

NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, August 27, 2025
1:01 P.M.

Volume 1
Pages 1 through 77

A P P E A R A N C E S

Board of Trustees:

(via Teams)

John Wilson, Chairman
Jimmy Broughton, Vice-Chairman
Ann Browning, Acquisition Committee Chairman and
Flood Risk Reduction Committee Chairman
Clement Riddle, Chairman Restoration, Innovative
Stormwater, and Planning Committee
Mike Rusher, Acquisition Committee, Flood Risk
Reduction Committee
David Womack, Acquisition Committee
Darrel Williams, Acquisition Committee
Lydia Olander, Restoration, Innovative
Stormwater, and Planning Committee
Terry Shelton, Restoration, Innovative
Stormwater, and Planning Committee

Staff:

(via Teams)

Will Summer, Executive Director

Steve Bevington, Restoration Program Manager
Marissa Hartzler, Acquisition Program Manager
Marie Meckman, Acquisition Project Manager
Christina Benton, Acquisition Project Manager
Donna Morris, Acquisition Administrative
Assistant

Justin Mercer, Stewardship Program Manager
Nicolle Montero, Stewardship Program Specialist
Ambar Torres Molinari, Stewardship Data Manager
Ginny King, Business Officer
Terri Murray, Executive Assistant

Will Price, Restoration Program Assistant
Damon Hearne, Western Field Representative
Isaac Merson, Eastern Field Representative

Also present:

(via Teams)

Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary of N.C. Department
of Natural and Cultural Resources

Zoe Hansen Burnet, Assistant General Counsel, NC
Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

P R O C E E D I N G S

1:01 P.M.

1
2 Chairman Wilson: I'd like to
3 call today's meeting of the North Carolina Land and
4 Water Fund Board of Trustees to order. I'm John
5 Wilson, the board chair, and I want to welcome
6 everybody who is with us today. But before I call the
7 roll, I want to welcome our two new trustees and
8 congratulate one who was recently reappointed. I'll
9 start with Terri Shelton. Terry is a Senate
10 appointment to our board. He lives in Eden and is a
11 Realtor and retired public utilities director. Terry
12 is a member of Eden's Board of Adjustment and Planning
13 Board and also served on the Keep Eden Beautiful
14 Committee as well as the Rockingham County Local
15 Government Emergency Planning Committee. He holds
16 multiple state certifications in water and wastewater,
17 and he serves on our Restoration, Innovative
18 Stormwater, and Planning Committee; welcome, Terry.

19 Mr. Shelton: Thank you very
20 much.

21 Chairman Wilson: Right, you
22 don't have to make a speech, although you can make one
23 anytime you want to as a trustee. All right, Lydia
24 Olander is a gubernatorial appointment. She lives in
25 Durham and is program director at the Nicholas

1 Institute for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability
2 at Duke University, which as a Tar Heel, I would have a
3 problem with ordinarily if she wasn't so immensely
4 qualified to serve on our board. Lydia works on
5 improving evidence-based policy and accelerating
6 implementation of climate resilience, nature based
7 solutions, natural capital accounting, and
8 environmental markets. She is also a member of our
9 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
10 Committee, and welcome, Lydia.

11 Dr. Olander: Thank you.

12 Chairman Wilson: All right, and
13 congratulations to Jimmy Broughton, who has not only
14 been reappointed as a trustee by the House, but is now
15 our board's vice-chair, as well as a member of the
16 Acquisition Committee, the Restoration, Innovative
17 Stormwater, and Planning Committee, and also the
18 Executive Committee. So welcome to our two new
19 trustees, and thanks, Jimmy, and welcome back.

20 Vice-Chair Broughton: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22 Chairman Wilson: All right, I'll
23 now call the roll of our nine trustees. Please unmute
24 yourself and let us know that you're here; Jimmy
25 Broughton?

1 Vice-Chair Broughton: Here.

2 Chairman Wilson: Ann Browning?

3 Acquisition Chair Browning: Here.

4 Chairman Wilson: Lydia Olander?

5 Dr. Olander: Here.

6 Chairman Wilson: Clement Riddle?

7 Restoration Chair Riddle: Here.

8 Chairman Wilson: Mike Rusher?

9 Mr. Rusher: Here.

10 Chairman Wilson: Terry Shelton?

11 Mr. Shelton: Here.

12 Chairman Wilson: Darrel

13 Williams?

14 Mr. Williams: Here; I'm

15 having camera issues, but I'm here.

16 Chairman Wilson: Okay, good to

17 hear you, Darrel; David Womack?

18 Mr. Womack: Here.

19 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson

20 is here. We are all here. All right, General Statute

21 138A.15 mandates that the chair inquire as to whether

22 any trustee knows of any conflict of interest or of the

23 appearance of a conflict with respect to matters on the

24 agenda. Before I inquire of all the trustees, I'd like

25 to mention that we are also required to record any

1 potential conflicts of interest identified by the
2 Ethics Commission into the minutes during this meeting.
3 There were no confirmed conflicts of interest
4 identified, but there was the potential for a conflict
5 of interest identified for Mr. Shelton associated with
6 his role as a Special Projects Manager for the City of
7 Eden, North Carolina. The Ethics Commission noted that
8 Mr. Shelton should exercise appropriate caution in the
9 performance of his duties should issues involving the
10 City of Eden come before the Board for official action.
11 Any trustees with a conflict will be expected to
12 announce them as they arise in this and future meetings
13 and to recuse themselves from any discussion or action
14 related to those matters. With that, let me now ask
15 that if any trustee knows of a conflict of interest or
16 the appearance of a conflict, please state so at this
17 time. Okay, it sounds like we're all good. So now let
18 me just ask everyone to please make sure your phones,
19 computers, anything that makes noise won't make any
20 noise. And if you are a guest joining us remotely,
21 please mute your audio and turn off your video unless
22 you're called on to speak. Next, I'll ask the trustees
23 if there are any suggestions of revisions or additions
24 to today's agenda.

25 Executive Director Summer: Mr. Chair?

1 Chairman Wilson: Yes, Will.

2 Executive Director Summer: I have one
3 suggestion. At the time that this agenda was
4 published, the Governor had not made the latest
5 appointment of Dr. Olander, so I'd like the agenda to
6 be amended to reflect that Amy Grissom is no longer a
7 member and that Lydia Olander is in her place.

8 Chairman Wilson: Okay, I will
9 make a motion to that effect, if somebody will second
10 that.

11 Mr. Womack: Second; this is
12 David.

13 Chairman Wilson: Okay, for that
14 particular change, are there any other suggested
15 changes, revisions to our agenda? Okay, hearing none;
16 if there's no more discussion on this, I'll ask you to
17 vote on the agenda with the change that Will mentioned,
18 that I made the motion and David seconded, replacing
19 Amy's name on our board of trustees with Lydia's.
20 Okay, please let me know how you vote. I will call
21 your name for each of our roll call votes, except for
22 our super fun adjournment where we all get to vote at
23 the same time. All right, how do you vote on the
24 agenda, please, with that amendment; Jimmy Broughton?

25 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Ann Browning?
2 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.
3 Chairman Wilson: Lydia Olander?
4 Dr. Olander: Yes.
5 Chairman Wilson: Clement Riddle?
6 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.
7 Chairman Wilson: Mike Rusher?
8 Mr. Rusher: Yes.
9 Chairman Wilson: Terry Shelton;
10 I'm not hearing you, Terry. Are you muted? How do you
11 vote?
12 Mr. Shelton: Yes.
13 Chairman Wilson: All right, I
14 heard that; thanks, Terri; Darrell Williams?
15 Mr. Williams: Yes.
16 Chairman Wilson: David Womack?
17 Mr. Womack: Yes.
18 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson
19 is a yes also. Great, we have adopted our agenda.
20 Let's look now at the minutes from our May board
21 meeting. Are there any discussion of the minutes, any
22 suggested changes? I've got a couple. On page 10,
23 line 23, there is a very interesting and informative
24 comment that is attributed to me, and I don't make
25 comments like that. So I know that was Will Summer who

1 made that comment, not me. So we just need to change
2 on line 23 on page 10, that was Will Summer who
3 answered Ann Browning's question. And then the other
4 one I would recommend we change would be on page 51,
5 line 7. Amy Grissom abstained from the vote. And then
6 on line 7, it quotes me as saying we've had a vote of
7 7-1 exception. I'm virtually certain I said
8 abstention, so I would ask for that change as well. So
9 those are the only two that I have. Anybody else
10 notice anything; okay, I'm not hearing anybody. I will
11 make a motion that we approve our May board meeting
12 minutes with those two changes.

13 Vice-Chair Broughton: Second, Jimmy.

14 Chairman Wilson: A second from
15 Jimmy, any discussion of the minutes; okay, let's go
16 ahead and vote then, please. How do you vote, Jimmy?

17 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

19 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Lydia?

21 Dr. Olander: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

23 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.

24 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

25 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Terry?
2 Mr. Shelton: Yes.
3 Chairman Wilson: Darrell?
4 Mr. Williams: Yes.
5 Chairman Wilson: David?
6 Mr. Womack: Yes.
7 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson

8 is a yes also. All right, thank you; we have adopted
9 our May 12th meeting minutes with two minor changes.
10 We will now move on to an update from the Deputy
11 Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural
12 and Cultural Resources, Jeff Michael; welcome, Jeff.

