviously, but they will, and the example that
10 is here is \$120,000.00. They've already allocated that
11 begun this work to restore -- to bring this up to its
12 full restoration potential, recognizing how important
13 it is to neighboring communities as a flood water
14 protection and as a natural resource, really fantastic
15 example. And I wanted to throw in one of the nine
16 sites here where, you know, even in a case where
17 there's no mature vegetation, some of these projects
18 survived. You have extensive floodplains here, so the
19 water, once it really got out of its banks, essentially
20 became a huge lake. There was evidence of heavy water
21 movement and deep waters, but essentially no damage to
22 the channel of this project even though it was just
23 completed within the last year. So, Madam Chair, I'm
24 happy to answer any questions about this. I can go
25 back to slides if people want, but I think -- let me

1 flip back to this very quickly. Again, the hurricane
2 had a major impact, and communities are struggling with
3 all parts of the work, including recently completed
4 restoration if they have it in their neighborhood.
5 That's our information item, Madam Chair.

6 Committee Chair Browning: Thanks, Steve;
7 anybody have questions about that; it's really helpful
8 to hear from our partners and get more and more
9 information about all the damage they sustained.

10 Chairman Wilson: I have a
11 question.

12 Mr. Bevington: Very good.

13 Chairman Wilson: Steve, can you
14 show the slide of the Morganton project again?

15 Mr. Bevington: Sure.

16 Chairman Wilson: And did I hear
17 you correctly that you said that the city felt like the
18 grading helped mitigate flooding? Can you just explain
19 briefly if I heard that correctly and explain briefly
20 what that means? I can't remember that particular 2022
21 project.

22 Mr. Bevington: Let's get to
23 the slide.

24 Chairman Wilson: It was a
25 restoration -- it was a restoration project, right, not

1 a flood --

2 Mr. Bevington: It's a -- it's
3 a restoration project. That's correct. Let's see.
4 For some reason, I'm having trouble getting to the
5 right slide. I'll be there in a second. There we are.
6 So this is a city park and maybe Chelsea can provide an
7 extra explanation if you want. Bethel Park in the
8 town, it's a public access area. They have its regular
9 features. They had a very incised channel through the
10 middle of it. It was a sort of a narrow, not quite a
11 gully, but a very narrow channel which had limited
12 access to its flood point. So in other words, the
13 storm flow would be contained in a deep and sort of
14 steep banked channel, and by the time it got out on its
15 floodplain, it was too late. It would already have so
16 much energy in that channel it would be sort of like a
17 fire hose, and unfortunately, we saw a lot of cases of
18 this, especially below bridges and culverts across
19 western North Carolina, where the velocity of the water
20 is damaging. It comes out of the system at high rates
21 of speed, moving all sorts of materials, literally
22 trees and rocks moving with the water downstream and in
23 sort of debris torrents. So they felt that this
24 system, how they had sloped the banks back, provided a
25 floodplain at the lower level to allow the river to get

1 out of its banks earlier and sort of fill as a -- more
2 like a temporary flood storage pond, briefly, for four
3 or five hours or a few days as the case may be. That's
4 sort of where this saving, they believe, came from. I
5 haven't been there myself. I know Chelsea's been out
6 there, but just as sort of a screening visit. It's one
7 option I had was if the city was interested to sort of
8 describe further how important they feel it was for
9 their community to have them send us some sort of
10 report or maybe even show up at one of our meetings and
11 tell you about it. So this was a case study that I
12 thought could be developed. At this point, I have to
13 say it's more or less anecdotal, but it's really --
14 it's allowing the floodplain to be accessed, and it's
15 hard to see in these pictures, but a lot of this depth
16 between the water surface and where you see a flat
17 muddy surface off to the right of the stream, a lot of
18 that was filled in. It was actually lower to
19 accommodate even more water, but so much sediment came
20 down the stream. It drops sand and gravels on the
21 floodplain, and the city is actually -- part of their
22 \$120,000.00 estimate is actually remove a little bit of
23 that sediment, put it to other parts of town that need
24 soil, and allow the floodplain again to accommodate
25 floodwaters. And again we always do provide the

1 natural ecological functions of a floodplain at the
2 same time.

3 Chairman Wilson: And a project
4 like this in our restoration rating system is -- is
5 scored, this -- this is a question, not -- not a
6 statement of fact, so help me with this, is scored
7 based on, you know, length of the stream and -- and the
8 degree to which we have restoration, but how much in
9 our current rating system, if any, would a project like
10 this also benefit from reconnecting it to its historic
11 floodplain; any or -- or is it just length of -- length
12 of stream and how much we're restoring or whatever
13 level of restoration is being done?

14 Mr. Bevington: That's a great
15 question. It's still an evolving process for us, and
16 we brought some of those to the restoration committee
17 before, some of those thoughts, and right now with this
18 project, you're exactly right. It's just length,
19 unfortunately, that we take into account to give it
20 sort of its uplift score. People have a number of
21 different ways of describing that with different models
22 and things, but length is the key factor. It also
23 relates to price per length, but we do, in some cases,
24 and actually, I can sort of steal out the next slide;
25 we have a very large floodplain restoration project,

1 where the floodplain that was being approved was so big
2 and so wide compared to the length, we do take the
3 perimeter of some of those projects especially if they
4 put wetlands on the project, take the perimeter of the
5 wetland and half that distance basically to some sort
6 of a mathematical averaging idea, add that to the
7 project length quote/unquote to give us a slightly
8 better score for projects that do go wide. We now
9 encourage people to even look at the 500-year
10 floodplain to get a kind of a uplift score, and really
11 then we're almost we're not quite in the acquisition
12 world, but we're starting to get very large parcels as
13 opposed to little ribbons of difficult to steward
14 projects. So I think our field reps have been
15 fantastic about sort of promoting those, and we have
16 started to see those where the whole floodplain is
17 involved in a project. I'll just say the last thing
18 about the score that does benefit a wide project is
19 since we don't buy any land, don't -- don't pay for
20 any acquisition in the restoration program, it's all
21 match, so if they give us not 50 feet, but the whole
22 floodplain 300-400 feet of property, at least their
23 match goes up, and that's very helpful to some
24 applicants in some cases; doesn't help state parks
25 and people like that who have already secured the land

1 for future use, but that's -- that's a second benefit,
2 so --

3 Mr. Hearne: Steve?

4 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, go ahead.

