

NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

3:01 P.M.

Volume 1

Pages 1 through 82

A P P E A R A N C E S

(All Parties Participated by Microsoft Teams)

Trustees:

John Wilson, Chairman
Ann Browning, Vice Chairman
Jason Walser, Acquisition Committee Chairman
Renee Kumor, Restoration Committee Chairman
E. Greer Cawood
Amy Grissom
Mike Rusher
Darrel Williams
David Womack

Staff:

Will Summer, Interim Executive Director
Hank Fordham, Attorney
Sydney McDaniel DeLancey, Executive Assistant
Nancy Guthrie, Acquisition Program Manager
Steve Bevington, Restoration Program Manager
Marissa Hartzler, Stewardship Program Manager
Marie Meckman, Acquisition Project Manager
Terri Murray, Restoration Program Assistant
Justin Mercer, Eastern Field Representative
Damon Hearne, Western Field Representative
Misty Buchanan, Natural Heritage Program Director

Guests:

The Honorable Jefferson Griffin
Eric Hiegl, Blue Ridge Conservancy
Amy Edge, Tar River Land Conservancy
Janice Allen, Coastal Land Trust
Fred Annand

P R O C E E D I N G S

3:01 P.M.

1
2 Chairman Wilson: I'd like to call
3 today's meeting of the North Carolina Land and Water
4 Fund Board of Trustees to order, and maybe I'll begin
5 by asking you to mute your computers unless you are
6 speaking, and also, while I'm at it, ask you please put
7 your cell phones on vibrate or turn them off all
8 together. So I'm John Wilson. I am the Board Chair,
9 and like the rest of you, I had hoped that we would be
10 together in person today. I just want to thank
11 everyone, especially our Land and Water Fund staff for
12 accommodating us again as we do this virtually via
13 Teams. Today we have the pleasure of welcoming a new
14 trustee, Mike Rusher, to our Board. Some of us have
15 already had the pleasure of meeting and working with
16 Mike on this morning's Restoration, Innovative
17 Stormwater and Planning Committee meeting. I should
18 mention that Mike has technically already been sworn in
19 as a Trustee, which enabled him to do official work at
20 that Committee meeting. Mike, would you like to say
21 hello to folks and just tell everyone a bit about
22 yourself. I have -- sorry to put you on the spot; I
23 did not tell you I was going do that, but do you just
24 want to say hello and tell us who you are?

25 Mr. Rusher: Sir, I'm happy to;

1 thank you, John. It's an honor to be able to join the
2 Committee. I've spent the last two weeks trying to
3 dive in and drink from the fire hose as they say. I'm
4 very thankful to the staff and Will especially for
5 helping to get me up to speed very quickly. I have
6 taken a liking to diving into large complex projects
7 and trying to break them out into bite sized
8 understandable pieces. I could confidently say I'm
9 nowhere near being there yet on this Board yet, so but
10 I do look forward to it. I look forward to working
11 with each and every one of you. My bio has been
12 circulated, I'm sure. So I'll spare you all those
13 terrible details, but I'm available and willing anytime
14 to chat if anything is needed, but I look forward to
15 it; thank you.

16 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Mike, and
17 I'm sure that our Restoration Committee Chairwoman,
18 Renee Kumor, and others on that Committee will attest
19 to how well prepared you clearly were for the work of
20 that Committee this morning, so thanks for diving in
21 and doing homework in advance. Today we have the honor
22 of having with us Judge Jefferson Griffin to do a more
23 ceremonial swearing in of Mike. As I mentioned, he's
24 been technically officially sworn in, but we're going
25 to ask Judge Griffin to swear Mike in for the rest of

1 us. And let me just say briefly that it's great to
2 have Judge Griffin in particular here, as he is an avid
3 hunter, fisherman and lover of the outdoors as many of
4 us on this -- on our Board and staff and friends who
5 are here as well are. So I'll turn it over to Judge
6 Griffin, unless, Will, you tell me there's more
7 protocol to go in advance of that.

8 Interim Executive Director Summer: No, sir,
9 and I hope Judge Griffin is the 6733 number that's
10 called in, but let's see if he is -- if he is out
11 there.

12 Judge Griffin: That's me. Will,
13 can you hear me?

14 Interim Executive Director Summer:
15 Excellent, fantastic, loud and clear.

16 Judge Griffin: Great, great, I wish
17 your call could see me. I'm actually doing military
18 stuff today, and I have on camouflage. So it's even
19 more fitting for the swearing it, but it's an honor to
20 be with you even remotely, and I appreciate the
21 opportunity to swear in a new member. And I'm very
22 honored that Mike asked me to do it. Michael, are you
23 -- are you ready to take the oath?

24 Mr. Rusher: Yes, sir, thank you.

25 Judge Griffin: All right, I'm going

1 to repeat the paragraph, if you just after each
2 paragraph you'll say so help me God. There should be
3 three times you say it. I know it's a little awkward
4 when we're not in person here, and we can't see each
5 other, but I'll kind of prompt you to say it, so if
6 you'll raise your right hand and repeat after me; I,
7 Michael J. Rusher.

8 Mr. Rusher: I, Michael J.
9 Rusher.

10 Judge Griffin: Do solemnly swear
11 that I will support and maintain the constitution and
12 laws of the United States, so help me God.

13 Mr. Rusher: Do solemnly swear
14 that I will support and maintain the constitution and
15 laws of the United States, so help me God.

16 Judge Griffin: All right, and,
17 Michael, I'm going to read the next paragraph, and you
18 say your name when I say Michael J. Rusher and then at
19 the end you say so help me God, because it's a longer
20 paragraph, and I think it will read better this way.
21 I, Michael J. Rusher, do solemnly and sincerely swear
22 that I'll be faithful and bear true allegiance to the
23 State of North Carolina and to the constitutional
24 powers and authorities which are or may be established
25 for the government thereof, and I will endeavor to

1 support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws
2 of this State, not inconsistent with the Constitution
3 of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and
4 ability, so help me God?

5 Mr. Rusher: So help me God.

6 Judge Griffin: I, Michael J.
7 Rusher, do swear that I will truly and faithfully
8 execute and discharge the duties of office of the North
9 Carolina Land and Water Fund Board of Trustees
10 according to the best of my skill and ability,
11 according to the law, so help me God.

12 Mr. Rusher: So help me God.

13 Judge Griffin: Congratulations,
14 Michael, we're all thankful that you're willing to step
15 up and serve in this role, and I know that you're going
16 to be a great public servant and do great, great stuff
17 for the State of North Carolina, but I'd like to thank
18 you for stepping up and doing and serving in this
19 capacity. And I'm sure -- I'm sure the board members
20 are happy to have you as a part of the team.

21 Mr. Rusher: Thank you, Judge
22 Griffin.

23 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Judge;
24 thank you so much; I appreciate you being with us.

25 Judge Griffin: My pleasure,

1 anytime, thank you for all you do and God speed in you
2 all's work.

3 Chairman Wilson: Just to let you all
4 know that Judge Griffin earned his Coast Guard
5 Captain's license and has also worked as a charter
6 fisherman on the North Carolina coast; he serves as a
7 Captain in the North Carolina Army National Guard.
8 He's assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat team,
9 known as Old Hickory, in case you were wondering why he
10 was doing what he's doing. I assume that's what he's
11 doing.

12 Judge Griffin: That's right.

13 Chairman Wilson: Good, thank you so
14 much; all right, let's move on to a roll call of
15 Trustees please; Ann Browning?

16 Vice Chairman Browning: Here; can you hear
17 me?

18 Chairman Wilson: Yes, we can, thank
19 you; Greer Caywood?

20 Ms. Caywood: Here.

21 Chairman Wilson: Amy Grissom.

22 Ms. Grissom: Here, and hello,
23 Mike; welcome aboard.

24 Chairman Wilson: Renee Kumor?

25 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Here.

1 Chairman Wilson: Mike Rusher?

2 Mr. Rusher: Here.

3 Chairman Wilson: Jason Walser?

4 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Here.

5 Chairman Wilson: Darrel Williams;

6 Darrel, I'm not hearing you. Are you muted perhaps?

7 Mr. Williams: Here.

8 Chairman Wilson: Good; David Womack?

9 Mr. Womack: Here.

10 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson is
11 here also. All right, General Statute 138A-15 mandates
12 that the Chair inquire as to whether any Trustee knows
13 of any conflict of interest or the appearance of a
14 conflict of interest with respect to matters on the
15 agenda. If any Trustee knows of a conflict of interest
16 or the appearance of a conflict of interest, please
17 state so at this time.