13 Deputy Secretary Michael: Well, thank
14 you, Chairman Wilson, and it is great to see everyone.
15 Chairman Wilson, I just want to say that I believe your
16 former colleague, Amy Grissom, would be quite proud of
17 you with those minutes revisions. We could always
18 count on her for going through them very carefully and
19 coming back with edits, so I know she'll feel good that
20 we're still in good hands, so thank you for those. I
21 want to start off by just welcoming Terry and Lydia to
22 the board. We really thank you for your service. This
23 is a board that has always taken its role seriously on
24 behalf of the taxpayers of North Carolina and the
25 citizens of North Carolina, and I know it will be no

1 different with you, and thank you for that service.
2 And, Jimmy, congratulations again on your reappointment
3 and willingness to give us another term; we're grateful
4 for the work that all of you do. For Terry and Lydia's
5 benefit, I don't normally do this, but I'll just
6 briefly say who I am and why. Either I or our
7 Secretary Cashwell usually speak at the beginning of
8 our meetings. The Division of Land and Water
9 Stewardship, which includes the Land and Water Fund as
10 well as our Natural Heritage Program, is a part of one
11 of the cabinet agencies for the State, and that is the
12 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Our
13 Secretary Pam Cashwell oversees that department, and
14 she sends her greetings to all of you and, again, her
15 thanks for your service. She will often say she's got
16 the best job in state government, and she does to some
17 extent, but she also has a lot more in the way of
18 headaches to have to deal with than I do, and I think I
19 might just because I have five divisions that truly
20 are, I think, among the most fun divisions to work
21 with, not just land and water, but state parks, our
22 aquariums, the zoo, and our Museum of Natural Sciences.
23 And as you can tell, Will, this has been an odd
24 confluence of meetings today where within about an hour
25 and a half of time, I've gone from a parks meeting to a

1 zoo meeting to a Museum of Natural Science Friends
2 Board meeting and now with you. So I think I need to
3 call the aquariums just to give them a little love
4 today as well, but it is great to be with you all. You
5 know, the Secretary has been and continuing to do a lot
6 of travel. She joined us with your joint meeting back
7 in the spring as we were down at Salter Path and doing
8 a tour there around Carteret County and nearby areas or
9 maybe Craven. I can't remember where all we went, but
10 she continues to do that. Just last Friday, she was
11 with John Wilson and other supporters of the
12 Conservation Trust of North Carolina for one of their
13 annual gatherings. And I share that with you because
14 while our department as a whole does a whole lot more
15 than natural resources, we also support and steward our
16 state historic sites, many of our arts institutions
17 from the Museum of Art, the North Carolina Arts
18 Council, and so many other things. She continues to
19 give a high priority to the Natural Resource Divisions
20 and the missions of our various divisions, but also of
21 our many partners across the state, including
22 conservation groups, who are such important partners to
23 the work of the Land and Water Fund. Just a couple of
24 quick updates for you; normally, at this time of year
25 at your meeting, I would be giving you a budget update,

1 but as I think most of you know from the news, the
2 Legislature went home after the summer session without
3 an approved budget, and so we really don't have
4 anything new to report there. Will may in his update
5 give you a few updates in terms of his perspective on
6 where we are with some things that will impact Land and
7 Water Fund. But I will say that, and this is a good
8 segue to one of the things I wanted to share with you,
9 that we were fortunate in the Helene Recovery Bill that
10 was passed and signed into law by the Governor back in
11 June to receive 12.25 million dollars of Helene
12 Recovery funds to support the efforts in our state park
13 system. That was the first allocation of state funds
14 that we have received, and that's really important
15 because you hear a lot about FEMA. We're certainly
16 aggressively doing everything we can in our recovery
17 efforts to get the documentation in, the paperwork in
18 for FEMA recovery funds, but it's a cost-reimbursable
19 program, and so that means we have been challenged from
20 the beginning in beginning to do some of our repairs,
21 kind of a chicken and egg scenario of, you know, where
22 are the funds coming from to get those repairs done
23 before we can even submit our paperwork in to FEMA for
24 reimbursement. So we're grateful for the Legislature
25 and the Governor for getting us those funds. There's

1 still a lot of work to do. I'm pleased to say we did
2 get our first pot of money from FEMA just last week,
3 notification of that, for some of the work we did at
4 Chimney Rock to get it back open, which was a big
5 milestone for us in June. We are coming up on the one
6 year -- we're not calling it anniversary, because that
7 sounds like it's a celebration, but we are using the
8 term milestone, of Helene hitting North Carolina and in
9 particular Western North Carolina. There were 18 of
10 our sites impacted, not just state parks, but state
11 historic sites and a few other sites of the department
12 out in Western North Carolina. I'm pleased to say that
13 with the Chimney Rock opening in June, all but one of
14 our sites that were impacted and closed are now open,
15 and that one site is Mount Mitchell State Park. We are
16 ready to open, but the reason we have not been able to
17 go ahead and open Mount Mitchell State Park is because
18 the public access to that comes from the Blue Ridge
19 Parkway. And our colleagues at the National Park
20 Service have had a lot of work to do to get that
21 portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway cleared up and
22 repaired. We are optimistic that mid to late
23 September, we hope by that milestone of Hurricane
24 Helene hitting a year ago, that we will be able to open
25 Mount Mitchell with the opening of the southern portion

1 of the Blue Ridge Parkway from Mount Mitchell down to
2 Asheville. We've been told it's going to be quite a
3 while before the portion of the parkway north of that
4 opens back up, but we're going to be grateful, and I
5 know many North Carolinians, people who love Western
6 North Carolina, are going to be pleased just in time
7 for the leaf season that we'll be able -- hopefully be
8 able to open Mount Mitchell State Park back up to the
9 public. I mentioned budget in terms of appropriations
10 and state budget and all that, but we are also as an
11 agency, as are many state agencies, at this point also
12 working through some budget challenges. Part of that
13 is because of the impact of Helene and the need to come
14 up with resources before we can get reimbursement from
15 Helene. We are also beginning to experience some of
16 the inflationary pressures that all of us have been
17 experiencing, impacting the budgets of many of our
18 divisions. And then we're also really coming up on a
19 period where we're beginning to lose some of the COVID
20 funds that were provided to our divisions as part of
21 the Recovery Act there, and so it's kind of been a
22 perfect storm. Our divisions have been great in terms
23 of pitching in and helping us make sure that we are
24 doing a little belt tightening within DNCR. You know,
25 in many ways the Land and Water Fund, the Division of

1 Land and Water Stewardship, because its funding stream
2 is somewhat unique among others, that those pressures
3 haven't been as great for them, and we feel good about
4 where they are. Will Summer and his team are great
5 stewards of the resources they have. So even though I
6 share that with you, it's just to let you know that
7 those are among the things that we as an agency are
8 working on, but you shouldn't see any impact at all in
9 the work that you're doing with land and water.
10 Talking about Helene Recovery, and I don't want to
11 steal Will's thunder, but we recognize that even as we
12 start getting facilities back open, parks back open,
13 amenities in those parks back open, that Helene
14 Recovery is not going to be done, and it's not going to
15 be done for many, many years. And part of that
16 recovery effort is first understanding what the impact
17 has been on the natural environment, the flora and
18 fauna of Western North Carolina, and then understanding
19 what we all need to do together to help that recovery
20 take place. So Will, I think, is going to be sharing
21 something with you that our friends on the natural
22 heritage side have been working on with the U.S.
23 Forest Service, so I'll save that with him. But I just
24 wanted to share with you that we're certainly aware of
25 that need as well. Just a couple last few things,

1 you've heard me report previously about the major
2 federal grant that we received last year, 420 million
3 dollars on behalf of not just North Carolina, but
4 Virginia, Maryland, and South Carolina, to do some
5 conservation work and restoration work, wetlands
6 restoration work in the coastal areas of our state and
7 our neighboring states. DNCR will be coordinating and
8 leading that effort, not just here in North Carolina,
9 but on behalf of our three sister states as well as the
10 Nature Conservancy. You may see some applications
11 coming in that reference that project if, indeed,
12 people are matching funds, so it's something we wanted
13 to make sure that you were aware of that we were doing.
14 But the big announcement there is, a couple of weeks
15 ago we were able to bring on the new director of that
16 initiative, which we're calling the Atlantic
17 Conservation Coalition, ACC for short, recognizing the
18 region of the country that we are in. And for those of
19 you who know Sara Ward, who has been working for many
20 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
21 particularly in Northeastern North Carolina, although
22 she has worked all over the state, has agreed to come
23 on to be director of that initiative. So Chairman
24 Wilson, we'll maybe have an opportunity at a future
25 more informational session. I know your next meeting

1 is going to be a full one with your selection process,
2 but maybe at a future meeting we can have Sara to come
3 and give you updates. Also this fall, our state park
4 system will be completing their statewide comprehensive
5 outdoor recreation plan. This is a plan that we
6 conduct every five years. As part of our role, and by
7 our, I mean our state park system with the Land and
8 Water Conservation Fund, so I think most of you are
9 aware that the Land and Water Conservation Fund are
10 federal dollars that pass through to the states, but in
11 each state, there's a designated entity to help
12 distribute those grant funds. One of the requirements
13 for doing that, though, is each state has to develop
14 every five years a statewide comprehensive outdoor
15 recreation plan. So they have been busy with that in
16 the last few years. The report is in draft form. In
17 fact, I think it's out there online for public comment,
18 but we will be submitting that. Again, it's another
19 document that as you are doing your work and you're
20 looking at how applications and proposals that come to
21 you fit certain strategic priorities, not only for you,
22 but for others, I think that plan, at least on the
23 outdoor recreation side of things, will be a very
24 valuable resource for you. That's certainly the
25 intended purpose, not just to inform our work with Land

1 and Water Conservation Funds, but really to inform the
2 work of all of our partners across the state. Finally,
3 this is just a sister division, but I share it with you
4 because I think a year, a year and a half ago, your
5 joint meeting with the Natural Heritage Program -- we
6 were at Salter Path this past spring. The year before
7 we were in Asheboro, and I think some of you had the
8 opportunity, if you did not already know her, to meet
9 Pat Simmons, the director of our North Carolina Zoo, as
10 they hosted us with a couple of our meetings.
11 Unfortunately, we lost Pat this summer after a five-
12 year battle with cancer, a battle she fought very
13 courageously. But nonetheless, we lost her in July.
14 We've been grieving, but also at the same time knowing
15 we have a responsibility on behalf of the people of
16 North Carolina to move forward and make sure that we
17 have another outstanding leader just as Pat was in that
18 position. We are beginning the search for her
19 replacement, but I just wanted to share that with those
20 of you who may remember meeting Pat or having
21 interacted with her before, that we miss her, but look
22 forward to bringing new leadership to the zoo just in
23 time next June for the opening of the Asia exhibit, the
24 first time in 20 -- 25 years that we will be opening a
25 new major exhibit with a continent theme at the North

1 Carolina Zoo, and that's scheduled for next June. And,
2 Will and Chairman Wilson, maybe we can make sure all of
3 you get invitations to that opening and that
4 celebration. But with that, I'll turn it back over to
5 you, Chairman Wilson, and I'm happy to entertain any
6 questions anyone has.