5 Mr. Hearne: If I can steal
6 the screen for one second, if you all can kind of --

7 Mr. Bevington: Thank you,
8 Damien; yes, please.

9 Mr. Hearne: -- burn your
10 eyes on that picture of the stream, and its relative
11 stream bed compared to the side. I'm going to show you
12 a picture that's of the same reach, but a little bit
13 from the other direction. You can imagine in a flood
14 situation that water is moving straight down and not
15 accessing that floodplain and taking a lot of that
16 sediment with it. It was a pretty extreme -- so I was
17 a field rep on phase one. Chelsea's also been there,
18 but this happens to be the picture of that general
19 site, and I think depending on the uplift calculations
20 that the applicants do if they do an SQT, which is our
21 more holistic uplift model, the fact that the hydrology
22 and the connections to the floodplain are more natural
23 will get them more points in that scoring system, but
24 they may have used our more -- more historic and
25 perfectly valid process of how much sediment is being

1 lost to get the same score, because obviously, you can
2 see there, there's a lot of what they call mass wasting
3 because of that speed of that water and how deep that
4 is, but I just thought I'd share that picture since
5 it's of the generally the same location and it really
6 gives you a sense of why flood waters would be exiting
7 that property before and not exiting at the same speed
8 with the picture that Steve showed you.

9 Chairman Wilson: And there are
10 countless, I know you know this Damien and Steve, but
11 there are just countless streams in that part of the
12 state that look -- that looked exactly like that before
13 Helene and now just, oh God, just awful, so I think --
14 I think those types of projects like the Morganton
15 project are really, really important and that's a
16 poster child for success in -- in this case; thank you.

17 Mr. Bevington: Yeah; yeah,
18 thank you, Damien; that was excellent. And I think I
19 agree with everything I've heard so far on these
20 questions. The town is interested in telling what they
21 think was a success. You know, again, it's going to
22 cost them 120,000 extra dollars to get it back to where
23 they want it, but they're very happy so maybe I can get
24 a nice, you know, kind of further update and a happy
25 tale of recovery somewhere down the road to present to

1 you all or -- or maybe even better yet have Chelsea
2 present; any other questions about that information
3 item? I will -- I will -- just last thing I have to
4 say is there are so much damage in other sites not near
5 us the field reps have been fantastic about sort of
6 helping me understand the true impact of the natural
7 resources received. Of course, we hear about the
8 communities, but also natural resources in western
9 North Carolina and all field reps, but especially
10 Damien and Chelsea have been out and about and
11 contacted our partners and I think with a sympathetic
12 ear but, you know, we're not able to sort of say, hey,
13 guess what; we have funds available for your repairs to
14 this so there's some partners who are really scrambling
15 to decide -- they're still a decision phase of how
16 they're going to recover as communities all across
17 western North Carolina.

18 Committee Chair Browning: Other questions
19 for Steve before we go into our other two items?

20 Mr. Bevington: All right, I'll
21 move on to another and actually this has a nice similar
22 width of project story, but it starts -- I'll start
23 with the generic, and we'll see this twice in a funny
24 fate. We have the same request coming both from flood
25 risk reduction projects we'll hear later today, and

1 this one is through the restoration committee because
2 it is relative to a restoration project. But as you --
3 I think most of you all know, there is a -- in our
4 enabling legislation a requirement, and it's I think
5 it's a good one; it's intended to keep people from sort
6 of banking money to get an award and sitting on for a
7 few years not doing too much and finally getting around
8 to it to keep the currency of projects alive. And we
9 lean on this a lot that any project that involves
10 construction is required to enter into a construction
11 contract with one year after the contract is executed,
12 and further, that requirement can only be amended by
13 you the board of trustees. So the staff has many
14 levels of operation in which we can help work with
15 applicants, but the state legislature did ask
16 specifically the projects that don't meet that
17 condition or are in danger of not meeting this
18 condition come back to you for an extension of that
19 deadline again to enter in a construction contract with
20 one year. The case in point is from Conserving
21 Carolina. It's a Deerwoode Floodplain project, which
22 again, I'm happy to have come up because it's very
23 relevant to John's question about how -- what the
24 benefits are in terms of evaluating a project, as well
25 as the natural resource benefits wide project. I'll

1 show you in a minute. But this is a project it is out
2 west. It's a project has been delayed from permitting
3 they have a lot of wetlands out -- potential wetlands
4 on the site and they're improving some wetlands so the
5 401 certification process for wetlands has been the
6 part that's been slowing this project down,
7 understandably, under the shadow of Hurricane Helene.
8 So not only are they having trouble getting some
9 contractors on the site, they also had some permitting
10 slowdowns because of that. So they are requesting that
11 this -- their request they'd be allowed to have to the
12 end of this calendar year to enter into a construction
13 contract. I -- just to show you briefly this fantastic
14 project, the gray band around the bottom of this
15 colorful picture is the French Broad River, and I think
16 you -- many of you were a site visit on a similar
17 project where we saw muskellunge sloughs being built to
18 allow hopefully to encourage muskies to reproduce
19 naturally along the French Broad River again. But this
20 site involves many different activities sort of our
21 classic riparian area in green. That's a little bit of
22 stream restoration around the edges where the French
23 Broad is gnawed into poorly maintained riparian
24 buffers. We'll repair those with natural riparian
25 vegetation, but also extensive wetland enhancement a

1 little bit of upland work sort of pollinator garden
2 sort of stuff. And -- but mostly -- and as you see,
3 they highlight their a floodplain forest in the brown,
4 15 acres which is the kind of thing that's absolutely,
5 you know, kind of one of the perfect sponges; the
6 natural places for water reside during a flood briefly
7 make its way slowly off the site instead of dashing
8 downstream to Asheville or some other community
9 downstream. I can go further into the project, but
10 since it was a highly successful project, I do have to
11 point out one important thing about the applicant.
12 They have two of these projects going on at the moment.
13 The other one was not delayed. They were able to get
14 through the permitting process a little faster and
15 they're on time. Staff feels that this applicant
16 should have no difficulty completing the project in a
17 reasonable time frame, and so we do support approving
18 the extension. That was the committee's unanimous
19 recommendation as well to approve the request to
20 Conserving Carolina for this project 22-411 to enter --
21 to extend the deadline to enter in a construction
22 contract to December 1st of 2025. I'd be happy to ask
23 any -- answer any questions about the project, although
24 Damien may have to bring us some expertise and slides
25 again if you want to know much more about it. But

1 that's the -- a motion -- a motion from the committee
2 in front of you.