18 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: I
19 have a conflict of interest with 2021-409. This is
20 Renee Kumor.

21 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Renee,
22 and --

23 Ms. Grissom: I also would like to
24 recuse. This is Amy and that's from project 2021-070.

25 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Amy, and

1 I'm going to recuse from the Foothills Blowing Rock
2 Project, and I have misplaced the project number.
3 Will, could you or Nancy help me we with that, please?
4 It's an acquisition project.

5 Ms. Grissom: 2021-040, 040.

6 Chairman Wilson: Thank you; I'm
7 recusing from 2021-040.

8 Mr. Hearne: The Blowing Rock
9 tract is 014.

10 Ms. Grissom: Oh, thank you,
11 Damon.

12 Chairman Wilson: All right, 2021-014,
13 Foothills Blowing Rock, I have a conflict of interest.
14 Anything -- any other conflicts; all right, everybody
15 has already put their cell phones on vibrate and turned
16 them off? Are there any revisions or additions to the
17 agenda? I have one that I'd like to add, please, and
18 that is a report from the Executive Committee, and I'd
19 like to add that as business agenda item 1(a) just for
20 simplicity's sake, and then we can just call the
21 Acquisition Committee agenda item 1(b). So I will make
22 that as a motion, please. I'm looking for a second.

23 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: I'll
24 second. This is Jason.

25 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thanks, Jason;

1 is there any more discussion regarding the agenda, any
2 more revisions or additions? All right, I've got to
3 ask you each and every time how you vote, please, for
4 the sake of Teams, Ann?

5 Vice Chairman Browning: Yes.

6 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

7 Ms. Caywood: Yes.

8 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

9 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

11 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

13 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

15 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?

17 Mr. Williams: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: David?

19 Mr. Womack: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson is a
21 yes, so we have adopted our agenda. Now move on to
22 agenda item 2, our consent agenda. We have two items
23 on that consent agenda. The first is the approval of
24 our minutes from the May 20, 2021 board meeting, and
25 the second is a request to extend the date to enter

1 into a construction contract for an existing grant. Is
2 there any discussion of either of those consent agenda
3 items? Okay, I am not hearing any, so I will entertain
4 a motion to adopt our consent agenda consisting of
5 those two items.

6 Ms. Caywood: So moved.

7 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor:
8 Renee, second.

9 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you,
10 Greer; who was that quick second right after you?

11 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Renee.

12 Chairman Wilson: Okay, Renee, thank
13 you; any more discussion; all right, how do you vote,
14 Ann?

15 Vice Chairman Browning: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

17 Ms. Caywood: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

19 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

21 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

23 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

24 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

25 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?

2 Mr. Williams: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: David?

4 Mr. Womack: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes
6 also, so that takes care of our consent agenda. Item 3
7 on our agenda is a legal update from Hank Fordham,
8 Hank, if you please.

9 Hank Fordham: Okay, hopefully, you
10 can see me. This will be brief. I don't really have
11 anything I need to update you on, but if you have any
12 questions, I'm happy to entertain them.

13 Chairman Wilson: This is your last
14 chance to ask Hank for some legal advice anybody.

15 Mr. Fordham: Nice seeing
16 everybody and I will be listening as needed.

17 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Hank; all
18 right, we'll now move to an update from the Secretary
19 of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources,
20 Reid Wilson; hello, Reid.

21 Mr. Wilson: Hello, John, how are
22 you?

23 Chairman Wilson: Well, thank you.

24 Mr. Wilson: Great to see all of
25 you, and, Mike, I want to say welcome to the Land and

1 Water Fund. I appreciate your joining in, and I look
2 forward to working with you closely in the coming
3 years. You are joining a fantastic board, a fantastic
4 staff and fantastic large state-wide network of local
5 governments and conservation non-profits and others who
6 are partners with the Land and Water Fund, so I'm
7 pretty sure you're going to enjoy it a lot, and you're
8 going to do good things with this wonderful group of
9 people. I want to thank Will Summer for doing an
10 outstanding job as the Interim Director. No surprise
11 there, but everything keeps, you know, running like a
12 well-oiled machine even with COVID and all the other
13 challenges we're facing. This is your big meeting of
14 the year even though who really knows for sure because
15 you don't know what your budget is yet, but I know you
16 have figured out how you're going to address the fact
17 that you're trying to make funding decisions and you
18 don't know exactly how much money you have. But I have
19 to say it looks a whole lot more promising this year
20 than it has in previous years, and I think if there is,
21 in fact, a signed budget, and I'm an optimist, that
22 there will be significant resources available to you
23 all this year and next year, which is a great thing,
24 because I think we all agree that you have been
25 underfunded for many years, like twelve years, which is

1 a long time. Back to the end of '08, I think it was,
2 was back when you had a whole lot of money. So the
3 reason you all know that it's important to have more
4 funds is because you a have huge demand for money so
5 that non-profits, local governments, others around the
6 state can do great things to protect and improve water
7 quality everywhere for public health, for habitat and
8 species protection, for military base buffers, for
9 climate resilience to preserve historical and cultural
10 resources, to expand parks and trails and greenways so
11 people can get outside for healthy outdoor recreation.
12 And all of that, you know, feeds into better quality of
13 life, stronger economy state-wide and locally
14 everywhere. So I am really hoping that the Legislature
15 comes through as they -- both Houses have done so far
16 in their budget proposals to fund you all, and I will
17 add the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund generally this
18 year and next. And just to cite a recent example of
19 how important your funded projects are, Jeff Michael
20 sent me a news release yesterday or the day before from
21 Wildlife Resources Commission about the recent purchase
22 of 2,400 acres for game land near Tuckertown Reservoir,
23 and I know Jason Walser has been involved with this,
24 and Amy Grissom and others have been involved with this
25 for a long time. And Jeff mentioned to me that people

1 first started talking about preserving all this land in
2 that part of the state, I don't know, twenty-five years
3 ago. That's a long time for people, governments and
4 non-profits and community leaders to be working on
5 something of this scope. And this is just one big
6 property out of a number, but 2,400 acres, 31 miles of
7 shoreline. You know, the Land and Water Fund was a big
8 funder in this effort partnership between Three Rivers
9 Land Trust, Conservation Fund, Wildlife Resources
10 Commission. I mean, this is what you guys do best.
11 You support partnerships that do great things for water
12 quality and other important goals in North Carolina. I
13 mean, it's going to protect habitat. It's going to
14 provide recreation opportunities. It's going to
15 provide drinking water quality for, I think, 1.7
16 million people get their drinking water from this river
17 system. So it's huge, and it's just one project, and
18 it will be a big one. But it's one project that you
19 guys fund, and this is happening all over the state
20 with projects you fund every year, so I just want to
21 say congratulations and job well done. And I know that
22 the staff and Board have looked at land conservation in
23 that part of the state for a long time, and there's
24 more to do, I understand. But you all should feel good
25 about your role in that really successful project. A

1 couple other things, one is I just wanted to give you a
2 quick update in our process for choosing the next
3 Director of the Division of Land and Water Stewardship.
4 The job posting is up. I believe it closes on
5 September 30th. We already know the small group of
6 management folks here who will be doing the
7 interviewing. So we hope to move quickly from
8 September 30th when the last application will no doubt
9 trickle in, because always someone will send it on the
10 last day, right; to analyze reviewing them, and then
11 interviewing a small group of people and then in the
12 end making a decision. Our Deputy Secretary, Jeff
13 Michael, is honchoing this process. I will be involved
14 as well, but we want to do this quickly rather than
15 slowly, though there's no concerns with Will's ability
16 to keep running the ship fine as long as it does take
17 to do this. And then a really important thing I want
18 to touch on is I can't believe that Nancy Guthrie's
19 actually retiring. I don't know what we will do
20 without you, Nancy. You have so much institutional
21 knowledge. You are such an incredible public servant.
22 You have touched hundreds, thousands, of projects over
23 the years, and your creativity and innovative spirit
24 and ability to be a helpful educational partner, a
25 resource to our partners around the state is unmatched.