7 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Jeff;
8 any questions for Jeff?

9 Deputy Secretary Michael: And I should
10 note, I've got another meeting at 2:30. So if you see
11 me quietly get up at two o'clock, you'll know why and
12 where I'm headed. I can't hide my screen, so you're
13 going to see me when I get up.

14 Chairman Wilson: I heard on the
15 radio this morning that it was 39 degrees last night on
16 Mount Mitchell, Jeff, so the sooner you can open that
17 glorious weather up to us.

18 Mr. Michael: We're working
19 on it.

20 Chairman Wilson: There will be a
21 rush from the Triangle to get up there for that; okay,
22 thanks; any questions for Jeff? All right, we will
23 move on then to our executive director's update from
24 Will Summer.

25 Executive Director Summer: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chair, and good afternoon, committee members, staff and
2 guests. Let me echo John and Jeff in welcoming our new
3 members, Terry and Lydia, to our board and celebrating
4 the reappointment of Jimmy. We're glad to have you
5 all. As Jeff alluded to, there is some exciting news
6 for the National Heritage Program. They have recently
7 executed a 10-year 10 million dollar good neighbor
8 agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, the purpose of
9 which is to inventory the Pisgah-Nantahala National
10 Forest as well as surrounding private lands to, one,
11 assess the impact of Helene, and two, use that data to
12 help Forest Service and others prioritize restoration
13 efforts to more quickly recover from the impacts of
14 Helene. We're really excited about that, so you're
15 going to see more biologists hired and based in the
16 western half of the state to begin that effort shortly.
17 So moving on, the purpose of today's meeting is to
18 handle some regular business before the October meeting
19 so we can clear the decks and focus on grant review at
20 that meeting. We'll have three committee reports
21 today, but before we get into those, let me catch you
22 up on a few other items, including what to expect in
23 the coming weeks as we gear up for the big meeting.
24 Staff have been busy here reviewing and scoring
25 applications, and that information will be shared with

1 you at the upcoming orientation on September 12th. You
2 should have a calendar invite from me on that. After
3 that, it's just a few short weeks before we get
4 together in person here in Raleigh. The Acquisition
5 Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 30th, and
6 that will be a long day. And I currently have that set
7 to begin at 8:00 A.M., but we'll consider backing that
8 off by an hour if I think the agenda will allow it. As
9 we have in the past, we'll find a place nearby to eat
10 dinner that evening as a group, and I encourage all of
11 you to plan to join us if you can. The following
12 morning, we'll have the Restoration, Innovative
13 Stormwater, and Planning Committee, again, planning to
14 start at 8:00 A.M., and we hope to have that work done
15 in time for the full board meeting at two o'clock that
16 afternoon. We will order box lunches both days for
17 staff and trustees to prevent us from having to
18 scramble to get fed and return in time. As a reminder,
19 our board structure is organized to have the heavy
20 lifting done by the committees, and that doesn't mean
21 that the board is expected to rubber stamp the
22 committee recommendation or the discussion can't or
23 shouldn't happen at the full board meeting. However, I
24 do want to make sure that you all know that you're
25 welcome to attend any committee meeting as a non-voting

1 member, and I won't speak for chairs, but it is our
2 norm for any trustee to participate in the discussion
3 at those meetings as well, whether they are on that
4 committee or not. So if you do have a particular
5 interest in another committee, you don't have to wait
6 for the board meeting to weigh in on any particular
7 item. One last logistics item before I move on, Terri
8 has reserved a block of rooms at a hotel one block away
9 from our meeting room here in downtown Raleigh. I
10 expect that many of you will choose to stay Tuesday
11 evening, and some traveling from further out may also
12 need accommodations Monday evening. So expect Terri to
13 be reaching out to you all soon to confirm your lodging
14 needs for the upcoming meeting. Speaking of the big
15 meeting, let's talk about what you will have to award.
16 There is some expectation that legislators may return
17 later in the season and pass a full appropriations
18 bill. However, without that the State is currently
19 operating under a mini-budget, and we are authorized to
20 make grants using our recurring appropriation and other
21 revenue, and that's what we plan to do in October. As
22 we stand today, between some funds brought forward from
23 last year, recurring appropriations of 28 million, and
24 anticipated license revenue for the year, I expect we
25 will be able to award at least 36 million, not counting

1 any additional return funds which have been substantial
2 in recent years. Currently, our application total is
3 around 120 million, so as usual, it will be a
4 competitive cycle. While I hate to think of worthy
5 projects that we will not be able to fund, that does
6 afford you the ability to be selective and know that
7 everything you do fund will be exceptional. Switching
8 gears, we've had a lot going on with staff between
9 turnover of our two field rep positions earlier this
10 summer and several new hires. So let me put up an org
11 chart to make this easier for you all to see. So I've
12 coded the recent hires and changes in green just so
13 they stand out here. So let me start chronologically.
14 In June, we hired Chad Guthrie as a temporary employee
15 with the primary responsibility of reviewing our
16 appraisals. He was no stranger to us as he had worked
17 with us the previous year through an MOA with the State
18 Property Office, but we're excited to have him now
19 working directly on our team, and it's been fruitful,
20 virtually eliminating all of our backlog there. In
21 June, we also hired Nicolle Montero as the permanent
22 stewardship specialist working with Justin Mercer.
23 Many of you met her at our meeting in May when she was
24 still working for us as a temporary employee in a
25 similar role. In July, we hired Ambar Torres Molinari

1 as our stewardship data manager, also working with
2 Justin, and her primary responsibility will be managing
3 the GIS data associated with our work. In August, we
4 hired business officer, Ginny King. That was a
5 position we had prior to 2013, and we are long overdue
6 to have that back on the team again. Terri stepped up
7 for us for years to keep track of our funds, for which
8 I am grateful, but as our funding has grown again,
9 these responsibilities are just too critical not to
10 have a dedicated position in this area again. And
11 finally, we have new field reps to fill the positions
12 vacated earlier this summer when both Chelsea and Jill
13 moved on to explore other opportunities; Isaac Merson,
14 who started last week, and Hannah Bowen, who will join
15 us next week. It may sound like a hiring spree, and it
16 is a lot of change. But in fact, it's only two new
17 bodies on the team, and these changes have been in the
18 works for quite some time. I look forward to you all
19 meeting our new staff in September. So we have three
20 committee reports today with action items in each.
21 Without spoiling all the surprises, I'd like to
22 highlight two items. The first is that once again, the
23 NC Department of Environmental Quality Flood Resiliency
24 Blueprint Program has reviewed our applications and
25 requested to contribute a little over 1 million to

1 several of our projects for flood resiliency if we fund
2 them. As I've said previously, this is an endorsement
3 of our deliberative and open process that you, our
4 trustees, ensure as well as responsible administration
5 of funds that my staff stewards. I think it validates
6 the time and work we put into the process, and we get
7 to do more work with somebody else's money. The second
8 is an item to increase funds for a program that's
9 actively working to remediate the impacts of Helene in
10 Western North Carolina. While both of these items are
11 atypical for us, I think they have a lot of merit and
12 warrant your serious consideration. So on that
13 positive note, Mr. Chair, I will conclude my report.

14 Chairman Wilson: All right,
15 thanks, Will; any questions for Will; all right, so
16 before I open the floor for public comments, I'd like
17 to remind our guests that the North Carolina Land and
18 Water Fund Guidelines and Procedures Manual states that
19 comments shall be limited to subjects of business
20 falling within the jurisdiction of the Land and Water
21 Fund. The Land and Water Fund welcomes public comments
22 on general issues, but comments will not be allowed on
23 individual projects before the Land and Water Fund for
24 funding during the regular meeting. Comments will be
25 limited to three minutes per person, and with that, are

1 there any public comments? Please make yourself known
2 by unmuting yourself or raising your hand or some other
3 equally creative attention getting method.

4 Executive Director Summer: Mr. Chair, I'm
5 not aware of any members of the public that have joined
6 us in person or virtually today.

7 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank
8 you; then we will move on to the business portion of
9 our meeting. Item one is consideration of Acquisition
10 Committee recommendations, and I'll hand it over to
11 Chair Ann Browning.

12 Acquisition Chair Browning: Thank you,
13 Chairman Wilson; we had a very productive meeting on
14 August 13th. We welcomed Jimmy Broughton to our
15 committee, so we're thrilled, Jimmy, to have you as
16 part of our team. We had two business matters. The
17 first was a program manager update from Marissa. We
18 were excited to hear about the good progress on the
19 appraisal backlog with the hiring of Chad, and also
20 hard work and good progress on other closings. Marissa
21 mentioned that she is reaching out. They have a
22 process for reaching out for some listening sessions
23 with our partners to talk about the closing process and
24 making it as efficient as possible while also making
25 sure that we're being diligent, so closings, looking at

1 the process, all of that hard work, along with
2 preparing for our funding meeting that's coming up. So
3 we're just so grateful for this hardworking staff and
4 all they're doing. We had one specific project item
5 request for a budget amendment, and we considered it,
6 had a good and thorough discussion, and bring a
7 recommendation to the full board, and I'll let Marissa
8 kind of share some highlights about that request.