3 Mr. Williams: Steve, what was
4 the amount of the award?

5 Mr. Bevington: The amount of
6 the award?

7 Mr. Williams: Yeah.

8 Mr. Bevington: I'm going to
9 have to go check that really quick. Damien will
10 probably beat me to it, but I'll go look right now. I
11 do not know off the top of my head.

12 Mr. Williams: Just curious.

13 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, I'll
14 answer that in one second. I'm on the other screen;
15 any other questions while we look that up? Well,
16 that's not going to help.

17 Acquisition Chair Grissom: I guess I just
18 have one -- one question as well. I saw on the map
19 that floodplain area with invasive control. Do we help
20 fund some of that or how do partners manage invasive
21 plant management, because I just feel like that's going
22 to become a huge issue particularly in mountains.

23 Mr. Bevington: Yeah.

24 Acquisition Chair Grissom: And I, you
25 know, not to be too negative about it --

1 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, the
2 only --

3 Acquisition Chair Grissom: -- but with all
4 of --

5 Mr. Bevington: Yeah.

6 Committee Chair Browning: -- that
7 disturbance, this is going to be an ongoing issue for
8 our natural areas.

9 Mr. Bevington: Exactly; we have been
10 very shy about participating any project that's primary
11 focus is -- is invasive species control, because it's a
12 huge task across the state and an important one, but
13 there are other agencies, including parks and other
14 agencies, that can better handle that and it's not
15 really directly in our charter. Although, of course,
16 it would help natural resources, it's sort of off to
17 the side. The only exception was that we did one where
18 we did control invasive weeds into -- a hydrilla
19 getting into Lake Waccamaw. That was sort of the one-
20 off exception. The board discussed it extensively, and
21 Parks really felt like it was an important thing to do,
22 so in this case, I'm almost sure that's a match element
23 and a stewardship element that comes on after our
24 project. We're more focused on the wetlands and the
25 flood retention as one of our purposes does allow --

1 and of course, the riparian buffers. That's a great
2 question. Our executive director is quite alert to
3 that, knowing how many millions of dollars could be
4 siphoned off into that kind of activity in a -- in a
5 heartbeat. So with that, I'm going to stop sharing for
6 a second, so I could open a file without confusing
7 myself.

8 Mr. Hearne: It's \$552,000
9 award.

10 Mr. Bevington: Thank you,
11 Damien.

12 Mr. Williams: Okay.

13 Mr. Bevington: Any other
14 questions; it's the kind of project we've really been
15 encouraging. I mean, for such a large project, that's
16 a pretty modest award, and Conserving Carolina does a
17 great job with these things. It's moving forward, just
18 happens to be a little bit slow on this one, partly
19 again because of the hurricane and then some
20 complications of permitting the wetland changes on the
21 site.

22 Mr. Williams: Steve, I do
23 have another question. It's kind of unrelated --

24 Mr. Bevington: Okay.

25 Mr. Williams: It's unrelated

1 to this project, but it raises a question, and this may
2 have been mentioned earlier. But I'm curious to know
3 other projects that were awarded already and was in
4 progress, and then Helene may have come and damaged the
5 areas that may require some redesign and -- and
6 possibly extensions. So any -- any status on -- do we
7 know what's going on with those, if any?

8 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, we don't
9 have a summary to give you.

10 Mr. Williams: Okay.

11 Mr. Bevington: We have been
12 approached -- as a matter of fact, next week, I've got
13 another meeting with Phil Russ who's been actively
14 engaged with a number of partners who do have
15 shortfalls. There's one project that I think may just
16 end up being withdrawn. With some of those major
17 damages to projects, it's almost like a redo, and
18 there's no money because they spent the money. And you
19 know, do they apply again, or do they let nature take
20 its course? I mean, the -- my assessment of stream
21 restoration is if you give it 50 or 60 years, nature --
22 and leave it alone, nature will do it itself. We can't
23 always wait that long because we're impatient and
24 because there's going to be so much damage to other
25 nearby properties in the meantime. But, Damien, if you

1 feel like you want to jump in, but there's -- there are
2 several projects that are in jeopardy. There's ones
3 that are half done. I think -- I think in terms of the
4 hundreds of millions of dollars of damage that's out
5 there, I sort of feel like restoration got away with it
6 better than average. But that's still a huge price tag
7 that a number of people are going to have to struggle
8 with and communities that have resources they have to
9 put towards community improvements and that they
10 weren't expecting to and may not want to be able to
11 engage. So we haven't had any exact withdrawals yet or
12 requests for modifications. I think in the March 1
13 deadline we may see a few applications coming in. But
14 we have had -- we have had applicants come in and say,
15 look, we're \$200,000.00 short now; what should we do,
16 and we've sent them back to -- you know, our first
17 answer is, well, it's a competitive grant price --
18 process. We've already allocated 100 percent of our
19 awards available. We really wish we could help you.
20 We're trying to be as flexible as possible in terms of
21 deadlines and in terms of project reports. Don't worry
22 about progress report this month. Just go ahead and do
23 more important work. But we're having to tell them
24 their first choice is go back to your other partners
25 and see if your matches can come up, and if FEMA or

1 somebody steps up, that might be an easy job. It may
2 also -- they may really frankly be stuck. I don't
3 know. Damien, do you want to put your own --

4 Mr. Hearne: Yeah.

5 Mr. Bevington: -- thoughts on
6 that.

7 Mr. Hearne: Well, I'll just
8 add so we looked at all of our open projects and
9 recently closed projects that were in the impacted
10 counties, then reached out to the applicants, and then
11 we -- and also did on-the-ground surveys to the ones
12 that we hadn't heard from or needed to look at along
13 with them. So we have a pretty good sense of recently
14 completed or in the middle of construction projects
15 that were impacted. And there were a bunch that just
16 in, like, the French Broad River and slowly came up and
17 slowly went down. It's the areas that were kind of in
18 the headwater areas, a couple in Ashe and Watauga
19 County, that had higher impacts that we're working with
20 the applicants on. There's a couple that are permitted
21 and funded and ready to go. I just heard about one
22 this morning where the landowner on one side that was
23 in great agreement before the storm is a corporation is
24 now really nervous, and they're not so sure, and
25 they're trying to work it out, and they're doing

1 negotiations. And it may or may not be successful. We
2 hope it will be, but that's kind of why every year we
3 -- we have that -- we just know that even after the
4 funding meeting, we can get projects that withdraw, and
5 then we have a provisional list for that reason to
6 handle those. And we're also -- as I'm telling
7 applicants, we just don't know what -- what we'll have
8 as far as special repair or special focus money on
9 those, but the kind of sweet spot that I've been
10 focusing on when we've surveyed projects is, is there
11 something left to be repaired? Is there an investment
12 that we put in that's still there that we can salvage
13 versus 100 percent loss starting over? It's a totally
14 different project than it was originally. And luckily,
15 there's not as many of those as there could be.
16 There's a couple of projects that were completed 10
17 years ago, had good vegetation, but just got such
18 massive amount of water that they just resorted
19 themselves in the way that, you know, streams do. But
20 we've been really focusing on those projects that are
21 open and have good -- a pretty good handle on those.