1 I mean, I've talked to so many land conservation groups
2 over the years and others who just value what you do
3 with them and how you make their jobs easier and how
4 you help them come forward with strong applications,
5 and how you have sort of a, I don't know, a development
6 hammer when it's time to remind them that they have
7 left something out or haven't quite gotten it right. I
8 mean, you're able to communicate with them effectively
9 and get them to, you know, fix it up, so that it's
10 compliant with all of the things that it needs to be
11 compliant with. So I want to say congratulations on an
12 incredible career, congratulations on retirement. We
13 hope you stay in touch, but really you have done so
14 much for the people of this state in terms of water
15 quality and all of the other services that the Land and
16 Water Fund provides to the people of North Carolina, so
17 thank you. And we'll figure out how to move on without
18 you, but it's going to be tough because there's so many
19 things you just know and remember from the last many,
20 many years. You are the longest serving employee ever
21 of the Land and Water Fund if I have my data correct,
22 so thank you, thank you, thank you for a job well done,
23 and with that, I'll close and send it back to you, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25 Chairman Wilson:

Thank you, Mr.

1 Secretary, and let's go now to Will Summer for our
2 Executive Director's update.

3 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair, and thank you, Secretary Wilson, for those
5 inspiring words; and let me welcome all the members of
6 the board, staff, and guests. I consider myself
7 privileged to still be able to address you in the
8 interim role for the Executive Director. To let you
9 know how we're doing operationally, the Delta variant
10 has paused our complete return to the office, but most
11 are rotating in at partial time in this -- in the
12 office. The department is also rolling out a pilot
13 tele-working plan for the post-COVID work schedule that
14 will permit staff to continue to tele-work on a limited
15 basis. Of course, none of this will affect our ability
16 to get our work done, and we will continue to be
17 available to you as always. Moving on to the budget,
18 the Senate and House have each passed their own
19 versions of the budget, and now we're in conference to
20 work out the differences. It's my understanding that
21 they've agreed upon a framework, and though the date
22 has crept back a little, I'm hopeful that the budget
23 may pass in early October. The House and Senate
24 budgets agree on the additional 60 million for the
25 North Carolina Land and Water Fund in nonrecurring

1 funds for this year and 40 million for next year. So
2 perhaps they won't need to revisit those figures, as
3 they are in agreement. I won't count any chickens here
4 before they've hatched, but if the budget passes with
5 additional N.C. funds for the NCLWF, the Board will
6 meet again soon to consider what to do with any
7 additional funds. There is a lot of bittersweet
8 transition to report, so many thanks for their service
9 and others to celebrate for taking new roles. First,
10 the term of Trustee Judy Kennedy was over in July, and
11 I want to join others in saying how much I appreciate
12 the wisdom and the kindness she brought to the Board.
13 Judy's presence at our meetings will be missed by many.
14 However, as you've heard, we have a new trustee, Mike
15 Rusher, to welcome as well. I sat down with Mike a few
16 weeks ago and was immediately impressed with his
17 energy, philosophy of service, and the experience he
18 brings to the table. Among the most interesting to me
19 is his current service on the Apex Environmental
20 Advisory Board and his time as Public Information
21 Officer for the Department of Environmental Quality,
22 the latter of which was during the days of the Coal Ash
23 Spill on the Dan River. So Mike certainly comes to us
24 battle tested. I know you all will be looking forward
25 to learning more about him as we work together in the

1 coming months, so welcome, Mike. On the staff side, I
2 want to congratulate and thank Marissa Hartzler for
3 accepting the role of the Acquisition Program Manager.
4 I can think of no one better to take on that
5 responsibility, and I know she will continue the
6 excellent work she's already done in her previous
7 position, which brings me to the most bittersweet part
8 of my remarks. After serving the State for thirty
9 years, nearly twenty of which were with the North
10 Carolina Land and Water Fund, as you've already heard
11 Nancy Guthrie is retiring. Nancy came to North
12 Carolina in 1989 to pursue a Masters in Environmental
13 Management from Duke. After graduation, she worked for
14 a year as a science educator with the Museum of Life
15 and Sciences in Durham. Then in '92 she started her
16 career with the State of North Carolina as a biologist
17 with what was then the DENR Division of Water Quality.
18 After eight years, she advanced to the Center for
19 Geographic Information and Analysis, where she
20 continued to focus on the protection of North
21 Carolina's natural resources, and then in 2002 she
22 joined the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, now known
23 as the North Carolina Land and Water Fund, and with
24 nineteen years is the longest serving member in our
25 history. Nancy has worked continuously for the

1 betterment of our environmental resources in North
2 Carolina and for over thirty years. Through her
3 steadfast service, she's made a positive and lasting
4 impact for the benefit of generations to come. Nancy,
5 your extensive knowledge of where we have been and your
6 tireless commitment to where we are going has kept us
7 always improving. As you run, hike, bike, camp and
8 paddle North Carolina's special places over the many
9 years to come, I hope you feel a rightfully earned
10 sense of ownership for all the lands you have touched.
11 As I begrudgingly award you your official certificate
12 of retirement, let me sincerely thank you for
13 everything you have done for me, the staff, the
14 Trustees, and the State of North Carolina.

15 Ms. Guthrie: Much appreciated,
16 thank you.

17 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank you,
18 Nancy; that concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

19 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Will;
20 well, Nancy, I hate to make you, subject you to this,
21 but I'm going to do it anyway and kick it off and just
22 say, and encourage others to share any remarks they
23 might have. Yes, I see you. You're first and
24 foremost, let me say you're incredibly humble and this
25 is the last thing in the world that you would want, but

1 here it comes anyway. I just want to thank you so much
2 for my four years with you on this Board, for your
3 professionalism, for your leadership, your intelligence
4 and friendship, your obvious dedication. I feel like I
5 learn something new about you constantly, including
6 when we were down at Lake Waccamaw and the swampland
7 just downstream with Justin, and he was like, yeah,
8 when I was down here paddling with Nancy, we were --
9 you know, couldn't get through here because of all of
10 the downed trees, and we're like, wow, you and Nancy
11 came down here. That's pretty ambitious. He was like,
12 oh, she's a serious, serious kayaker, and now I've seen
13 the pictures and heard additional stories and just
14 you're amazing. But the last two things I want to say
15 is that I find as remarkable as anything about you is
16 just your grace, your incredible grace under pressure
17 and your patience with people like me, and I cannot
18 thank you enough. I think, you know, my wife could
19 attest that it's hard to have patience with people like
20 me and you really do. And you sort of welcome the no
21 question is a stupid question, how can I help explain
22 this. So anyway, thank you so much, and with that,
23 I'll cease and ask any other Trustees or staff who
24 would like to say any words about Nancy or to Nancy.

25 Ms. Caywood:

Nancy, it's Greer.

1 It has been a joy to work with you and just to add on,
2 everything that's been said has been spot on, just what
3 a professional, how much you care, which comes through
4 with the great work that you do and just the impact
5 that you've had. It's felt all through the state, and
6 we're all so grateful to have had our time with you.

7 Ms. Guthrie: Thank you.

8 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: This
9 is Renee, Nancy, and I think I've been around here of
10 all the Board members almost as long as Greer, and I do
11 appreciate all of the work that you've done, and as
12 helpful as you've always been, making us look much
13 smarter than we are as a collective body and always
14 ready to help; thank you for your service.

15 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: All
16 right, I feel an obligation on behalf of all of your
17 Land Trust friends who are listening and watching to
18 say from the perspective of someone who's been on the
19 end of the emergency phone calls being made to Nancy
20 looking for the last-minute drive to Greenville to get
21 a signature of the FedEx package getting out at 5:30 in
22 the evening or whatever, you were a get-her-done State
23 employee. You worked after hours. You worked early in
24 the morning. You always did what it took to help
25 projects get closed. That's why I met you, and since

1 I've seen you on the other side, from the
2 administrative side, I see how hard you work to be
3 above board, to not show favoritism. You just are a
4 steady even keel person. You've been a dedicated State
5 employee in every way possible. I don't know that
6 anybody has ever had a bad experience working with you,
7 Nancy. I really don't. You're just an awesome,
8 awesome, awesome asset of the State. We're going to
9 miss you dearly.