9 Ms. Hartzler: Thank you so
10 much; good afternoon, everyone; so the committee heard
11 a request to amend the budget of 2024-062, Tar River
12 Land Conservancy's Edwards Tract, and this project aims
13 to purchase 134 acres, you can see on the left, just
14 outside of Franklinton in Franklin County and adjacent
15 to the existing Franklin County Park for the purposes
16 of expanding that nature preserve. Through an 83 acre
17 land and water fund conservation easement and a 51 acre
18 declaration of covenants and restrictions on the more
19 disturbed area, you can see here on the right, they
20 would expand recreational opportunities while
21 protecting the riparian buffer of Billys Creek and Fall
22 Branch. So this project is funded at just over
23 \$567,000.00 of a total of just over 1.2 million
24 dollars, specifically for the acquisition, and in this
25 proposal, this budget does not change. Instead, it is

1 the source of the matching funds totaling over
2 \$652,000.00 on this budget. So the proposed change is
3 that in lieu of a \$100,000.00 North Carolina Ecosystem
4 Enhancement Grant Award that is now not available, they
5 request to use a portion of a recently awarded North
6 Carolina Great Trails State Program grant towards the
7 acquisition. They would use \$209,000.00 of a half-a-
8 million grant towards acquisition. And so this change
9 is before the board as it reduces the project score by
10 one point. And by our guidelines and policies, that
11 means that this decision must then be made by the
12 board. I think overall this is a change that will
13 ensure that the property can be acquired with grant
14 funds now and that other secured raised funds and other
15 funds that they will raise will be used to build trails
16 and open the property up for recreation soon after
17 acquisition. So as you heard, the committee's
18 recommendation was to amend the grant contracts
19 matching resources to allow for the substitution of the
20 North Carolina Great Trails State Grant funds in lieu
21 of the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program
22 funds as was presented in the proposed matching
23 resources you saw on the last screen, which I can go
24 back to, and I'm happy to take any questions.

25 Mr. Williams:

Mr. Chairman,

1 I'd like to move approval of this proposal.

2 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thanks,
3 Darrel; this is actually coming to us from the
4 Acquisition Committee. So it comes in the form of a
5 motion and actually doesn't even need a second. So we
6 can go straight into voting when we're ready. But is
7 there any discussion on this before we vote? At the
8 committee meeting, I sort of thought of this as making
9 lemonade out of lemons. They found out that one of
10 their significant grants was not going to happen and
11 they found a wonderful alternative, and it simply
12 changed the score by one point, which is why we're
13 discussing it as a full board today. One other thing
14 to point out, and I think we should constantly remind
15 ourselves of this and particularly with two new
16 trustees, is that our rating system as thorough and
17 well thought out as it is through years and years of
18 contemplation and revision when necessary, is simply a
19 starting place for the trustees. It's the order in
20 which we hear presentations typically, but that the
21 trustees do have the authority to elevate or lower any
22 particular project in terms of its ranking and its
23 position for funding. But with that, Ann, do you want
24 to say anything else about this?

25 Acquisition Chair Browning: No, just to

1 echo your comments and we were pleased that the
2 applicant was very nimble in substituting this new
3 grant. The grant that they received, they're
4 allocating a portion to the acquisition, but they also
5 have additional funds to go ahead and start
6 construction on trails and getting the public out on
7 this property. So we felt like that was a good
8 response to what was some tough news for them to
9 receive; I'm sure.

10 Chairman Wilson: Any other
11 comments or questions from trustees or staff before we
12 vote; all right, again, this is coming to us from the
13 Acquisition Committee in the form of a motion. I'll
14 ask you to vote now, please; Jimmy?

15 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

17 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Lydia?

19 Dr. Olander: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

21 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

23 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

24 Chairman Wilson: Terry?

25 Mr. Shelton: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Darrell?

2 Mr. Williams: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: David?

4 Mr. Womack: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
6 yes, and I'll just mention also that Mike is the newest
7 addition to the Acquisition Committee. I think Will
8 may have sent out a notification of that, but I just
9 want to make sure that everybody is aware of that. So
10 that is a great development.

11 Acquisition Chair Browning: Welcome, Mike.

12 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, Ann,
13 anything else before we move on to business item two?

14 Acquisition Chair Browning: Nothing else
15 from me.

16 Chairman Wilson: All right,
17 thank you very much; thanks, Marissa; item two on our
18 agenda is consideration of Restoration, Innovative
19 Stormwater, and Planning Committee recommendations, and
20 I'll hand it over to Chair Clement Riddle.

21 Restoration Chair Riddle: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair; we had a good meeting on August 12th to discuss
23 the two agenda items before us today. We also had a
24 chance to welcome Terry Shelton to that first meeting,
25 which was great, and we had an update from Steve

1 Bevington about some restoration program closeouts. So
2 I will turn it over at this point to Steve to talk
3 about these two items.

4 Mr. Bevington: Thank you,
5 Chairman; let me just pull up my slides here. All
6 right, thank you; many of you are familiar with this,
7 having served on the board before, but I'll just say
8 that there is a usual to us requirement for any project
9 that requires construction, that they enter into a
10 construction contract within one year of our contract
11 execution. So this comes from the General Assembly and
12 our enabling legislation. I think it's a good common-
13 sense requirement that gets people moving quickly once
14 they've received money. Some of our contracts take
15 three years. So to get them moving quickly, to have
16 that construction contract lined up makes a lot of
17 sense. However, there's often some difficulties that
18 are encountered by some of our 20 or 30 applicants a
19 year who go down this road. So just very quickly for
20 those who weren't here before, for all NC Land and
21 Water Fund projects involving construction funds, which
22 are restoration projects and innovative stormwater
23 projects usually, they must enter into a contract to
24 begin construction or to have construction contract
25 paperwork completed and a contractor on board within

1 one year; otherwise, the award can be withdrawn by you
2 as the board. So we have one of those items to
3 consider today.

4 Executive Director Summer: Steve, you
5 inadvertently muted yourself as you went to advance the
6 slide.

7 Mr. Bevington: That happened
8 last week. I'll try to keep that from happening.
9 Somehow, I want to hit the button. Let me try it this
10 way. All right, we're back. That's the first slide.
11 Let me try the space bar. Am I still audible, okay.

12 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes, you're
13 good.

14 Mr. Bevington: Okay, thank
15 you; I'm not sure. I have one method that simply does
16 not work with that. The item in front of us is from
17 the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services. They
18 have generally one or two projects with us awarded
19 every year. This one was awarded in 2023 on the Reedy
20 Creek project just above I-485 in Mecklenburg County,
21 and it's sort of a funny thing. We think of Charlotte-
22 Mecklenburg Storm Water Services as one entity, but of
23 course, they really have to deal with both city
24 properties and county properties. And essentially
25 that's their difficulty. I'll show a map of the

1 projects in a minute, but they have had to reacquire
2 the project to put it into permanent conservation
3 easements. Essentially it was city-owned property, but
4 the County is running the stewardship of the project,
5 so they had to transfer it. And they weren't
6 anticipating it taking as long as it did, but it is now
7 resolved. So they are requesting to extend their
8 contract, the contract requirement to enter into a
9 construction contract, to June 30th of this next year.
10 They presently would otherwise miss that deadline,
11 November 6th of this year. The project is really two
12 large segments near the -- near a closed landfill in
13 Mecklenburg County, again near -- just near 485. You
14 can see there in that corner, and again, the property,
15 it's one entire restoration project. The hashed areas
16 is where our project is involved. The County
17 themselves is completing the segment in between, so it
18 would be one big long section of restored stream. And
19 we're really pleased to see this all come together, but
20 they're back on schedule, but they were delayed and in
21 this case are requesting, as the committee approved or
22 recommended that you approve, the committee recommended
23 approving Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services'
24 request to extend their construction contract deadline
25 for this project from June -- from November 6th of this

1 year to June 30th, 2026, and that is what is in front
2 of you today.

3 Restoration Chair Riddle: Thank you,
4 Steve; any questions or discussion?

5 Mr. Bevington: And I can stop
6 sharing, or if you'd like to see the motion in front of
7 you, either way. Let me know.

8 Restoration Chair Riddle: The restoration
9 committee had a good discussion about this, and one of
10 the things that helped us feel comfortable about the
11 project was the long-term relationship with the Storm
12 Water Services and the number of projects they've been
13 able to execute and complete successfully. So it
14 seemed like, due to these circumstances, that this was
15 a partner that we could rely on to keep moving forward.

16 Chairman Wilson: All right;
17 thank you, Steve and Clement; before we vote, again,
18 this comes to us as a motion from the committee, so we
19 can just go straight into voting when we're ready, but
20 any discussion? All right, I'm not hearing any, so I'm
21 going to assume that we are ready to vote on this. How
22 do you vote, please; Jimmy?

23 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

24 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

25 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Lydia?

2 Dr. Olander: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

4 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

6 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

7 Chairman Wilson: Terry?

8 Mr. Shelton: Yes.

9 Chairman Wilson: Darrell?

10 Mr. Williams: Yes.

11 Chairman Wilson: David?

12 Mr. Womack: Yes.

13 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
14 yes. Steve, would you mind just flashing that motion
15 back on there again? I'm sorry.

16 Mr. Bevington: John, I just
17 closed it, but I'll bring it right back up.

18 Chairman Wilson: Okay, well, I
19 just -- I don't know that if it -- can we just -- can I
20 just ask that it be entered verbatim into the minutes?
21 I was just going to quickly read it, but I think we've
22 all got -- we all know what we voted on, and just enter
23 that into the minutes by reference, if you would,
24 please. Is that all right?

25 Mr. Bevington: John, I can get

1 it in one second. I'm just scrambling. I should -- I
2 was moving ahead to agenda item two prematurely.

3 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

4 Executive Director Summer: I think we're
5 good, John, because you're approving the same motion
6 that appears in everybody's agendas.

7 Chairman Wilson: Yes, we are.
8 That's the request to extend construction contract
9 deadline for project 2023-407 until June 30th, 2026;
10 thank you. All right, I just wanted to see if I could
11 make you mute yourself again, Steve. Clement, back to
12 you and for item 2 -- I'm sorry, item 2B. You're
13 muted, Clement.

14 Restoration Chair Riddle: Thank you; on
15 and off, on and off, I'm not going to steal Steve's
16 thunder on this, so I think we can just jump right into
17 it and have some discussion afterwards.