22 Mr. Williams: Okay, yeah,
23 thanks.

24 Mr. Bevington: I just put this
25 up for your convenience, so happy to go back to any of

1 the slides and, Damien, sorry, I didn't mean to replace
2 your face with this slide, just in case it's useful to
3 the committee -- or to the board.

4 Chairman Wilson: So, Ann and
5 Steve, anything more from the committee before we
6 discuss and vote on this recommendation from the
7 committee?

8 Committee Chair Browning: Nope, we just
9 fully supported the staff recommendation, so bring it
10 to the board.

11 Chairman Wilson: Okay, so this comes
12 to us from the committee as a motion, and so we're
13 going to move straight into voting on it unless there
14 is any further discussion from the trustees. If so,
15 now's the time. All right, hearing none, let me know
16 how you vote on this motion from the committee to
17 approve the request from Conserving Carolina to extend
18 project 2022-411 until December 31st, 2025. How do you
19 vote, please, Jimmy?

20 Mr. Broughton: Yes.

21 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

22 Committee Chair Browning: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

24 Committee Chair Grissom: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

1 Mr. Riddle: Yes.
2 Chairman Wilson: Mike?
3 Mr. Rusher: Yes.
4 Chairman Wilson: Jason?
5 Vice-Chair Walser: Yes.
6 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?
7 Mr. Williams: Yes.
8 Chairman Wilson: David?
9 Mr. Womack: Yes.
10 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
11 yes also. And Ann, is the next one the one that you
12 recused on?

13 Committee Chair Browning: It is.

14 Chairman Wilson: Okay, and did I
15 run this in the committee?

16 Committee Chair Browning: You did.

17 Chairman Wilson: Would you like
18 me to? Okay, all right, of course I remember. Okay,
19 this is agenda item 1c, the request from NCDOT for a
20 conservation easement amendment, and I will hand this
21 off to Justin, please, to present it to the board.

22 Stewardship Manager Mercer: Thank you;
23 we'll -- we'll jump right in here. Agenda item 1c
24 1997A-076 Bacchert and Walton conservation agreement
25 amendment request; this will be a very abbreviated

1 version of what was presented to the restoration
2 committee. Please feel free to stop if you have any
3 questions as we go through here. Just starting with a
4 little bit of background, in 1997, a grant in the
5 amount of \$394,103.00 was awarded by the Land and Water
6 Fund to NC State University to prevent water quality
7 degradation through land acquisition and restoration of
8 degraded streams. It's worth pointing out here that
9 1997 was the very first year that we awarded grants for
10 these types of projects, and many of our conventions
11 and our processes were not yet in place, and so that's
12 why we have a 076 project number that has gone through
13 the restoration committee to review the initial
14 amendment request. In 2000, a conservation easement
15 was acquired on 2.011 acres along Cove Creek to
16 facilitate stream restoration activities. So this
17 easement very much was related to restoration work. In
18 2024, Blue Ridge Conservancy was contracted to monitor
19 these easements annually. One of those easements that
20 did not previously have funding or a dedicated monitor
21 and so Blue Ridge stepped in for us and agreed to
22 monitor annually for us. Unfortunately, they were
23 unable to make it out to the site before Hurricane
24 Helene came through, and flooding associated with the
25 storm washed out the adjacent bridge on Isaacs Branch

1 Road. Jumping forward into early this year, DOT has
2 requested an amendment to facilitate the replacement of
3 the bridge over Cove Creek. Just to get you oriented a
4 little bit here, our project location is circled in
5 blue, just to the northwest of Boone almost due north
6 of the Valle Crucis area here as well. DOT is
7 requesting amendment of the conservation easement to
8 release up to two-tenths of an acre to facilitate
9 replacement of the bridge on Isaacs Branch Road. Just
10 jumping over here to the map quickly, you can see our
11 easement boundary shown in red, the proposed release
12 area in this dashed yellow box; that does encompass a
13 -- an emergency temporary bridge that was installed as
14 a workaround for the washed out bridge here adjacent to
15 the -- to the easement boundary. So this amendment
16 request would facilitate the removal of the temporary
17 bridge that was installed as an emergency measure and
18 construction of a new permanent bridge largely within
19 the same footprint of the previous bridge, potentially
20 with a little bit of -- of expanded footprint.
21 Unfortunately, the exact footprint is unknown at this
22 point due to the nature of this project; it being an
23 emergency, it being done quickly, DOT doesn't have
24 final construction drawings yet. But they are
25 confident that the impact area will not exceed two-

1 tenths of an acre on the Land and Water Fund easement.
2 So moving into our conservation agreement amendment
3 guidelines and practices, and just as a reminder, I
4 typically get a little bit out of order here jumping
5 into section 4 to talk about offset of conservation
6 impacts. With these public works type projects, our
7 guidelines state that the Land and Water Fund may elect
8 to be reimbursed at minimum the current fair market
9 value as determined by appraisal tax value and/or Land
10 and Water Fund staff or a prorated amount of the
11 investment at the time of the grant contract, whichever
12 is greater. This is a process with DOT that staff
13 usually works through, with DOT giving us an initial
14 number for what they believe the property is worth.
15 And then staff checks that against tax value and other
16 documentation that we have to ensure that the Land and
17 Water Fund is receiving the amount that we are due. So
18 in this case, DOT's expectation is that monetary offset
19 will be required at a one-to-one ratio consistent with
20 our guidelines and practices. Moving back now into
21 other sections of our guidelines and practices, section
22 two major amendments, it's worth noting that at two-
23 tenths of an acre, this is a very small level of impact
24 and would fall under a minor amendment delegated to
25 staff-level decision were it not for the fact that the

1 entire easement itself is just over two acres. So
2 because our area of impact exceeds 5 percent of the
3 total easement area, this does get elevated to a major
4 amendment request. And in that section, it states that
5 amendment requests to accommodate public works projects
6 that are not covered in section 1 may be approved by
7 the Land and Water Fund board. And so there are other
8 factors that we consider. We look at the impacts to
9 value. We put it through the full review process, but
10 ultimately, our guidelines tell us that the board can
11 consider approving this request if you so choose. If
12 there are any more details sworn on that process, I'm
13 happy to provide them, but that does bring us here to
14 the committee recommendation from the restoration
15 committee to authorize NCDOT and the state property
16 office to release up to two-tenths of an acre of the
17 2.011 acre conservation easement to facilitate the
18 rebuilding of the bridge on Isaacs Branch Road. The
19 Land and Water Fund shall be compensated for the
20 easement value of the entire area of impact as
21 determined by NCDOT appraisal and confirmed by Land and
22 Water Fund staff. With that, I will turn it back to
23 the chair for any further discussion.