10 Ms. Guthrie: Thank you, Jason.

11 Ms. Browning: I'll just add that
12 my first experience with Nancy would be -- of course,
13 was through the Carolina Thread Trail and you were so
14 helpful in helping us think about it in the native way
15 and how the water at the time helped with the
16 advancement of these projects. So I was thrilled to be
17 able to circle around and work with you in this
18 capacity and just so grateful to you. Please enjoy
19 your retirement and your time out there in the wild.

20 Mr. Womack: Nancy, this is David
21 Womack. Now I haven't had the pleasure of serving with
22 you as long as some of the other Trustees, but I'll
23 never forget my first meeting. You know, you -- as a
24 Trustee, likely you show up; you're nervous. You don't
25 know the ropes, and you're looking and you gave me a

1 very soft landing and some really -- you probably don't
2 remember it, but you gave us some really good advice
3 going in and made it a really comforting experience
4 knowing how nervous I was, so I'll remember that about
5 you, Nancy, so thank you and good luck.

6 Ms. Guthrie: Glad to hear that;
7 thanks.

8 Mr. Williams: And, Nancy, I have
9 not had a chance to work with you very long myself.
10 But I'll tell you what; I can tell when folks are being
11 sincere. So I believe everything that everyone else
12 has said, and I support it, so thank you for your
13 commitment to the state of North Carolina and for all
14 you've done.

15 Ms. Guthrie: Thank you, Darrel.

16 Ms. Grissom: I'd also just like
17 to echo John's comment about your grace and your
18 patience. You bring this amazing ability to know like
19 the granular details of the specifics of so many
20 projects and so much history of the institution, but
21 you deliver that at like the 50,000 foot level with an
22 amazing perspective and so thoughtful and balanced.
23 Yeah, it's going to be a huge loss, but I can tell
24 you're excited about getting out and traveling and
25 visiting so many of the sites that you have done so

1 much to protect, so enjoy it.

2 Ms. Guthrie: Thanks.

3 Chairman Wilson: Any other comments
4 from Trustees or from staff; they're holding their --
5 Nancy, go ahead.

6 Ms. Guthrie: I was going to say,
7 may I say a few?

8 Chairman Wilson: Of course, yes, yes;
9 then I was going to say and now you, Nancy, but yes,
10 please.

11 Ms. Guthrie: Okay, you know, it
12 -- I have been thinking a lot lately about the nineteen
13 years here, and I realize just how much North
14 Carolina's landscape has changed during that time, and
15 that is due to the work of the current and former
16 staff, the Trustees, the partners, the Legislatures who
17 vote for funding, the lobbyist who make sure that we're
18 in that budget every year, just the thousands of acres
19 that have been acquired, the streambanks that have been
20 repaired, the Wastewater Treatment Plants in the
21 earlier days that were upgraded, the stormwaters that
22 were created. All of these are just real changes on
23 the landscape, and I'm very proud to be part of the
24 larger team that made all of that happen. And it's so
25 nice to be part of an organization that has such a

1 wider reach than just the core program, and I think
2 that it's seen all across North Carolina. And I
3 realize how lucky I am to be able and excited to
4 retire, and I also realize that I'm pretty lucky that I
5 can say that I am a little sad, and I will miss a lot
6 of this. But I am grateful primarily that I have
7 places to go and hike and bike and paddle, and I'm
8 really grateful for all of the friendships that I know
9 will outlast my employment because everyone does not
10 get -- everyone does not get that, and I'm grateful for
11 it. I can't really thank everyone who deserves it
12 because that list of people who have come in with
13 experience and wisdom and arguments and different
14 points of view to make all the hard decisions is such a
15 long list, but, you know, I thank all of you for also
16 your role in this and also particularly on the impact
17 in what I've gained from working here, because that has
18 been a tremendous amount that I have gained as well. I
19 think one thing that impresses me is how often we get
20 it right with all of the decisions and all of the
21 difficult decisions that are made. How just board
22 after board and staff after staff, I just see it works
23 out really well. And I'm also impressed by how brave
24 most people are that if we don't get it right, we're
25 willing to change and go a different route with a

1 decision or a new policy in the future. Also, there's
2 been a lot of laughter along the way, and I appreciate
3 that very much. Staff has had some good -- good senses
4 of humor and that has been helpful on a lot of days. I
5 did say I'm sad to leave and that's true. It's not
6 quite sad enough to make me want to stay, but it is
7 easier to leave knowing that the Fund is in such good
8 shape. And I feel great about the acquisition program
9 being in the hands of Marissa and Marie, and the
10 leadership of Will is just topnotch. So it makes it
11 much easier, I think, for me to feel good about leaving
12 right now. The other members of the staff you all know
13 are amazing, and you see this at the meetings, but it's
14 true day in and day out. So that again I will miss,
15 but I feel very satisfied knowing that the Fund is
16 thriving right now. So with that, I'll be here until
17 the end of the month, and then after that, I hope that
18 I can see some of you out on trails and rivers and out
19 having some enjoyment of all of the hard work, and
20 thank you for the time.

21 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Nancy;
22 thank you everybody; okay, I would like to invite
23 members of the public to make comments to the Board.
24 If you would please limit your comments to a maximum of
25 three minutes and remember to unmute yourself before

1 you commence to talking and please identify yourself so
2 that we can record your comments. Okay, I'm not
3 hearing any, so I'm going to assume we have no public
4 comments to be made, and we'll now move into the
5 business section of our agenda with item 1(a), which is
6 the Executive Committee Report, and I think, Will, you
7 might have a slide for us about this.

8 Interim Executive Director Summer: Yes.

9 Chairman Wilson: This is -- these
10 were the recommendations for the 2021 grant cycle from
11 the Executive Committee that revenue be allocated as
12 follows, 80 percent of funds to the Acquisition
13 Committee, 20 percent of funds to the Restoration,
14 Innovative Stormwater, and Planning Committee. The
15 Acquisition Committee will be charged with allocating
16 funding for the donated mini-grant program. The
17 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
18 Committee will be charged with allocating funding for
19 each of their three program areas based on the merit of
20 the applications during project review. All unspent
21 funds from previous grants will revert to their
22 respective programs, excluding wastewater, which will
23 be treated as new revenue and assigned to each program
24 according to the aforementioned allocation percentages.
25 So that was from the Executive Committee, and I am

1 going to assume that does not need any kind of action
2 from the full Board unless somebody halts me and tells
3 me that, yes, it does.

4 Interim Executive Director Summer: I believe
5 for the purposes of having future revenues, I think the
6 Committees have already acted on the 80/20 with the
7 funds that were in hand, but I think to kind of bind up
8 future revenues that come in this fiscal year, I think
9 it would be helpful for staff if the Board did -- did
10 approve.

11 Chairman Wilson: All right.

12 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank you.

13 Chairman Wilson: We'll halt it, Will.
14 All right, so I will entertain a motion that we -- I'm
15 sorry. This is a recommendation from the Executive
16 Committees, so it does not need a second. Is there any
17 discussion of this recommendation from the Executive
18 Committee before I call the roll for your votes; okay,
19 Ann?

20 Vice Chairman Browning: Yes.

21 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

22 Ms. Caywood: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

24 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

1 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.
2 Chairman Wilson: Mike?
3 Mr. Rusher: Yes.
4 Chairman Wilson: Jason?
5 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Yes.
6 Chairman Wilson: Darrel; Darrel, I'm
7 not hearing you. Darrel, you're muted. Can you unmute
8 or just give me a thumbs up; yes, okay.
9 Chairman Wilson: And David?
10 Mr. Womack: Yes.
11 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes.
12 Darrel, I think you were exactly opposite always of
13 where you thought you were. It looked like you were
14 speaking, anyway. Okay, thank you; now for item 1(b),
15 the Acquisition Committee recommendations, I'll kick it
16 over to Chair, Jason Walser.
17 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Okay,
18 thank you, Chairman Wilson; I am going to give an
19 overview of what we did yesterday, but to show the
20 public we have not rehearsed anything, I'm actually
21 going to diverge a little bit from where I think our
22 Committee was -- was thinking that we were going to go
23 yesterday. And I'm going to ask the Board to follow me
24 there, and I'll explain why. But before I do, let me
25 give a recap of the actions we took yesterday based on