18 Mr. Bevington: Very good; here
19 we go. I will just bring it up this slide without
20 muting myself, we hope. All right, the second agenda
21 item today is, again, I think a -- just a request to
22 transfer a 2024 award, which you all made last October,
23 from one good partner to another. I think that's the
24 way I would characterize it. But on October 2nd of
25 last year, the Town of Canton was awarded \$75,000.00 by

1 the Land and Water Fund, North Carolina Land and Water,
2 for a project to address flooding and other water
3 quality concerns right in downtown Canton. It's a
4 planning grant. The project is not yet under contract,
5 and as we negotiated having the Town sign the contract
6 and begin this work, they really pointed out how
7 heavily they were involved in other larger contracts
8 with FEMA and other negotiations they are doing
9 involved in the recovery from Hurricane Helene. And
10 they had mentioned they're working very closely with
11 the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, who was
12 mentioned and actually helped prepare the original
13 application for this grant. And they suggested that
14 Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy take on the
15 project administration and be responsible for
16 completion of the planning grant. And without muting
17 myself, we're going to move to the next slide; we hope.
18 So what's nice is both the Town and Southern
19 Appalachian Highlands Conservancy support this
20 transfer, and they are both active partners in this
21 project. The Town remains committed to the project.
22 They -- in your packet, you'll see two excellent
23 letters, I believe, both from the Town and from the
24 nonprofit explaining the situation and showing how
25 they're willing to work together in the future under

1 either scenario, either staying with the Town of Canton
2 or having this transfer happen. We have checked, and
3 the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy that
4 does several projects with North Carolina Land and
5 Water every year, they do have the capacity to perform
6 the current scope of work, and they have executed many
7 of these projects in the past. I think they average
8 over one project a year with us, often very successful
9 projects we're happy with, and no real black eyes at
10 all. We're very happy with their work. So with that
11 little bit and not much discussion of the project, I
12 can tell you exactly what the planning project is, but
13 it's really a needed research and planning project to
14 figure out how to alleviate some of the terrible
15 flooding issues that exist right on the Pigeon River in
16 downtown Canton. The committee did recommend approving
17 the request to transfer the award, \$75,000.00 for this
18 planning project, 2024-803, from the Town of Canton to
19 the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. So
20 I'll be happy to answer any questions you have about
21 that or any other discussions you guys want to have,
22 obviously.

23 Mr. Womack: Steve, this is
24 David. This may have come up in the committee, but
25 given what's transpired up there, I mean, is \$75,000.00

1 adequate to look at this? I mean, the hydrology has
2 changed. The landscape has changed. The -- you know,
3 the concept of what could happen has changed. I mean,
4 is that enough?

5 Mr. Bevington: Right, it is
6 certainly not enough. Luckily, there are a number of
7 other resources there, including the Haywood Waterways
8 Association is helping. There are -- we have several
9 other grants in the area looking at other sort of flood
10 reduction efforts. This is focused pretty much on the
11 former Canton Mills site and across the river from it.
12 So it's a pretty small segment that actually wasn't
13 itself damaged as much as other reaches of the river.
14 Others may have a point of view on that, but no, it's
15 not enough, but I think it's a useful tool we can hand
16 to them. And given that we don't really have, you
17 know, an open door for brand new applications in most
18 cases, I think it's really just a -- I think they can
19 put it to good use, and I think -- again, if you look
20 at the Town of Canton --

21 Mr. Womack: Okay, all
22 right, I'm certainly in favor of the project.

23 Mr. Bevington: Yeah.

24 Mr. Womack: I just was -- I
25 didn't want them to embark on something and get halfway

1 done and all of a sudden, you know, not have the
2 resources to complete what they were doing.

3 Mr. Bevington: Yeah.

4 Mr. Womack: But I'm fully
5 in favor of it. I just -- that was just a thought.

6 Mr. Bevington: That's a great
7 point. I mean, I -- obviously, we're not the only
8 funder out there. DEQ has funds out there. FEMA has
9 some funds. I think that's -- I won't comment on how
10 quickly those have been arriving for the Town of
11 Canton, but I think we're not alone out there. We're
12 just hoping to get this one rolling along. We would
13 certainly be welcome and open to further applications.
14 I know Damon's in regular contact with them, with both
15 the Town of Canton and the Southern Appalachian
16 Highlands Conservancy. If they were to express need, I
17 think our next funding cycle might be a time that would
18 show up. That's a great point, David.

19 Mr. Womack: Okay, thanks;
20 good answer.

21 Chairman Wilson: Clement,
22 anything more?

23 Restoration Chair Riddle: So I would say
24 this was a pretty easy one for us to discuss as well.
25 A little bit similar to the last project, the Southern

1 Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is a very well known
2 entity to the Land and Water Fund, and I think that
3 gives a very good sense of security for this type of
4 transfer. So it was easy for us to recommend
5 approving.

6 Chairman Wilson: Thank you; any
7 more discussion on this before we vote; all right,
8 again, this is coming to us from the committee,
9 approving the request to transfer the award of
10 \$75,000.00 for Planning Project 2024-803 from the Town
11 of Canton to Southern Appalachian Highlands
12 Conservancy. How do you vote, please; Jimmy?

13 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

15 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Lydia?

17 Dr. Olander: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

19 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

21 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Terry?

23 Mr. Shelton: Yes.

24 Chairman Wilson: Darrell?

25 Mr. Williams: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: David?

2 Mr. Womack: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
4 yes, also; Clement, anything else from the committee?

5 Restoration Chair Riddle: No, we don't
6 have anything else to report or add at this time. It
7 was a pretty straightforward agenda, and it was nice to
8 check off before our October meeting.

9 Chairman Wilson: All right,
10 thank you very much.

11 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yep.

12 Chairman Wilson: All right, the
13 last item on our agenda is consideration of Executive
14 Committee recommendations. I chair that committee. We
15 have three items of business. First is consideration
16 of additional funding through DEQ, and before I hand it
17 off to Steve, I just want to say, I think, as Will said
18 in his remarks, this really is a strong statement of
19 support for the work that the Land and Water Fund has
20 done, that DEQ is showing continued faith in that
21 partnership and providing funding to us. So with that,
22 I'll hand it over to Steve, who was largely responsible
23 for setting up this program, and so off to you, Steve.

24 Mr. Bevington: Thank you,

25 Chairman Wilson; I'm going to share again at the risk

1 of difficulties. I hope you can all see that first
2 slide. Just pointing out that North Carolina Land and
3 Water Fund is statutorily permitted to accept funds
4 beyond what is appropriated by the State Legislature;
5 however, it is really your choice as a board to decide
6 to do so. So we have such an opportunity in front of
7 you today. In 2024, at the direction of the board,
8 North Carolina Land and Water Fund entered into a
9 memorandum of understanding with North Carolina
10 Department of Environmental Equality, I'll call it DEQ
11 from now on out, to fund additional eight items of work
12 and scope increases on our flood risk reduction
13 projects, as well as to fund four flood reduction
14 efforts within 2024 projects. That -- actually MOA
15 provided us over 9 million dollars in additional
16 funding for the year. Most of that, 5.8 million
17 dollars went to the flood risk reduction projects that
18 were already in place, sort of expanded their scope.
19 But three restoration projects and one acquisition
20 project last year were funded in part by DEQ blueprint
21 funds, totaling 3.2 million dollars for the four
22 projects. So as Will sort of mentioned earlier in his
23 remarks, we're not asking you to fund these projects
24 that you see here, and I'll get to in just a minute.
25 All we're doing is saying there are overlapping

1 objectives between us and DEQ, and they have 76 million
2 dollars available, or did have that much available from
3 their Blueprint Implementation Funds, and they saw
4 these as prime opportunities to do that. So just as we
5 did in 2024, 2025 DEQ staff again identified three
6 projects, and we agree with them very much, that these
7 have mutually beneficial benefits to us as sort of a
8 natural resource lift in these projects. And obviously
9 you'll make the final decision of that in October as
10 you review these in committees and in the full board,
11 but DEQ also sees value in reducing flooding through
12 these projects and supported funding these three in the
13 amounts you see. The first two on that list, the two
14 restoration projects, the 400-number series are usually
15 restoration projects. They would be -- if you chose to
16 pursue these, and they've met your standards when you
17 review them in October, they would just -- DEQ is
18 willing to fund the full amount of their request, which
19 is \$270,000.00 for the first and \$210,000.00 for the
20 second and \$500.00 here and there. The second -- the
21 third one there on the list is an Innovative Stormwater
22 Project from Smithfield, and DEQ saw a lot of value in
23 that, but would only propose to fund about 84 percent
24 of it, leaving their unfunded request at \$125,000.00.
25 But all in all, this is -- again, there's no decision-

1 making today about whether these projects are awarded.
2 It's just that they see value and would be willing to
3 chip in and essentially contribute 1.1 million odd
4 dollars towards these three projects should you choose
5 to fund them in October. So they would just be treated
6 like any other project in October. We would queue them
7 up on the committee lists, and you can see them. But
8 if you chose to award them, the funds would first come
9 from the DEQ funds. So in other words, there would be
10 a little flat spot as we go through there drawing down
11 our own funds as you award sort of high ranking
12 projects and move down the list. If you came across
13 one of these, DEQ funds could be pulled in, essentially
14 providing a little plateau before funds drop. So in
15 other words, it would allow our funds to go a little
16 further should you, again, find these projects to score
17 high enough to be worth taking on and involving staff
18 work on them. The amount awarded to each project would
19 not change. The scopes would not change. Nothing is
20 really changing. We would just use the MOA between DEQ
21 and the North Carolina Land and Water Fund that is
22 already in existence. And after we hear what happens
23 in October, we would propose modifying the MOA to allow
24 these funds to be transferred and held by us, and we
25 would distribute those as these projects request funds

1 from them. So again, this is not in any way a
2 commitment to these three projects today. It's just
3 saying, hey, that money is available. DEQ sees value,
4 and I think as Will eloquently said at the beginning in
5 his remarks, it really shows that our contracting
6 efficiencies and our deliberative process really pay
7 dividends that DEQ finds this a convenient shortcut. I
8 do have to say they do this with other agencies as
9 well, the Department of Agriculture -- North Carolina
10 Department of Agriculture, and internal funds have
11 also been spent through other processes besides the
12 Blueprint, but I think some of our projects have really
13 been, I hope, home runs for -- win-wins for us and for
14 them. So again, the committee went through this in a
15 little more detail than I'm providing you here today,
16 but the committee did recommend to the board, to you
17 all, that the North Carolina DEQ funds in the amount of
18 \$1,139,351.00 be considered at the October funding
19 meeting for the three applications set out below in the
20 amounts specified, and that is what we're asking you to
21 consider today. I'd be happy to answer any questions.
22 I know it's a little confusing how the money is sort of
23 there, but it's sort of not until you take action. I'd
24 be happy to answer any questions you have about it.