24 Chairman Wilson: All right,
25 thanks, Justin; discussion with Justin about this?

1 back a number. From there, it's just a matter of me
2 checking to make sure that number meets our minimum
3 requirements and ensures that we are not losing out on
4 -- on the investment that -- that we've made here
5 previously. So it'll -- it'll be relatively -- go
6 quickly. We'll know that, I imagine, within -- within
7 a matter of weeks after -- after I let DOT know that
8 the board has made a decision here.

9 Mr. Broughton: Thanks.

10 Chairman Wilson: Any more
11 questions, discussion with Justin before we vote; this
12 was a recommendation from the committee coming to us as
13 a motion to authorize NCDOT and the State Property
14 Office to release up to two-tenths of an acre of the
15 2.011 acre conservation easement to facilitate the
16 rebuilding of the bridge on Isaacs Branch Road. NCLWF
17 will be compensated for the easement value of the
18 entire area. The impact is determined by the DOT
19 appraisal and confirmed by our staff. And I'll also
20 point out that, as a major amendment, this has to be
21 affirmed by two-thirds vote of our board in order to
22 pass, and Ann will be recusing, so there will be eight
23 of us voting instead of nine. Any more discussion on
24 this before we vote; okay, please let me know how you
25 vote; Jimmy?

1 Mr. Broughton: Yes.

2 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

3 Committee Chair Grissom: Yes.

4 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

5 Mr. Riddle: Yes.

6 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

7 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

8 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

9 Vice-Chair Walser: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?

11 Mr. Williams: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: David?

13 Mr. Womack: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
15 yes also. And I believe that concludes the
16 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
17 Committee actions. Is that right, Ann and Steve?

18 Committee Chair Browning: That's right.
19 Steve, do you have anything else?

20 Mr. Bevington: That's it;
21 thank you very much all, appreciate your guidance and
22 advice; thank you.

23 Chairman Wilson: Thank you; okay,
24 before we move on to our second business item on our
25 agenda, I will tell you all that as I was reaching for

1 my phone to text Will to say, did I skip over the
2 public comment section, there was a text from him
3 saying, hey, you skipped over the public comment
4 section. He said it in a much nicer way. So let me
5 now ask -- and before I open the floor for public
6 comments, I'd like to remind our guests that NCLWF
7 guidelines and procedures manual states that comments
8 should be limited to subjects of business following
9 within the jurisdiction of the Land and Water Fund. We
10 welcome public comments on general issues, but comments
11 are not allowed on individual projects before the Land
12 and Water Fund for funding during the regular meeting.
13 Comments will be limited to three minutes per person.
14 And with that, would any member of the public like to
15 make a comment? And, Will, have you heard from anyone
16 that they might like to make a comment?

17 Executive Director Summer: Mr. Chair,
18 there is nobody here in person at the meeting space,
19 and while we do have a few members of the public on the
20 call, I do not see them raising their hand or unmuting,
21 and then no one is made aware that they intended to
22 address the board.

23 Chairman Wilson: All right,
24 well, we'll wait three more seconds to see if somebody
25 speaks up, which is right now. All right, hearing

1 none, we will move on; sorry about that. We'll move on
2 to the Acquisition Committee and turn it over to Chair
3 Amy Grissom.

4 Committee Chair Grissom: Okay, thank you,
5 Chairman Wilson; excuse me. I must need something to
6 drink. Okay, so Acquisition Committee met just once
7 virtually, February 13th. All members were present.
8 We had a relatively light load on our agenda,
9 especially in comparison with the previous meetings
10 we've had in August and, of course, the October funding
11 meeting, and then leading up to our December board
12 meeting. First, we have an update on two projects, and
13 just as a reminder, these were awards that were made in
14 2021, when we had the extra 100 million dollars over
15 two years, so we were really looking at funding some
16 projects at a really high level. We extended those in
17 October to January 31st, 2025, as a board, but we
18 wanted updates to ensure progress because of the amount
19 of money that we have waiting for these compelling
20 projects to hopefully be completed. So with that, I'll
21 turn it over to Marissa. Are you ready to go, Marissa?

22 Ms. Hartzler: Absolutely,
23 thank you; good morning; so in 2021, the board fully
24 funded several projects that exceeded the traditional
25 cap of approximately 1.2 million dollars per project,

1 and as part of funding these large awards, the board
2 stipulated that these projects be subject to at least
3 annual progress reports. Two of these projects are
4 still currently active, both of which the board
5 extended through January 31st of 2026, at the October
6 funding meeting, and at the same time the Acquisition
7 Committee requested more frequent updates, and so I
8 will report on these two projects now. The first
9 project, 2021-037, the Conservation Fund's Johnson Farm
10 Project, was awarded roughly 3.6 million dollars for
11 the acquisition of approximately 1,250 acres in Harnett
12 County. As previously reported, they have raised all
13 of the match required to complete this almost 10
14 million dollar project, but they continue working on a
15 purchase agreement with the landowners. I understand
16 this to be a very complex family negotiation, but once
17 they get the purchase contract, I believe they're well
18 poised to acquire the land and finish the project. It
19 really hinges on the landowners making that decision to
20 move forward with the acquisition. The second project,
21 2021-051, the Nature Conservancy's 421 Sand Ridge Phase
22 2, was awarded 8.9 million in 2021, and in 2020 was
23 awarded 1.2 million for its first phase. Together,
24 these two phases would protect approximately 5,800
25 acres in Pender County. So the Nature Conservancy is

1 also in active negotiations with the landowner of the
2 larger assemblage, who earlier on sold approximately
3 600 acres to a developer. They're now working with
4 that developer. They're very sort of end-stage
5 contract negotiations with that developer, for the
6 Nature Conservancy to purchase that 600 acres as sort
7 of a first phase of acquisition of this assemblage.
8 Then with that agreement in place, joint offers can be
9 made for the remaining acres. We do anticipate that a
10 limited number of acres would be excluded from the
11 project, but the details are unknown at this time.
12 Certainly should there be any change, staff will assess
13 that change to scope and budget and use our project
14 change guidelines and practices to elevate that to the
15 appropriate level for approval. Right now, bottom
16 line, I believe by the next time this board meets, they
17 will likely have at least one purchase contract for 600
18 acres signed and in place. I think we'll be well on
19 their way to making an offer and getting a contract on
20 the remaining acres, and they may even possibly have
21 closed on the 600 acres. So as an informational item,
22 there is no action to be taken by the board today, but
23 happy to turn it back for any questions.