1 the 80/20 split of funding. We acted as if we needed
2 to go ahead and allocate the funding that we knew we
3 already had and then a provisional list, and then we
4 added to the provisional list based on some projects
5 having fallen through in the last couple of years to
6 make sure we would have more than enough projects
7 funded. We basically allocated funds from a
8 perspective of if we have 13.8 million with a million
9 dollars going to military, and then all the way up
10 through a provisional budget of a little more than 21
11 million if nothing else changed. In the background of
12 our mind, we knew that we have this budget looming out
13 there that uses the -- well, I'm going to use Reid's
14 word, significant resources, but has the potential to
15 be a real game changer for our Committee. The over
16 underlying reason that we met yesterday, I was going to
17 say overarching, was to make sure that we could get
18 staff moving on some of these projects, but through the
19 course deliberations, we talked about the funding cap,
20 which I will come back to in a minute. We talked about
21 the donated mini-grant program, which I will come back
22 to in a minute. We reviewed every project in detail.
23 Fifty-two projects, we saw the full PowerPoint
24 presentation. We spent I want to say somewhere in the
25 order of eight hours and fifteen minutes or was it

1 seven hours and fifteen minutes together? We had a lot
2 of really healthy discussion. It's all public. If you
3 weren't able to participate, you can watch the
4 recording, but we learned about the Battle of
5 Bentonville and the Alamance Courthouse. We learned
6 about UFO sites and The Bear Lady from the Alligator
7 River. It was really quite an entertaining day. Kudos
8 to Damon and Justin who kept the presentations rather
9 interesting and -- always interesting and really
10 exciting, too. There's some great projects on the
11 list. We reviewed every one to see if there were any
12 that we immediately thought we needed to pull out. We
13 didn't have to make that decision yesterday. But as I
14 went home last night and wrestled with this, we have a
15 recommendation to you today of projects. I don't think
16 we have anything in our recommendations that mentions
17 the time. I'm going to go ahead and jump to sort of my
18 thinking right now, which is that in the midst of
19 making the decisions yesterday that we made, we ended
20 up moving a project up, which meant that one project
21 moved down off the provisional list. We created a
22 situation where there might be some difficult
23 conversations between our partner organizations and
24 landowners about what got funded and what didn't get
25 funded, when in reality we might have some really

1 interesting conversations in three or four weeks if a
2 budget is passed, and we need to go back and revisit
3 those that didn't get funded. And lastly, but not
4 leastly, we really spent a lot of mental energy on the
5 caps, which we've done in the past under a mind-set of
6 scarcity, which in fact may not be as relevant in a
7 mind-set of abundance, which we may have. So we went
8 ahead and took action, and I was thinking about last
9 night the reasons that we would do this to go ahead and
10 get staff working on contracts versus the difficult
11 conversations that may take place and the real
12 consequences that may take place as a result of us
13 making these recommendations. So I'll go through real
14 quickly the decisions we made at a high level. And
15 then I'm going to ask the Board to consider not acting
16 on the recommendation of the Acquisition Committee, and
17 we will have a -- hopefully a healthy discussion about
18 that. I will lay out my case. We decided to dedicate
19 2 percent of the funds we get of the funds that we had
20 available to the donated mini-grant program, which is
21 consistent with what we've done in years passed. We
22 did come up with a funding cap of 1.2 million dollars,
23 which was again based on a funding cap that we've had
24 the last several years in our funding of scarcity
25 perspective. And we looked at funding. I believe I've

1 got a list here, nineteen projects directly with the
2 funding we have, which included a little over two and
3 half million dollars in military funding projects. And
4 then getting down to the thirtieth project on the
5 provisional list, which was project 2021-050, Triangle
6 Land Conservancy -- Triangle Land Conservancy-McLean
7 Tract. I wanted to go ahead and give you the -- the
8 sort of viable list before I go back and say I'd like
9 to have the discussion now before I go through each
10 project. If it's the Board's recommendation that we
11 make a motion on the recommendation of the Acquisitions
12 Committee today, we can do that, and I'll go through a
13 detailed recommendation. But I'd really like to table
14 the recommendation and not act, to not vote it up or
15 down for a few weeks until we see if this gargantuan
16 game changer takes place that really changes our need
17 to even have these difficult conversations that may be
18 had or more importantly for our partner organizations
19 to have them. So with that, I'm going to open it up to
20 you, Chairman Wilson, to sort of moderate a discussion.
21 I've made my pitch. I can get into the projects as --
22 if you see fit, but I'd really like to table our
23 recommendation.

24 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you very
25 much, Jason; so having participated in, as a member of

1 both Committees, the Acquisition Committee and also the
2 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and Planning
3 Committee, I just want to briefly share my thoughts
4 that there is a difference between the two, and
5 assuming that Chair Renee Kumor feels like she wants to
6 move forward with what -- the work that her committee
7 this morning which I'm assuming she is. I don't have
8 any reason to think otherwise. I would strongly
9 support that, and I think one thing that Jason said
10 that really has resonated with me and that I've thought
11 about throughout the day yesterday and overnight and
12 this morning, and I'm glad to hear this is a lot of
13 difficult discussions that might have to happen over
14 the next few weeks until a budget is in hand that
15 really may not be either necessary discussions to have
16 or just the potential for perhaps misinterpretation of
17 current limitations that may prove not to be
18 limitations quite to the same degree, projects that
19 were funded for the time being at a cap, projects that
20 were not funded or provisionally funded at all. And I
21 think given also what I have heard, and I'm going to
22 knock on wood, and I'm going to say I don't know
23 anything more than anybody else here does, but it does
24 feel to me more likely that a budget is imminent right
25 now than it did to me the same time yesterday. Again,

1 I hope I haven't jinxed it. I'm going to knock on
2 wood, but I'm optimistic about that. So, Jason, I
3 support that suggestion and would just open it up to
4 any other comments.

5 Mr. Womack: Mr. Chairman, this
6 is David. I couldn't agree more. I mean if we used it
7 once, we used a thousand times about what a moving
8 target we had coming up in the fog. And in my opinion,
9 I think tabling any action that the Acquisition
10 Committee recommended yesterday is a good idea.

11 Ms. Caywood: And, Mr. Chairman, I
12 completely concur. Over the years I think many have
13 heard that I am not in favor of caps. I haven't liked
14 the caps from the beginning. I've seen them as a
15 necessary evil because of the funding that we had
16 available for all of the great projects that are
17 brought to us. So I think this is a great move, and
18 I'm completely supportive.

19 Ms. Grissom: So, Chairman Wilson,
20 I'm on board with this plan. I think it's a shift from
21 where we were yesterday, but we were all struggling
22 with these issues yesterday, and I think it makes
23 perfect sense to do it. I'm glad we spent the time and
24 did the deep dives and saw every single project. That
25 was a day well spent, but I'm very happy with delaying

1 this until our next meeting.

2 Ms. Browning: This is Ann. Can
3 you hear me?

4 Chairman Wilson: Yes.

5 Ms. Browning: I just wanted to
6 thank you for your (Team's distortion) after a very
7 long day and I think (Team's distortion) your
8 recommendation.

9 Court Reporter: Excuse me. This is
10 the court reporter. Who was that that just spoke? I
11 couldn't hear her at all.

12 Chairman Wilson: Ann Browning.

13 Ms. Browning: Ann Browning.

14 Court Reporter: Okay, I see you on
15 there now, but for a minute I couldn't hear you at all;
16 thank you.

17 Chairman Wilson: Would you like Ann
18 to repeat her comment?

19 Court Reporter: That would be great.
20 I got most of it, but I might have missed a couple of
21 words. That would be great, Ann, if you could do that.

22 Ms. Browning: Okay, I just wanted
23 to thank Jason for his thoughts and reflections after a
24 very long day, and I think it makes complete sense for
25 us to table this another day.

1 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Thank
2 you, Ann.

3 Chairman Wilson: Any more thoughts,
4 so we have a -- please feel free to speak up, Trustees,
5 if there are any more thoughts or comments about this.
6 Let me just toss out something now. We do have a
7 recommendation from the Acquisition Committee, and so
8 as part of that, we have two choices. We could either
9 vote to table that recommendation; we could also vote
10 down that recommendation, but to me it feels perhaps
11 more appropriate to vote to table it. Yes, I'm seeing
12 some nods. Is that okay with everyone? All right, but
13 before we move in that direction, let me just again
14 pause and see if there's any more comment from
15 Trustees. Nope; okay, I would entertain a motion to
16 table the recommendation from the Acquisition
17 Committee.