25 Mr. Womack:

Steve, this is

1 David. I just have to ask. What's the backstory on
2 them only supporting 84 percent of the Smithfield-
3 College Pond Retrofit?

4 Mr. Bevington: All of our
5 innovative stormwater projects have a research
6 component or a pilot project, so we really have that
7 program not to improve stormwater. As much as we'd
8 like to the State -- the Legislature has not given us
9 really a purview to do stormwater work per se. So our
10 innovative stormwater work always involves some sort of
11 monitoring and research to sort of say, hey, let's see
12 if this works. And then the whole point is if it works
13 well, they tell everybody, and in a couple cases where
14 it doesn't work at all, they can tell people, don't
15 bother wasting your money on it. That approach did not
16 work, and that's been a successful program over the
17 last almost 10 years now or probably more than 10
18 years. So I think DEQ looked at that and sort of
19 thought, well, all that extra fancy dancy monitoring
20 and research you're doing seems awful good. It didn't
21 meet their standards. So essentially, our -- obviously
22 our benefit is to the natural resource and uplift, and
23 theirs is to literally how much floodwater can you
24 grab. So they looked at about \$550,000.00 of it. I'm
25 wrong, \$650,000.00, and said that's going to help

1 flooding. The rest of the request, they sort of
2 thought was -- just didn't meet their needs, frankly,
3 but it may or may not meet our needs. You'll get to
4 decide in October.

5 Mr. Womack: Okay, it just
6 seemed kind of arbitrary, but I guess there's a method
7 to it.

8 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, I think,
9 A, it's a big ask for a stormwater project, so they
10 might have been looking to sort of trim it a little
11 bit. Last year they offered it arbitrarily very much,
12 so they capped it. So the four projects had all
13 requested more than \$800,000.00, as I recall, and they
14 capped every one of them at \$800,000.00. So to me that
15 was even more arbitrary.

16 Mr. Womack: Okay.

17 Mr. Bevington: I think in this
18 case, they sort of looked at it and said, you know,
19 most of that is for storm relief. A little bit doesn't
20 seem -- it's a little much research for us. Why don't
21 we pay about 85 percent of it? But, yeah, exactly how
22 they came up with \$351.00, you'll have to ask them.

23 Mr. Womack: Okay.

24 Chairman Wilson: And, Steve, to
25 be clear, if we do, at the end of September and

1 beginning of October decide to fund these three
2 projects and with this DEQ money being part of that,
3 this will not change the score of these projects and
4 count as additional match. The score remains the same.
5 It's just this would be the first money that goes
6 towards these projects, with our money supplementing
7 this up to a maximum of what the ask is in their
8 application to us.

9 Mr. Bevington: Correct, for
10 the first two, that's exactly correct, and in the third
11 one, the number you see is \$658,000.00. That's all
12 they were willing to put at it. The request is
13 \$750,000.00 in total, I believe. So yes, what you said
14 is right. This -- we did not score these assuming free
15 money. We scored them on their own merits, and you'll
16 see those. They fall -- we don't have final scores
17 yet, but I think generally in the middle of the pack.
18 So you'll see them halfway through the day and have to
19 make a decision on whether you think they're worthy at
20 that point. And that is our intent to have you fund
21 them only if you think they're a valuable use of State
22 funds. It's conceivable you think, even though it
23 doesn't hurt us at all not to fund them in terms of our
24 bottom line, not a valuable thing to go forward, and
25 you'll be able to make that decision in committees and

1 then as a board. And if I'm not making that clear, let
2 me know.

3 Chairman Wilson: Okay, so again,
4 we are only voting today to receive -- if we decide in
5 September and October to fund these projects, that's
6 the only instance in which these funds would be
7 expended, but today we are voting to be open to that
8 and make that possible.

9 Mr. Bevington: That's correct.
10 And I guess my implication allow Will to sign an
11 amended MOA that would go up by 1.1 million dollars
12 with odd cents on there as well. It's not in the
13 motion per se, but I think Will would have direct --
14 could imply direction from you to amend that MOA.

15 Chairman Wilson: Yep, any
16 discussion about this; any more questions; don't let me
17 short circuit discussion. I'm not forcing you to vote
18 yet. All right, I'm going to sense that we are ready
19 to move to a vote. This is coming to us from the
20 Executive Committee recommending to the board that
21 North Carolina DEQ funds in the amount of \$1,139,351.00
22 be considered at the October funding meeting for
23 applications 2025-408, 411, and 1004. That's two
24 restoration projects and one innovative stormwater
25 project as set out below, and I'm not going to read all

1 those. They are on your screen and were in your
2 packet. Any last discussion or questions; all right,
3 how do you vote, please; Jimmy?

4 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

6 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.

7 Chairman Wilson: Lydia?

8 Dr. Olander: Yes.

9 Chairman Wilson: Clement?

10 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.

11 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

12 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

13 Chairman Wilson: Terry?

14 Mr. Shelton: Yes.

15 Chairman Wilson: Darrell?

16 Mr. Williams: Yes.

17 Chairman Wilson: David?

18 Mr. Womack: Yes.

19 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
20 yes; thank you, Steve; anything else on that, Steve?

21 Mr. Bevington: Thank you all;
22 it's very helpful. I really appreciate it, and good
23 questions.

24 Chairman Wilson: All right,
25 okay, we're going to move on to consideration of

1 additional funds for Hurricane Helene impacts. One
2 project in particular, and this discussion will be led
3 by Damon Hearne.

4 Mr. Hearne: Hello, all
5 right, I'm going to juggle some screens. You all can
6 see that slide, I assume. Okay, so presenting to you
7 all a slightly tighter version, but similar to what I
8 presented to the committee, additional funds request
9 from Mountain Valleys RC&D for \$194,750.00 for a
10 project that we funded in 2024, 2024-417, their Shade
11 Your Stream project to address increased demand due to
12 Hurricane Helene. I'll show you a couple of the slides
13 that I presented originally, and then at the end there
14 will be a couple of slides on what the new content is.
15 So in 2024 we presented, and the board funded a
16 project, that was the second iteration of their Shade
17 Your Stream project. At that time they requested
18 \$218,000.00. It was a \$450,000.00 project, and they
19 were working to stabilize at least 12 moderately
20 degraded stream reaches. Mountain Valleys RC&D works
21 in a region that is central to Asheville, kind of
22 reaching from Madison in the north to Transylvania
23 County and over to Cleveland County and the counties
24 there in between. At the time they were proposing to
25 stabilize at least 15,000 feet of stream using a

1 variety of funds. They showed us a number of places
2 that were already signed up or enrolled in that
3 program. The way this program works is that they have
4 the flexibility to sign up new folks as they go and
5 move projects around as needed, as long as they are
6 meeting the goals that we set out and they update us
7 along the way. These are very cost effective, just
8 planting on stream bank only. They're not moving dirt
9 or spending a lot of effort on permitting and design.
10 And they are 15-year maintenance agreements, and they
11 tend to fall into the category of less than \$10.00 a
12 linear foot compared to some of our larger restoration
13 projects, which are hundreds of dollars per linear
14 foot. I kind of slid in underneath these dots, so to
15 speak. The rainfall from Helene, and you can see the
16 purple there reaching up to, the dark purple reaching
17 up to 20 to 30 inches of rain. And so just to give you
18 the understanding of kind of where they were proposing
19 this work prior to that rain got a lot of rain and a
20 lot of flooding, of course, as we all know. You don't
21 need this graphic to know that. These are all
22 moderately degraded streams that do not need -- usually
23 don't need the excavator, don't need the in-stream
24 structures. We plant -- we give them funds to plant
25 these banks so that we can get deep rooted roots and

1 prevent erosion before it's too late, and we have to
2 spend \$100,000.00 or \$400,000.00 on a given site. I
3 showed some before/after pictures in 2024. This is the
4 Bailey Mountain Smith Farm site. We actually, as an
5 acquisition of ours prior that they then planted, and
6 you can see all of the tree protectors there and the
7 buffer doing really nicely, and they spent a lot of
8 effort making sure that works well. So getting to
9 their amendment request, just as a background, they did
10 close out a 2020 version of this. They closed it out
11 early in 2024, and they exceeded their deliverables.
12 And in 2024, as I stated, we funded their new
13 application, and they are slated to exceed those
14 deliverables. So what we've learned since the 2024
15 award that they've completed 20 projects totaling
16 10,000, almost 11,000 linear feet, and they've got 11
17 additional sites allocated, signed up, and ready to go
18 with an additional 7,500 feet. That means that when
19 they -- if they were to close out their current project
20 as it is now, they would exceed their deliverable by
21 3,000 feet. If you recall, it was around a 15,000
22 linear foot deliverable. Now also since that time,
23 we've got the world of Helene where some completed
24 projects that they did with the 2024 dollars suffered
25 or that they did right before that. A number of them

1 have already been addressed. There's a picture from
2 the island in Marshall. You can kind of see the same
3 set of buildings in the background. Before the first
4 set of work after plantings when I closed it out, after
5 Helene damages, and then during Helene repair. So
6 they've done a ton of work and have been really
7 proactive in repairing sites that they'd already worked
8 on, on getting new sites and continuing this work,
9 which is why they're -- you can see they've or they are
10 going to exceed their deliverable either way. What
11 they found is that all of that work and all the
12 publicity and all the need from, as you can imagine,
13 all the high water on all these stream banks created a
14 lot of need. A lot of landowners showed up and said,
15 hey, I've got this problem, too, or I had it before and
16 it's slightly worse now, or it was fine before, and now
17 the cleanup crews came in and sloped the banks back.
18 You can see the bulldozer tracks and very little deep
19 rooted vegetation. They've got 28 of those sites ready
20 to go if they had the funds, and they're basically --
21 all the funds that we awarded in 2024 are allocated.
22 If we added to their contract with this amount, they
23 could do 3.7 additional miles, 28 sites, 26 of which
24 are certified to be Helene damaged, and I suspect the
25 other two certainly were affected. They couldn't not

1 be, really. So that's what the \$194,750.00 could do.
2 You can see in the little table there the match. They
3 lost some match, kind of not unexpected, due to major
4 upheavals in federal programs and Helene, but they've
5 made up for a lot of it. The new math that kind of
6 compares their original application to -- with this
7 amendment only decreases their total match by 8
8 percent, which is, I think, testament to the fact that
9 they've worked really hard to get other additional
10 match funds in the door. So the committee
11 recommendation here was the committee recommended to
12 accept Mountain Valley RC&D's request to increase the
13 award for project 2024-417 by \$194,750.00 and to
14 increase the project scope to include an additional 28
15 sites and 19,536 linear feet of stream utilizing unused
16 funds from the 2024 grant cycle. And then the board
17 action is stated there, approve, amend, or deny the
18 committee recommendation.