24 Committee Chair Browning: Marissa, I
25 don't know if I understood correctly. Did you say

1 after the 600 acres are secured, they would be freed up
2 to make joint offers on the remaining? What's the
3 joint referred to?

4 Ms. Hartzler: Sure, they
5 would work with the developer to both make an offer on
6 remaining acres, in which the developer would purchase
7 some of the project area and very likely develop it,
8 and the Nature Conservancy would purchase the
9 remainder. So that's the piece that they still need to
10 negotiate; how many acres, where, and what does that --
11 what does that offer look like? That will be something
12 that, you know, they're -- they're having those
13 conversations, but will have them more earnestly after
14 phase one is under contract. Does that help?

15 Committee Chair Browning: It does. The
16 original proposal did not anticipate that there would
17 be -- it was anticipated that all of it would be
18 preserved, right?

19 Ms. Hartzler: Correct, yes.

20 Committee Chair Browning: And so how does
21 that impact the amount of the award that's available?

22 Ms. Hartzler: Absolutely, it
23 -- it -- it could. It all depends on how many acres
24 and what the impact to the resources are. And of
25 course, you know, these are very likely to be the most

1 developable acres of the property, so very likely worth
2 more. We will need to assess that using our --
3 everyone's favorite decision matrix form. Once -- once
4 those variables are known, and absolutely, if it rises
5 to the level of chair or board, we will bring that back
6 to you all to make the decision on how to move forward
7 with the project.

8 Committee Chair Browning: Thank you.

9 Committee Chair Grissom: I guess I would
10 just add, you know, at an absolute minimum, we ask for
11 a letter of intent. We would, of course, prefer to
12 have an actual purchase agreement signed, but with
13 these big projects and big asks in that year that we
14 didn't have caps, we really hope to make some progress
15 on very compelling, large-scale, amazing opportunities.
16 I know that Greer Cawood, our former board chair, John,
17 and I all went to visit the Sand Ridge property, and I
18 believe Jason and John, and maybe someone else, visited
19 the Johnson Farm. And we found them to be amazing
20 opportunities and hope that they will, in fact, close.
21 And it's great to aim for the stars on occasion, but
22 they really need to close and close soon so that we're
23 not tying up that money when we have other viable
24 projects coming every year that go unfunded, so any
25 other questions for Marissa about that as well? The

1 committee seemed happy with the progress, and as we
2 move toward this January 31st, 2025 (sic) deadline, so
3 I'm sure you'll all hear about it again and probably be
4 addressing this hopefully with a celebratory, yay, it's
5 done. Okay, and with that, Marissa, are you ready for
6 our second item? That's a -- a contract extension
7 request on a donation mini-grant project.

8 Ms. Hartzler: Absolutely, let
9 me just share my screen. We will actually transition
10 here from some of our most expensive projects to
11 perhaps one of our least expensive, but regardless of
12 that dollar amount, still an important project. In
13 2023, the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program,
14 part of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
15 Services, was awarded \$4,500.00 to accept the donation
16 of 10 acres in Boiling Spring Lakes in Brunswick
17 County. You can see on the screen that 10 acre
18 property is highlighted here in red, and it is sort of
19 in a sea of other lands that are currently owned by the
20 state and managed by the Plant Conservation Program.
21 PCP has completed several of these small lot donations
22 through our donation mini-grant program with the goal
23 of protecting the natural areas and rare plant
24 communities present on these never-developed, typically
25 residential tracts. And as I mentioned, this is --

1 this is almost an in-holding in their currently managed
2 lands, so while a very small project, completion has a
3 lot of benefits for future habitat management. This
4 project, the Kurunsaari project, has taken longer than
5 anticipated due to unforeseen and really uncontrollable
6 delays, and that includes the settlement of an estate
7 for the landowner and now the retirement of their
8 closing attorney, who has been working on the project.
9 PCP is working with the State Property Office to
10 complete this acquisition as soon as possible, but have
11 requested a year extension, and staff supports this
12 extension. And so I will just scroll up. The
13 committee recommendation was to grant the contract
14 extension to allow for the completion of the donation
15 and the project through February 28th, 2026; happy to
16 turn it back for questions.

17 Committee Chair Grissom: I would just
18 have one quick request, Marissa. I know that the
19 natural areas are called Funston Bays, and the other
20 one, unfortunately, has the name Hog Branch Ponds
21 Natural Area, but could you just talk a little bit
22 about what's there of natural heritage significance,
23 that might not be apparent with a name like that for
24 that natural area?

25 Ms. Hartzler: Sure,

1 absolutely; I think this entire landscape; while I do
2 not know the specific plant names, we can -- we can get
3 those if folks are interested, but the entire landscape
4 has a number of rare plants that have been of
5 particular importance to the Plant Conservation
6 Program. And this is an interesting landscape because
7 it will benefit greatly from having fire. And so by
8 acquiring these tracks and really simplifying the
9 landscape and having it under unified management, that
10 will enable the Plant Conservation Program to get in
11 there, do some prescribed burning to really help
12 encourage these rare plants and their continuation.

13 Committee Chair Grissom: Thanks.

14 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

15 Committee Chair Grissom: So, Chairman
16 Wilson, this is a recommendation from the committee.

17 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, all right,
18 thank you; any more questions from the trustees for
19 Marissa about this request for an extension for
20 2023D-013; we good to vote? All right, please let me
21 know how you vote; Jimmy?