18 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Jason
19 Walser would like to make that motion to table the
20 recommendation of the Committee.

21 Ms. Caywood: And I second.

22 Chairman Wilson: Okay, and, Greer,
23 and I heard you second, is that correct?

24 Ms. Caywood: Yep.

25 Chairman Wilson: Okay, any more

1 discussion; all right, we're voting on the motion to
2 table the recommendation from the Acquisition Committee
3 for the time being. Ann, how do you vote, Ann? I
4 didn't hear you. It looks like you're muted Ann. At
5 least on my screen you are. Can you give me a thumbs
6 up/thumbs down? Maybe she's gone. Chime in anytime,
7 Ann.

8 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

9 Ms. Caywood: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

11 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

13 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

15 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

17 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?

19 Mr. Williams: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: David?

21 Mr. Womack: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes,
23 and let me try Ann one more time. Ann looks frozen.
24 Maybe she texted me, nope. All right, well, we
25 considered that done; Jason, any more from the

1 Acquisition Committee?

2 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: No,
3 that's my report; thank you. I really appreciate this
4 action. I think it's a good one, and I hope our Land
5 Trust and the local government partners will be
6 patient, but I think it's in their best interest that
7 we do this, so thank you.

8 Chairman Wilson: And I'm sorry. I
9 just want to say I see in the chat that Ann has said
10 yes also. Go ahead, Greer.

11 Ms. Caywood: I'm just curious
12 about the mini-grant program, if it can be suspended
13 for the month or if we need to go ahead and allocate
14 those funds so that program can continue.

15 Chairman Wilson: Great question; Will
16 and Nancy, can we defer to you on that, please?

17 Interim Executive Director Summer: So, John,
18 I believe the way that the mini-grant program was
19 authorized in the previous year was that the pot that
20 was set aside from last year takes us all the way past
21 the end of the fiscal year until a new funding award is
22 made. So it would have expired today had the Board
23 made this year's funding decision. I'll let Nancy
24 chime in, but I believe because you deferred the
25 funding decision, that program is set to run until next

1 year's -- this year's funding decision is made. I
2 think we did that on purpose so that we could not have
3 a -- not have a gap between -- in the programs. So,
4 Nancy, am I getting that correct?

5 Ms. Guthrie: That is how it's
6 been worded, that the funding for the mini-grants runs
7 from the day of the Board decision through the funding
8 meeting of the following year. I will say we have one
9 application now. I'm expecting another one within the
10 next few weeks that would be reviewed in October with a
11 potential recommendation. So I'll just give you the
12 status that there are also two applications that are
13 current or very soon. And there is -- we have not
14 reached the maximum satisfied from last year.

15 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Put
16 another way, there are funds remaining in the program
17 from last year?

18 Ms. Guthrie: Correct.

19 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Okay,
20 thank you.

21 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

22 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Good
23 question, Greer.

24 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, they are good,
25 and, Jason, I don't want to step on your -- I feel like

1 we're on still your Acquisition Committee, and I may be
2 stepping on it by --

3 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: No,
4 no.

5 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

6 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: I'm
7 good.

8 Chairman Wilson: All right, thank you;
9 thank you, Greer and Nancy and Will; all right, we will
10 move on to item two, and that is consideration of the
11 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
12 Committee recommendations over to Chair Renee Kumor,
13 please.

14 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Mr.
15 Chairman, based on what acquisition has done through
16 Jason's leadership and concern for what will be
17 happening, I don't have a problem moving forward with
18 our recommendations simply because it will give our
19 staff a month's lead time to at least start working on
20 these contracts, which are often smaller contracts than
21 Acquisition, but I would defer to my Committee to
22 comment on whether or not they want us to table our
23 actions or move forward. So that would be Darrel or
24 Mike or Ann or you, and I'm open for that discussion.
25 If you all feel -- we feel confident in moving forward,

1 we will do that.

2 Chairman Wilson: Personally, I feel
3 comfortable moving forward, and I think what you said
4 about enabling projects to move forward, and also Steve
5 reminded us of something today regarding construction
6 contracts. And, Steve, if you're -- I know you're out
7 there. Could you say, again, Steve regarding date of
8 funding and -- and moving forward and just and also to
9 what degree it would help you if we -- if we were to
10 move forward today in terms of getting contracts, et
11 cetera?

12 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, I think just
13 in terms of staff resources moving forward obviously
14 would be great. I think for our successful awardees, a
15 grant that would be awarded under this and be
16 successful. There might be some adjustment later
17 coming with some of these grants, which would be a
18 little confusing, but I think there's quite a few we
19 can move forward with. So I have -- I do appreciate
20 your interest in giving us something to plunge into to
21 get these projects started. What you're alluding to,
22 and I mentioned earlier, to the Committee about the
23 contracts is that for any project -- state contract
24 that the deploy from Land and Water that has
25 construction in it, we have a one year ticking deadline

1 that's set statutorily by the State Legislature to get
2 the subcontract for construction in place. That,
3 however, ends on the award date. So I think, and Will
4 can correct me on this, I think if you tabled it, I
5 guess not helping this discussion any, your decision
6 here, if you tabled it for a month, I think that would
7 delay that deadline. So there has been times we've met
8 as late as -- or you have met as late as December and
9 that starts the date. So I think -- Will is nodding, I
10 think. So that's sort of a non-issue, but I do
11 appreciate you bringing that back up because
12 construction projects do have a very narrow window,
13 which is often challenging with, especially people on
14 the provisional list. So thanks for that, but
15 certainly with the planning grants particularly, I
16 think waiting is a real disadvantage. They may take
17 their planning efforts and turn them into projects as
18 early as next February towards us. So if we delayed it
19 until October, with that portion of the awards, people
20 will be in a poorer position to be able to make that
21 deadline. Most wouldn't be able to make it anyway, but
22 it would sort of make it almost impossible. So I think
23 at least for the planning awards, I do think there's a
24 real cost to dealing even a month if you are ready to
25 move.

1 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Okay,
2 then let me give you the explanation of what we did
3 this morning, and we had 3.16 million available to make
4 an award money in hand. We had the expectation of some
5 license plates moneys and some reverted funds, and for
6 that we based some of provisional recommendations. We
7 reviewed thirty-four applications, and that included
8 twelve Planning and two Innovative Stormwater and
9 thirty Restoration projects. Although it has not been
10 funded, I recused myself from discussion of the 2021-
11 409 Restoration Project here in my neighborhood. The
12 Restoration Committee is going to be making a motion,
13 is making a motion for the following projects
14 identified by their application numbers as stated
15 below. There are nine projects in the planning program
16 that we recommend to be funded, the amounts set forth
17 below, and they do not exceed \$75,000.00 for a total of
18 \$464,567.00 or 15 percent of our available funding. We
19 recommend funding planning project number 810, 807,
20 801, 811, 808, 809, 802, 803, 806. We recommend the
21 following Innovative Stormwater Projects for which
22 funding will not exceed \$250,000.00 for a total of
23 \$350,000.00 or an award of 11 percent of our available
24 funding. Those projects are 1001 and 1002. We
25 recommend in the Restoration Projects, nine projects to

1 be funded in the amounts set forth not to exceed
2 \$400,000.00 for a total \$2,310,638.00 or 74 percent of
3 the available funding. Those projects under
4 Restoration are 404, 410, 408, 414, 421, 417, 415, 402,
5 419. Those projects under those three grant
6 application types are recommended for funding. The
7 following nine projects we recommend to be
8 provisionally funded in order below, and those of you
9 who have been with us before, you know that Planning,
10 Restoration, and Innovative Stormwater likes to mix and
11 match, and when we get into provisional, we move things
12 around. We start with, our first recommendation for
13 provisional funding is a Restoration project number
14 416. Our second recommendation is a Planning project
15 804. Our third recommendation for provisional funding
16 is a Planning project 805, and our fourth
17 recommendation for provisional funding is a Planning
18 project 812. The next projects we recommend for
19 provisional funding are project -- are Restoration
20 projects, project 401, project 405, project 411,
21 project 403 and project 412. We have listed these in
22 order of provisional starting with the first as I
23 mentioned to the last, and it is our expectation for
24 that for the funds in hand and the funds that staff
25 expects to arrive before the end of our fiscal year

1 that we might reasonably fund most of these projects,
2 at least down to project 6, 7 and 8. We used the cap
3 for Restoration projects at \$400,000.00. We used
4 Planning Project cap of \$75,000.00, and I got to say,
5 Greer, nobody came in over our cap. And for Stormwater
6 we've used a cap of \$250,000.00, again, based on the
7 fact that we had one very expensive project and one not
8 quite expensive project. The -- this motion was
9 approved by the Restoration Committee this morning, and
10 we bring it forward to you.