19 Chairman Wilson: Thank you,
20 Damon; any questions for Damon or comments?

21 Mr. Williams: Damon, I do
22 have a question; thanks for your report. I'm curious
23 whether or not this -- the impact of the hurricane,
24 Helene, does this cover most of the projects that were
25 impacted that were related to Land and Water, or is

1 this just a portion of them?

2 Mr. Hearne: So these are
3 brand -- the 28 sites are new sites that are beyond the
4 need of what they've already built and done and gone
5 back and repaired. So they've already with other funds
6 done some repair of existing sites. The 28 sites here
7 are not on previously constructed projects. They are
8 landowners that have come to them in the rush of --
9 since basically after the point that they got all of
10 their previous funds allocated and planned to spend
11 that came in and said, I've also got this problem. And
12 the crux of this is their proposal is that if we amend
13 that project to do these additional new sites that were
14 not on their radar prior, that these bare banks won't
15 have to sit for another 12 to 18 to 24 months to get
16 planted, and these landowners will know that they can
17 plant them. So it's -- they're basically by saying,
18 we've got an open contract, but all the money is spent,
19 we could take advantage of additional funds and get it
20 done in the next 12 months or the next eight or nine
21 months versus waiting a whole year to apply and then at
22 least a half year to get the contract and get the
23 project stood up again and going forward. So there
24 wouldn't be a lag of these bare banks sitting there
25 through all the flood and rain cycles for the next year

1 and a half to two years. But they are not replanting
2 existing NCLWF projects with these additional funds.
3 Does that answer your question, I guess?

4 Mr. Williams: Just a follow-
5 up, does Mountain Valley represent most of the
6 geographic area that got impacted by Helene? I mean
7 the organization, yeah. Just to be clear, are there
8 other organizations like this that's representing --
9 okay, that shows the area. So that's just the whole
10 area that was impacted by Helene. They represent the
11 whole area?

12 Mr. Hearne: They do not
13 represent the entire area.

14 Mr. Williams: Okay.

15 Mr. Hearne: They represent
16 the worst of the area, but there are certainly
17 projects, especially northeast of these counties. So
18 Mitchell, Yancey, those counties certainly were hit
19 very hard. What they represent is a combination of
20 hard hit areas and an open existing contract with a
21 need built up. So in other words, we don't have an
22 analog of their program where they've run to the end of
23 their funds and have people signed up to make a very
24 efficient quick use of the funds. There may be folks
25 in Mitchell County that would like to apply for this

1 kind of program in 2026, but the reason this is in
2 front of us, is it's not a new application. It's an
3 extension of an existing contract that basically proved
4 that they had used all their funds and could -- had a
5 surplus of need, which is the unique part of it. I
6 have no doubt and would love to sign up additional
7 partners to do this type of work in other counties,
8 especially north and east of their range.

9 Mr. Williams: Okay, thank
10 you.

11 Chairman Wilson: More questions
12 for Damon or discussion?

13 Acquisition Chair Browning: I'm 100 percent
14 behind this request. Just to be clear though, if we
15 didn't fund it, those funds would be back, would go
16 into the pool for this coming year's application, is
17 that right?

18 Executive Director Summer: That's correct.

19 Acquisition Chair Browning: Okay, yeah,
20 even with that said, I think it's a great and efficient
21 way to take advantage of the momentum they've built.

22 Vice-Chair Broughton: This is
23 Jimmy. Can I ask you to remind me how much? This has
24 come from unused funds? What does that pot look like?
25 I just -- I can't remember.

1 Executive Director Summer: So, Jimmy, we
2 brought forward at the end of last fiscal year between
3 monies that came back from projects or license plate
4 revenues that came in -- have come in since July 1st --

5 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yeah.

6 Executive Director Summer: -- that are
7 sitting in our account right now. It's a little under
8 2 million dollars that we have available.

9 Vice-Chair Broughton: Okay, all
10 right, fair enough; I saw that somewhere. I just
11 couldn't remember.

12 Chairman Wilson: Sorry, is
13 somebody going to say something? I was just going to
14 say I agree with what Damon was saying, which is this
15 is a unique opportunity in a project with a proven
16 track record in an area of extraordinary need. And I'm
17 all for it and appreciate Damon and Will bringing this
18 to the Executive Committee and to the full board. Any
19 more discussion, questions; do you all feel like we're
20 ready to vote? Okay, I see some nods. All right,
21 please let me know how you vote. Damon read it, so I'm
22 not going to read it again. There it is in front of
23 you. Coming from the Executive Committee, so we can go
24 straight to a vote. How do you vote, please; Jimmy?

25 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Ann?
2 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.
3 Chairman Wilson: Lydia?
4 Dr. Olander: Yes.
5 Chairman Wilson: Clement?
6 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.
7 Chairman Wilson: Mike?
8 Mr. Rusher: Yes.
9 Chairman Wilson: Terry?
10 Mr. Shelton: Yes.
11 Chairman Wilson: Darrell?
12 Mr. Williams: Yes.
13 Chairman Wilson: David?
14 Mr. Womack: Yes.
15 Chairman Wilson: And John is a
16 yes, also; thank you; Damon, anything else on this?
17 Mr. Womack: Yeah, John,
18 David, real quick, I just want to compliment the staff
19 and the Executive Committee for adding a little
20 quotient of entrepreneurial spirit to a normally stodgy
21 process; thank you all for being nimble and quick in
22 addressing this in a timely manner.
23 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, and you
24 know, both this and the additional funding from DEQ are
25 sort of out-of-the-box procedures, and that's why they

1 were coming through the Executive Committee, where we
2 have both of our committee chairs, our vice chair, and
3 myself in order to contemplate this. So, yes, I
4 appreciated that comment, David, agree with you.
5 All right, moving on to the final item on our agenda,
6 3C, and that is the allocation of funding for 2025
7 applications, and I'll hand it over to you, Will
8 Summer.

9 Executive Director Summer: Thank you, Mr.
10 Chair, so each year the executive committee recommends
11 funding allocations for the grant program committees,
12 and that gives the committees direction about how much
13 funding they will have on the day of the funding
14 meeting. It also directs staff about how to handle any
15 funds received after the board meeting. So before I
16 put up the official committee recommendation, I'd like
17 to take a minute to kind of explain it in plain speak.
18 So the committee recommendation does several things.
19 The first is that it dictates how our existing funding
20 on the day of the funding meeting is allocated between
21 committees. So if an 80-20 allocation is agreed upon
22 between the Acquisition Committee and the Restoration,
23 Innovative Stormwater, and Planning Committee, and we
24 have, for the sake of ease, we'll say 10 million, then
25 8 million would go to Acquisition, and 2 million would

1 go to the Restoration Committee. Second, it directs
2 staff on how to allocate any new revenue that comes in
3 after the funding meeting, such as from license plates,
4 which we receive as a monthly deposit each month for
5 the rest of the fiscal year. Third, this motion
6 specifies what happens when the money comes back from a
7 project, either due to the project finishing under
8 budget or the project being withdrawn completely and
9 returning all of its funds. Here, we have
10 traditionally done something a little different and
11 specified that when funds come back from a previously
12 funded project, they're not split per the allocation.
13 They go back to the committee from wince they came. So
14 if an acquisition project fails, and it was funded at a
15 million dollars, then that million dollars goes towards
16 the acquisition program to be put into another
17 acquisition project, likewise for Restoration,
18 Innovative Stormwater, and Planning. Fourth, the
19 recommendation specifies that the Acquisition Committee
20 is the group that's responsible for setting aside some
21 of their funds for the donation mini-grant program,
22 since it is primarily an acquisition function. And
23 finally, the last thing it does is that the
24 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
25 Committee, which is one committee that handles three

1 different funding program areas, they bear the
2 responsibility of allocating their funds between each
3 of those three programs based on project merit, and
4 that's done at the funding meeting. So for instance,
5 if it was allocated 80/20 and 20 percent went to the
6 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
7 program, at the day of the funding meeting Restoration,
8 Innovative Stormwater, and Planning would look at the
9 projects and divvy that money up as they saw fit in the
10 moment based on the project merit. So one of the
11 factors that the committee takes into consideration is
12 the percentage of demand in each program. If you look
13 at the table here in the last column, you'll see that
14 the percentage of demand in the Acquisition Committee
15 for acquisition applications is roughly 88 percent,
16 leaving 12 percent for the Restoration, Innovative
17 Stormwater, and Planning programs. The snapshot demand
18 for this cycle is a little different than in previous
19 years, which were a little closer to the 80/20
20 allocation that we've used in previous years. And I
21 think if this were the only factor that you used, you
22 might end up -- or that the committee used, they might
23 end up closer to say an allocation of 88/12. But the
24 committee is recommending 80/20 again this year, and
25 I'd like to share some of the factors they considered.