22 Mr. Broughton: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

24 Committee Chair Browning: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

1 Committee Chair Grissom: Yes.
2 Chairman Wilson: Clement?
3 Mr. Riddle: Yes.
4 Chairman Wilson: Mike?
5 Mr. Rusher: Yes.
6 Chairman Wilson: Jason?
7 Vice-Chair Walser: Yes.
8 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?
9 Mr. Williams: Yes.
10 Chairman Wilson: David?
11 Mr. Womack: Yes.
12 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
13 yes, also; Amy, anything more from the Acquisition
14 Committee?
15 Committee Chair Grissom: Nope, that's
16 it; thank you.
17 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank
18 you; thanks, Marissa; and we will move on to the third
19 and final item on our business agenda. That is
20 extension of construction contract deadlines for Flood
21 Risk Reduction Projects, and over to you, Steve.
22 Mr. Bevington: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair; I'm going to share my screen. And we'll talk
24 about a familiar approach, but a new set of projects
25 here for the Flood Risk Reduction Program. Item 3, I

1 believe you can see in my slides, is that right? So we
2 had earlier in the agenda, through the Restoration
3 Committee, a request to extend a deadline to enter into
4 a construction contract. The Flood Risk Reduction
5 Committee did not meet because it hasn't been exactly
6 disbanded, but it seemed that committee was really
7 established ad hoc to address a one-time legislative
8 grant, maybe a future grant, who knows, or allocation
9 of funds. But anyway, the committee did not meet. We
10 thought it best probably to bring this item to the full
11 board, and it's going to be very similar to the last
12 discussion, except involving more projects. And the
13 reason for that really is not project delay. It's a
14 new scope growth and new opportunity. So as a quick
15 reminder, the timeline of flood risk reduction
16 contracts is such that 17 projects were awarded back in
17 2023, and contracts were developed based on the 15
18 million dollars the state legislature appropriated to
19 you, as the Board of Trustees, and the Flood Risk
20 Reduction Committee worked on that. Since that time,
21 DEQ, through their blueprint -- flood risk -- flood
22 risk blueprint work, had developed a MOA with our
23 agency to have additional funds towards these type of
24 projects. And in 2024, you, as a board, approved 11
25 projects to receive supplemental funding. Probably at

1 that time, I should have been astute enough to say,
2 hey, this is going to require some difficulty for
3 people who are taking on more work to get their
4 contracts in place because they're going to have to
5 redo some of their bidding and expand their projects.
6 And that, in fact, is what happened. So probably
7 hindsight being 20/20, I wish I brought this --
8 mentioned it to you back in 2024 when we approved
9 taking blueprint money and moving it forward to these
10 11 flood risk reduction projects to give them extra
11 money to do more work. But many of them have
12 experienced difficulties in having to re-scope the
13 project and re-bid. It's kind of an embarrassment of
14 riches in a little way is that they received often as
15 much as \$800,000 extra to increase scopes. But it does
16 put them in a position of not being able to complete
17 their contract requirement of being under contract with
18 subcontractor for construction within a year from
19 execution date, and that's how the legislation reads.
20 And it reads very specifically about the execution of
21 an exact contract, which is not something you can --
22 you can change. The good thing about a contract, you
23 can't change the execution date. It's sort of a
24 permanent element of that. So that date is firm.
25 These are the eight projects that expressed either have

1 missed their deadline, just very recently or expressed
2 an inability to meet their contractual requirements to
3 go under contract, because they are actively expanding
4 scope, often doubling the amount of earth moving that's
5 taking place or the length of their project in a couple
6 of cases. Other projects either met their deadline or
7 had less construction work that was already under
8 contract and didn't have to change that. So these are
9 the eight here, and again, I wish I'd been savvy enough
10 to just mention this as a natural expectation, the time
11 of the expanding scope decisions you made last year.
12 This is an example from a contract that the effective
13 date there, the second line there on the first, you
14 know, January 10th, 2024, when that contract was
15 signed, it automatically requires that the construction
16 contract date deadline of the first month, 10th day of
17 2025 be included. And that's what happened. So they
18 have these jeopardies in front of them, which I think,
19 again, I wish I brought this up. We could have swept
20 this out of the rug with a good amendment instead of
21 doing two amendments, as now we're looking at. So
22 basically, that's my report. I'm happy to tell you
23 more about the process of the flood risk reduction.
24 Essentially, I do feel these eight projects are making
25 great progress. Potentially, one is still floundering

1 a little bit in terms of some uncertainty, but these
2 projects are moving along at a great speed, have had to
3 go back to the design team and say, look, we thought we
4 were going to do 200 acre feat. Now we've got more
5 money, we're going to do projects 300 acre feat, that
6 sort of thing, and they've rebid them. So staff
7 recommendation is to export -- for these eight projects
8 to allow them to consider December 31st, 2025 as their
9 deadline for entering into a construction contract.
10 I'd be happy to answer any questions. I know I've went
11 over that rather quickly.

12 Mr. Womack: Steve, this is
13 David. Embedded in that somewhere, did I hear you say
14 that the legislation had required the projects at a
15 certain --

16 Mr. Bevington: Yes.

17 Mr. Womack: So how do we
18 have -- how does this -- how these -- us as trustees,
19 have influence over the General Assembly's legislation?

20 Mr. Bevington: This is a
21 slide. I'm glad I kept it. I need it. I showed this
22 to the restoration committee in not retreading too much
23 ground for everybody. I hid it until the end of my
24 presentation, but here it is. The statute, it's that
25 second paragraph there states that an award can be

1 withdrawn unless you, --

2 Mr. Womack: Okay.

3 Mr. Bevington: -- as the board
4 of trustees, find the applicant has good cause for
5 failing to meet.

6 Mr. Womack: Got it, okay.

7 Mr. Bevington: So that's where
8 the legislative mandate, a lot of these small details
9 we administer at our end, and can say, you know, with
10 project extensions, the executive director has the
11 power to say, hey, take an extra year; I understand
12 what's going on. With this, the legislature did
13 specifically ask us to ask you. And frankly, that's a
14 very effective tool for us, like I almost want to say
15 it's a stick, that people that aren't getting along too
16 much, we do send out reminders at 90 days and at 30
17 days saying you're in danger of losing your funds if
18 you don't get this under contract. So it's a very
19 effective tool. A few slip through the cracks for what
20 we feel it could cause and bring them to you. If we
21 ever have one we feel it does not meet good cause, we
22 would tell you the same, but anyway, David, yeah, good
23 question.

24 Mr. Womack: Okay, so does the
25 statute also give us the authority to change the date

1 that we sit at for the changing of the date?