11 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Renee; I
12 have a question for Will and Steve. Is it possible to
13 pop that up onto the screen just so we can give it a
14 quick eyeball?

15 Mr. Bevington: Yes, I can share the
16 notes that Renee was reading from if that's you're
17 speaking about, Mr. Chairman.

18 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

19 Chairman Wilson: Please.

20 Mr. Bevington: All right, hang on.
21 I have so many screens open, I'll find it one second.

22 Mr. Williams: While that's coming
23 up, I'll ask a question. I know Steve mentioned
24 earlier the impact if this is put on hold for a month
25 for the Planning grant, for the Planning applications.

1 What about the other two; do you see an impact whether
2 they are approved today or not?

3 Mr. Bevington: I think there is
4 some. The field reps might have a better sense of that
5 than I, but some of the stream restoration field work
6 is season sensitive. So there are difficulties
7 incumbent. Sometimes you miss a season. It tends to
8 happen at the end of the project when plantings are
9 done. So it's a little hard to anticipate who would be
10 hurt by a delay, but it's certainly possible that a
11 delay of a month could make someone miss a window
12 either for a trout moratorium out in the mountains or a
13 planting window before it gets too hot to plant, stakes
14 or shrubs or -- or even seeds. So I don't have an
15 exact answer to that. I think on the average with some
16 luck and spread them out through the year, if we -- if
17 it's a month, it's probably a one out of twelve will
18 miss a whole six months, something like that. So yeah,
19 there is some I wouldn't say urgency, but with
20 construction projects, a small delay sometimes means a
21 six-month delay, yeah.

22 Mr. Williams: And I guess the
23 follow-up question would be, are there any risks with
24 approving these based on the -- the budget, approving
25 all of them?

1 Mr. Bevington: Again -- yeah,
2 again, the field reps are really the experts because it
3 is a communication issue. I think most people receive
4 this as good news. If they understand the situation
5 with us not having a firm budget, at least we're giving
6 them interim news. Even if they just missed the list,
7 they could hope for action in the State Legislature.
8 So I -- I don't know. That's sort of a half political,
9 half communication read. That's my take on it, is that
10 I think with the smaller number of projects in the
11 acquisition angle, it might be more manageable.
12 Unfortunately, our heavily overloaded field reps would
13 probably have some phone calls to make to explain
14 these, and I'd probably let either of them answer that
15 directly.

16 Mr. Williams: Okay.

17 Mr. Mercer: The only thing that
18 I would add to that is looking at some of the projects
19 that have been capped, given an award of \$400,000.00,
20 they may need to move forward with -- with designing a
21 project of reduced scope that potentially could be
22 undone should you decide to remove or change a cap at a
23 subsequent meeting, but I'm not aware of anything
24 urgency-wise beyond what -- what Steve described.

25 Mr. Hearne: Yeah, I'm not really

1 into -- especially getting projects going folks to tend
2 to wait for contracts anyway to get things moving in
3 the spring. I don't see a one-month decision
4 difference make a huge difference for folks on -- on
5 the beginning end. It could have compounding
6 complications. But I can't speak to the benefits of
7 waiting relative to the budget and what might be in the
8 budget and ins and outs of that. That's a question for
9 one of the other folks.

10 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: I
11 think the only thing I want to tell the Board is that
12 we left on the table five projects that should our
13 budget be increased, can -- there was no objection by
14 any of our Committee members to any of the projects,
15 just that we were running out of money. So we would
16 like to go back and revisit those that we were not able
17 to even put on a provisional list. And again, we
18 historically can see the Acquisition requests are much
19 higher dollar than Restoration or Innovative Stormwater
20 and Planning. And we think that should more funds
21 become available, we could make a lot of people happy
22 with a little bit of money.

23 Chairman Wilson: Steve, did you show
24 us more than page one of that?

25 Mr. Bevington: I showed you page 1,

1 and I was waiting for the conversation to come back
2 this way. I could page through it, or I could email
3 out to each of you this document. I'm not sure of the
4 best way to share it at this moment live besides the
5 reading that we just heard, so let me know your
6 pleasure.

7 Chairman Wilson: Could you just give
8 us a quick scroll through pausing at each appropriate
9 point. Okay, so we saw down through, I think, 6 there,
10 so I think on the first page we saw through 6, so
11 maybe scroll down to where we can see 7, 8, and 9 and
12 maybe --

13 Mr. Bevington: So here, here's the
14 -- here's the last three on the first list, which was
15 the Planning group, and then I'm going to move on down
16 to the two, so you can see them as well, the two
17 Innovative Stormwater projects, the first of which was
18 capped, is the first project here was the first one
19 capped that we've seen so far, and then nine
20 Restoration projects here, several of which are capped.
21 I think all but one of the \$400,000.00 numbers is a cap
22 figure. One actually sent in at a request of
23 \$400,000.00. And I'm probably moving way too quickly
24 for everybody, so tell me to go back up if you wish,
25 and then our provisional list is here. So this is the

1 draft provisional list as discussed this morning in
2 order. So it kind of goes back and forth between a
3 Restoration project and some Planning projects and back
4 into Restoration. And from Mike we key our -- there's
5 a lot of numbers here in the project number, but
6 really, they -- the 100 series tells you what's up. So
7 very low numbers below 100 are going to be Acquisition
8 projects; 400 is going to be Restoration; 800 Planning,
9 and 1,000, which isn't on this page, is the Innovative
10 Stormwater. We used to have some other numbers that
11 don't apply anymore to our funding areas. And that is
12 the summary. I'd be happy to page through this, so let
13 me know to stop sharing whenever you wish.

14 Chairman Wilson: Okay, Trustees, we
15 have a -- yeah, please leave it up there for now,
16 Steve. Trustees, we have this recommendation coming to
17 us from the Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and
18 Planning Committee. Coming from Committee, it does not
19 need a second. Will there be any more discussion? Is
20 there any other part of this document you would like to
21 see again from Steve or any questions for Renee or
22 staff or anyone?

23 Mr. Rusher: Yeah, I have one
24 quick question perhaps for one of the Chairs. And just
25 forgive my naivety here, but if we vote to move forward

1 with the recommendation for the five or so projects
2 that Renee pointed out that Restoration Committee is
3 not taking action on, like they're not voting to be
4 funded, they're not voted to be provisional, is there
5 something that would prohibit us to come back in
6 October and just, you know, should funding change, does
7 something prohibit us from revisiting those and award
8 additional dollars?

9 Chairman Wilson: Not to my knowledge
10 and I'd like Will or anyone else to or Hank or Steve,
11 anybody?

12 Mr. Bevington: I'll just jump in
13 and say, we specifically had a actionable item, which
14 the Committee did not take advantage of, which was to
15 not fund something, and there was no motion made to
16 unfund or not fund something if that's the proper way
17 of saying it. So to my understanding, you are still
18 free to meet again and fund any of these projects that
19 you see, any of applications that are still alive.

20 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: And
21 thank you, Steve; Mike, that has been understanding as
22 we planned our October meeting that we would revisit
23 everything that was there with regard to those that
24 could not -- were not funded because of lack of current
25 in-hand funds, and we would have the ability to review

1 some that are capped and maybe choose to go ahead and
2 increase the caps or erase the caps and go ahead and
3 move forward. But I was really concerned that I not
4 count my chicken before it hatched.

5 Mr. Bevington: Sure.

6 Mr. Rusher: All right, thank you
7 for clarifying; I think that in my mind eliminates, you
8 know, any hesitancy to go ahead and proceed with this.

9 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Mike.

10 Ms. Browning: Question from Ann,
11 just thinking about the cap if we did go back and
12 remove the caps; just as a fact that, address how
13 complicated that might be, just whether you think
14 applicants would just sort of hold off. I know if it's
15 a bit of a -- it might result in that action or how do
16 you think they would proceed?