1 So the first thing is that, you know, as the
2 administrator, I'm trying to build and maintain staff
3 to handle project load that results from your funding
4 decisions, and we have staff that's dedicated to the
5 Restoration program and staff dedicated to the
6 Acquisition program. I don't have the balance perfect
7 yet, but shifting more project load from Restoration to
8 Acquisition moves me a little further from getting
9 there and also makes it kind of harder to predict
10 because I can't ramp up staffing or workload on a dime
11 if we deviate a lot from the standard allocation. My
12 other programmatic concern is that if you de-emphasize
13 the Restoration program and the funding, it might lead
14 us into a situation where applicants don't feel there
15 is strong support for the program or that their efforts
16 face too few dollars, and it becomes too competitive
17 and it kind of becomes a negative feedback loop, in
18 which case it just, again, becomes a little bit of a
19 self-fulfilling prophecy. Another thing is that we
20 generally receive more return funds to the acquisition
21 projects on the provisional list each year, and that's
22 because the universe of previously funded projects for
23 acquisition is far larger than restoration, and they're
24 generally prone to more binary outcomes. So when an
25 acquisition project fails, it's usually one landowner.

1 It either succeeds and spends all the monies, or when
2 it fails, the whole thing fails and a big chunk of
3 money comes back in. Conversely, when a restoration
4 project hits a snag, for instance one out of ten
5 landowners is no longer interested in the project,
6 they're often able to complete 80 or 90 or more percent
7 of their initial project, so there's less money coming
8 back from previous restoration projects. So the end
9 result of that is that in any given year, the return
10 funds that go back into the acquisition pot, which do
11 go back towards acquisition projects funded in that
12 year, is skewed far more heavily than restoration. So
13 last year, 97 percent of all the money that we got back
14 after the funding meeting went into the acquisition.
15 So if you do pick whatever number, let's say an 80/20
16 allocation, by the end of the fiscal year, you will end
17 up with far more towards acquisition than 80 percent
18 just because of the larger number of funds that come
19 back in. Also, there are also -- there are some very
20 large acquisition requests, individual requests that
21 are as high as 10 million, which we generally don't
22 fund any one project that large, so they get capped at
23 some smaller number. In recent years, it's been around
24 4 million. So if you assume that the committee will be
25 somewhere similar to that and all these really large

1 requests are going to get capped at 4 million, that
2 would reduce the demand by 15 to 20 million. And it
3 just results in kind of an inflated demand for that
4 type of project when they're really large requests that
5 we have no likelihood of funding the entirety of. And
6 finally, the last point I'll make, and I think this
7 went into the committee's decision, is that because our
8 demand so far outstrips our funding availability, for
9 instance with just our appropriations and license plate
10 revenue, we'll probably get to about a third of the
11 demand on the list. And even if we had as much money
12 come back in after the fact as we have in our biggest
13 of recent years, we still wouldn't even get through
14 half the demand. So there's no danger that you would
15 go too far down the list by funding 80/20 when the
16 demand was closer to 88/12. There's still going to be
17 lots of projects you don't get to on either list and no
18 danger of going too deep on the list or funding
19 projects that aren't worthy. You're only going to be
20 able to fund excellent, you know, best of the best
21 projects just because we have such a strong demand. So
22 with that said, here's the committee recommendation.
23 This is as it appeared in your agenda. I'll take any
24 questions and leave this up to contemplate.

25 Chairman Wilson:

Will, you

1 described for us what happens if funds are returned
2 during the fiscal year in which they were granted, they
3 go to the specific program from which they came. Will
4 you please remind everyone what happens if we then take
5 those funds and continue working our way down the
6 funding list and down to the provisional list and maybe
7 get all the way to the bottom of the provisional list
8 and there are still funds available. What happens to
9 those funds at the end of the fiscal year?

10 Executive Director Summer: Absolutely; so
11 that's a good question, John. I'll start with the
12 concept of the provisional list just for new trustees.
13 So when you all meet next month, I'm going to tell you
14 today here's what you have in your checking account and
15 that number will be somewhere around probably 32
16 million. And you as trustees will allocate, award all
17 of that 32 million towards projects. But as I
18 mentioned, we get license plate revenue every month for
19 the remainder of the year, and we have projects fall
20 through. So in order for us not to have money just
21 sitting around waiting until you all come back to meet
22 at a future meeting, what we've done over the last
23 decade is to have the trustees tell us what they wanted
24 to fund on the day of the meeting and then make us a
25 prioritized list and basically direct staff, when you

1 get the next 100,000 dollars go to this project. And
2 when you fund that one, keep moving down the list, and
3 we call that our provisional list. It allows us to
4 make sure that as monies come back in, we immediately
5 roll those monies right back into new projects, and
6 we're never sitting on money in the account. To your
7 question, John, in the rare event, which normally
8 doesn't happen but has happened, that we receive more
9 money than we anticipate, so we set aside a provisional
10 list that was 5 million projects -- 500 million dollars
11 worth of projects deep and somehow we ended up with 6
12 million coming back in before the end of the fiscal
13 year. Your question, John, is what would we do with
14 that extra million if that was an acquisition project?
15 The default is that it remains unspent, and we carry it
16 into next fiscal year. Generally speaking, this
17 doesn't happen often, but it has happened, and it
18 happened last year. Generally speaking, when that
19 happens, it happens at the very tail end of the fiscal
20 year. And I have to admit, we're always a little
21 surprised because we generally think we've put enough
22 on the list that that doesn't happen. So those funds
23 are carried into the next grant year to be awarded at a
24 future board meeting. There is -- and I'll just say
25 this so you're aware of it. There is an opportunity

1 that we could, if we saw this, if it happened early
2 enough and it was a large enough amount of money where
3 one program ran through their provisional list and
4 another program still had projects left, we could ask
5 the board in May to reconsider what they might want to
6 do in the tail end of the year, but we've not yet done
7 such a thing. Does that answer your question, John?
8 I'm sorry. That was a longer rambling answer, but I
9 wanted to set the table a little bit for new folks.

10 Chairman Wilson: Yes, but just
11 to clarify, if we do get to the end of the fiscal year
12 and there is still a balance that has not been
13 allocated, it then rolls over to the new fiscal year,
14 but is not allocated for acquisition or restoration,
15 innovative stormwater, and planning. It goes into the
16 general fund, and then this process will happen all
17 over again the following year with those funds.

18 Executive Director Summer: Absolutely
19 correct; sorry, I answered a different question than
20 you answered with a far longer answer, but you're
21 absolutely correct; thank you.

22 Chairman Wilson: Okay, yep; it's
23 always good in these kinds of conversations to have the
24 initial discussion in the executive committee involving
25 both the chair of the Restoration, Innovative

1 Stormwater, and Planning Committee and the chair of the
2 Acquisition Committee right there in the meeting making
3 these decisions. I take great comfort in that. So,
4 Clement, Ann, do you all have anything that you want to
5 share, even if it's something you said in the committee
6 meeting?

7 Acquisition Chair Browning: I would just
8 say I'm comfortable with this recommendation, even
9 though there are more acquisition funds requested
10 because of the reasons that Will outlined, but
11 particularly I think because of the large request that,
12 you know, we'll go through the process of establishing
13 a cap when we're together at the meeting or considering
14 a cap, but it would be very unusual for us to fund 10
15 million dollar projects given the amount of dollars
16 that we have. So that, to me, kind of helps balance
17 the scales.

18 Restoration Chair Riddle: I'll just add,
19 I feel really comfortable with this split. In the
20 short time I've been with the program, it seems to have
21 worked very well, and there's certainly -- restoration
22 compliments conservation in a lot of ways, and I'm just
23 grateful that the Land and Water Fund Program has
24 identified by both of these committees or projects or
25 divisions to be important, and I think it's a good

1 split.

2 Chairman Wilson: All right, any
3 more discussion; this is the Executive Committee
4 recommending for the 2025 grant cycle that all
5 available funds be allocated as follows, 80 percent to
6 the Acquisition Committee, 20 percent of the funds to
7 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning.
8 Acquisition Committee will be charged with allocating
9 funding for the Donation Mini-Grant Program.
10 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
11 Committee is charged with allocating funding for each
12 of their three program areas based on the merit of the
13 applications during project review. All returned or
14 unspent grant funds received after the funding meeting
15 will revert to their respective programs to be used for
16 provisional awards for the remainder of the fiscal
17 year. Any more discussion, questions; okay, how do you
18 vote, please; Jimmy?

19 Vice-Chair Broughton: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Ann?

21 Acquisition Chair Browning: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Lydia; I'm not
23 hearing Lydia. Are -- you muted or?

24 Dr. Olander: Can you hear?

25 Chairman Wilson: Yes, just

1 barely, go ahead.

2 Dr. Olander: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: Okay, that's a
4 yes form Lydia; Clement?

5 Restoration Chair Riddle: Yes.

6 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

7 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

8 Chairman Wilson: Terry?

9 Mr. Shelton: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Darrell?

11 Mr. Williams: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: David?

13 Mr. Womack: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson

15 is a yes, and I'll just take this opportunity to say
16 for our new trustees that while you have just
17 experienced a meeting in which every single one of our
18 votes was unanimous, that is not always the case. It
19 is often the case, and I would say usually the case,
20 but it is not always the case. So never feel like
21 you've got to go with the flow. Speak your mind. I
22 know you will. Will, is there anything more on that
23 agenda item or anything else that you or staff or
24 trustees want to say?

25 Executive Director Summer: Nothing from

1 myself or staff.

2 Chairman Wilson: Okay, trustees,
3 anything else on your mind?

4 Mr. Williams: Good meeting,
5 good to see everyone.

6 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thanks,
7 Darrell; how about a motion to adjourn?

8 Acquisition Chair Browning: So moved.

9 Mr. Williams: So moved.

10 Chairman Wilson: All right,
11 let's give that to Ann and the second to Darrell. Any
12 discussion; all right, we can all vote at the same
13 time. All in favor of adjourning, say yes.

14 All Members: Yes.

15 Chairman Wilson: Anybody
16 opposed; all right, we are adjourned. Thanks,
17 everyone; we'll see you on September 30th.

18 (The proceedings were concluded at 2:43 P.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-seven pages which constitute this Board of Trustees Meeting are a true and accurate transcript.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of September, 2025.

Dona E. Overby

Dona E. Overby
Notary Public
Certificate No.: 19971920107