2 Mr. Bevington: Yes.

3 Mr. Womack: Do we have like
4 in perpetuity authority to do that?

5 Mr. Bevington: Yes, and you --

6 Mr. Womack: Okay.

7 Mr. Bevington: No, I don't

8 know about in perpetuity. I'd have to ask legal
9 counsel about that. No, the way it reads is that you
10 must -- it says it right there at the end of that
11 second paragraph, you must set a date by which the
12 grant recipient must take action or forfeit the grant.

13 Mr. Womack: Right.

14 Mr. Bevington: So if you want
15 to say, you know, 2099, more power to you, that's fine
16 with me.

17 Mr. Womack: Okay.

18 Mr. Bevington: But yes, you
19 need to set a date is the way I read it.

20 Mr. Womack: If we set 2026,
21 and it still hasn't been met, and we find good cause,
22 can we reset that for 2027?

23 Mr. Bevington: Oh, yes; I --
24 yes, --

25 Mr. Womack: Okay.

1 Mr. Bevington: -- we work very
2 hard not to bring those to you. It has happened in the
3 past.

4 Mr. Womack: Got it.

5 Mr. Bevington: It's an
6 embarrassment, frankly, because the whole idea is to
7 get everybody on the same page. I'm not saying there's
8 not cause. We've had contractors have massive fires
9 and lost all their equipment, but that was more for a
10 project thing, but there are things beyond people's
11 control. I think we could probably see one of those in
12 the future, but we try very hard not to do that.

13 Mr. Womack: All right,
14 well, that was just a clarification for me. I
15 apologize --

16 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, no,
17 that's good. I --

18 Mr. Womack: -- in
19 perpetuity, was --

20 Mr. Bevington: I glossed over
21 that.

22 Mr. Womack: -- it was an
23 incorrect word. I apologize for that.

24 Mr. Bevington: No, I'm happy
25 you brought it up. I had -- usually, I put this slide

1 as my first slide, but frankly, it's too much
2 information to take in at one time. I think it was
3 better handled through your thing. And I see Zoe, our
4 excellent legal counsel, has raised a hand.

5 Ms. Burnet: Hi, everyone; I
6 just wanted to point out that everything that Steve has
7 said is correct, except the cite on this page. So if
8 any of you are going to pull up the cite yourself, that
9 has been updated; it's now with the rest of our
10 statutes in 143B, and we will make sure that gets
11 updated in that slide eventually.

12 Mr. Bevington: Thank you; it's
13 another reason I hid that slide, I guess; thank you.
14 Excellent, we'll get the correct citation back to you.
15 There are the -- this is not the right slide. I have
16 multiple slides for a couple different reasons. These
17 are the projects that I feel have -- staff feels has
18 good cause, having received up to \$800,000.00 for
19 increased scope to move towards the end of this year to
20 get everything under contract and moving along. Most
21 of these projects are pretty far along in design or
22 have already begun the rebid process, especially with
23 municipalities, the rebid process, through their own
24 procedures, does take a number of months sometimes.
25 But these are the projects that we felt need an

1 extension and had very good reason.

2 Chairman Wilson: Thank you,
3 Steve and Zoe; any discussion of this staff
4 recommendation; and we saw that the list of eight,
5 which is the same list that is in your agenda item 3
6 detail, in your agendas that were sent to you?

7 Mr. Bevington: That's correct.

8 Chairman Wilson: Yep, and this
9 has not come through a committee, so we will need a
10 motion and a second before we can vote.

11 Committee Chair Browning: Mr. Chair, I
12 make a motion that we provide contract extensions for
13 the eight projects listed through December 31, 2025.

14 Mr. Williams: Second.

15 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Ann;
16 second; who was that second?

17 Mr. Williams: Darrel.

18 Chairman Wilson: Darrel; thank
19 you, Darrel; any discussion before we vote on this;
20 okay, how do you vote, please, Jimmy?

21 Mr. Broughton: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

23 Committee Chair Browning: Yes.

24 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

25 Committee Chair Grissom: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

2 Mr. Riddle: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

4 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

6 Vice-Chair Walser: Yes.

7 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?

8 Mr. Williams: Yes.

9 Chairman Wilson: David?

10 Mr. Womack: Yes.

11 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
12 yes, also. That passes. All right, and my agenda says
13 that we have completed everything. Will, is that your
14 understanding?

15 Executive Director Summer: Yes, sir; Mr.
16 Chair, that is correct.

17 Chairman Wilson: All right, before we
18 entertain a motion to adjourn, anything else, trustees
19 or staff?

20 Committee Chair Grissom: I'll just --

21 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

22 Committee Chair Grissom: I'll just say
23 I'm delighted that those flood risk reduction projects
24 are getting expanded, yeah. Hats off to everyone for
25 making that happen.

1 Mr. Riddle: Yes, that's
2 great. And that was timely that we talked about that
3 in August last summer, about the flood risk reduction.
4 And I think -- and I think Will put out an email
5 earlier that we're hoping that there's more money
6 coming to that or proposed in the budget for flood risk
7 reduction this time around.

8 Executive Director Summer: There was a
9 proposal from Governor Stein in his Helene expansion
10 budget. It didn't make Part 1 of the Legislature's
11 Disaster Bill, but, you know, when they call something
12 Part 1, I'm hoping that means there's a Part 2. So
13 we'll stay tuned for that.

14 Chairman Wilson: Okay, anything
15 else; if not, how about a motion to adjourn?

16 Mr. Womack: So moved,
17 David.

18 Chairman Wilson: David moves
19 that. Who seconded that?

20 Mr. Broughton: I'll second,
21 Jimmy.

22 Mr. Riddle: Second.

23 Chairman Wilson: Jimmy, with the
24 second, any discussion; all right, we can all vote at
25 the same time. If you think we should adjourn, please

1 say yes or aye or whatever.

2 Board Members: (Answers in
3 affirmative.)

4 Chairman Wilson: Okay, that's --
5 that was three yeses, four ayes, and a whatever. Okay,
6 all right, anybody opposed say whatever; all right, we
7 are adjourned.

8 (The proceedings were concluded at 10:37
9 A.M.)

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NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Dona E. Overby, Notary/Reporter, do hereby certify that this Board of Trustees Meeting was taken by me and transcribed under my direction and that the seventy-five pages which constitute this Board of Trustees Meeting are a true and accurate transcript.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of May, 2025.

Dona E. Overby

Dona E. Overby
Notary Public
Certificate No.: 19971920107