17 Mr. Bevington: I would just say,
18 typically it takes two or three months to negotiate a
19 budget. I'd hate to have people as Justin was pointing
20 out waste their time redoing the budget for us. I
21 often have to prioritize which of these contracts I can
22 work on first. So I would clearly begin to work on
23 ones that were uncapped. So I don't anticipate
24 actually working on a capped budget here for two months
25 say. That doesn't mean an applicant wouldn't catch --

1 understand this and begin their own work to see if --
2 what they could do at a capped amount. So I think
3 people might interpret it differently; some would like
4 to move ahead, and some would rather wait to see where
5 the chips fall with the -- with the final budget. So I
6 don't have an exact answer to that.

7 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you; all
8 right, any more discussion on this recommendation from
9 the Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning
10 Committee?

11 Mr. Williams: I guess my only --
12 my only question is making sure that staff is
13 comfortable with their method of communicating to avoid
14 confusion. So I just -- that's the only question I
15 have. How comfortable is staff with this
16 recommendation relative to avoiding miscommunication.

17 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Let
18 me put this into perspective. Of the thirty-five that
19 we reviewed or thirty-four, six are above what we
20 arbitrarily set as our cap, so there's a lot of places
21 for our staff to be working in. Six entities might be
22 able to not be caught up in confused within the time
23 frame that we would hope the Legislature would act.

24 Mr. Bevington: Damon and Justin,
25 how do you feel because I -- I sort of answered that I

1 think we could do it, but you going to be the ones
2 caught on the telephone trying to explain some of this,
3 so.

4 Mr. Hearne: If we have clear
5 motions and understand what the Committee has done, we
6 can explain whatever we need to. People understand
7 complications. I'm not -- you know, we can -- we spend
8 all year communicating with our applicants, and -- and
9 I'm sure we can communicate what we need to communicate
10 with them.

11 Mr. Bevington: Okay.

12 Mr. Hearne: I appreciate you
13 asking.

14 Chairman Wilson: Okay, any more
15 discussion; okay, I think it's time to vote on this
16 recommendation from Committee. Ann Browning, how do
17 you vote?

18 Vice Chairman Browning: Yes.

19 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

20 Ms. Caywood: Yes.

21 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

22 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

24 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

1 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

2 Chairman Wilson: Jason; Jason, I'm
3 sorry. I'm not hearing you. You're saying yes? Yes,
4 you are. I'm seeing your mute button, but yeah, Jason
5 thumbed up yes; Darrel?

6 Mr. Williams: Yes.

7 Chairman Wilson: David?

8 Mr. Womack: Yes.

9 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes.

10 Okay, thank you; Renee --

11 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Mr.
12 Chairman --

13 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

14 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

15 Chairman Wilson: Yes.

16 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: We
17 have one more.

18 Chairman Wilson: Yes.

19 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: We
20 have one more item, okay.

21 Chairman Wilson: Back to you.

22 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Okay,
23 the Committee brings forward a motion to approve a no
24 cost budget amendment to North Carolina Division of
25 Parks and Recreation project 2017-409 with the new

1 budget line item of up to \$80,000.00 for two boat
2 washing stations, and the reduction by \$80,000.00 in
3 the line item for hydrilla control to \$145,000.00.
4 This motion was made and seconded at our meeting, and
5 we bring it forward to you from the Committee. And you
6 might want to ask Steve for a little explanation about
7 boat washing and hydrilla.

8 Chairman Wilson: Sure, Steve.

9 Mr. Bevington: So since we have a
10 moment, I'm going to do what I did not do with the
11 Committee, which is to introduce our trusty field rep,
12 Justin Mercer, to talk about Lake Waccamaw very
13 briefly. Essentially, there's a very successful
14 project we had where we did something we almost never
15 do, which is to pay for herbicide treatments, and that
16 was essentially to remove a very noxious weed from an
17 incredible lake that has a very unique aquatic
18 community. It's one of the most diverse aquatic
19 communities in North America. I think it tops --
20 Natural Heritage Program comments on it. We're tops in
21 the state if not the entire East Coast. Hydrilla
22 swamps out other plants and other animals and just
23 becomes a monoculture, so we were paid to help parks
24 pour herbicides on it. The threat is that after a very
25 successful herbicide treatment, the lake is recovering.

1 We don't want it to be re-infested. We looked at our
2 contract, and we did not have -- we only had a one-line
3 item in there just to pay for these herbicides. So
4 they have requested \$80,000.00 to switch that to a
5 construction line item where they could build two boat
6 washing stations, and that way any boats that travel to
7 come to the lake to go fishing or for recreation or
8 terrain or whatever, would wash their boats and lower
9 the chances of re-infection of this great resource, so
10 with that, the Committee seemed to be in favor of it.
11 Staff was in favor of it. I do want -- Justin, if you
12 could just take a few moments to show a couple quick
13 pictures of the lake project, if the Committee would
14 like to see that.

15 Mr. Mercer: All right, I'm seeing no
16 nods, so I will move forward unless somebody stops me.
17 And I will not go through a full presentation here as
18 if this were a fresh application for us, but what I do
19 have pulled up here is the presentation that I put
20 together in 2017 when this application was funded for
21 \$225,000.00. This is Columbus County. It says Lake
22 Waccamaw, which we saw with some projects yesterday,
23 almost 9,000 acres. It is unique among Carolina bays.
24 Carolina bays are -- are a specific land form that are
25 -- are relatively unique to coastal areas of the

1 Eastern United States as it is, but even among that
2 relatively unique land form, this is unique in and of
3 itself. It's larger than most other Carolina bays to
4 begin with and the water is neutralized by limestone
5 bluffs along the edge of the lake. Most of these
6 Carolina bays or bay lakes have a slightly acidic pH,
7 where this one is pretty close to neutral or slightly
8 basic. But as a result, you just have that incredible
9 diversity of fish and aquatic organisms of species
10 including fifty-two fish species and several rare,
11 threatened and/or endemic plant and animal species.
12 Hydrilla, I think Steve pretty well covered it. It's
13 an invasive exotic species originally introduced as an
14 aquarium plant and found growing wild in Florida in the
15 1960s, first identified in North Carolina in 1981, and
16 unfortunately made its way to Lake Waccamaw. It does
17 crowd out native vegetation and forms a dense nearly
18 impenetrable mass. It can block boat docks and boat
19 launches, and ultimately beyond the ecological harm, it
20 does hinder recreational opportunities. So their
21 proposal was to treat 600 acres of the lake where there
22 was a hydrilla infestation, and as Steve indicated,
23 this has -- this has been extremely successful up to
24 this point, to the point that not all the funds were
25 for this grant award were spent on it. One of the --

1 one of the big concerns that we did have about this
2 was, as Steve stated, we're treating it. What prevents
3 it from coming back in? Just another quick note on the
4 -- on kind of how special Lake Waccamaw is; it is
5 designated outstanding resource waters by the Division
6 of Water Resources, and according to the Natural
7 Heritage Program, it is arguably the most ecologically
8 significant single aquatic site in the State. It's
9 home to over twenty rare or threatened species, many of
10 which again are endemic to the lake. Just to name a
11 few here, Waccamaw Fatmucket is state threatened.
12 Savannah Lilliput is state endangered. The Waccamaw
13 Spike is endangered and the -- we've got the Waccamaw
14 Killifish is a federal species of special concerns. So
15 it kind of speaks volume when there is a -- an entire
16 species named after a single water body, and I think
17 that pretty much does it relatively quick there, but
18 happy to answer any potential questions if you've got
19 them.

20 Ms. Caywood: Just one thing, and
21 again, I'm going to call on probably Nancy's memory,
22 but wasn't it Trustee Robin Hackney who brought up the
23 importance of doing -- former Trustee Robin Hackney,
24 who brought up the importance of doing this project or
25 maybe Will knows, too.

1 Interim Executive Director Summer: I cannot
2 recall, to be honest. I do remember that a Trustee
3 spoke up, because this was the highest scoring of its
4 -- of its peers. So it was singled out because it is
5 such an extraordinary resource, but I would -- I'd be
6 misleading if I tried to pull a name out of a hat after
7 three years.

8 Ms. Cawood: Well, I think that
9 is right, because she's from the Wilmington area and
10 most of us did not know anything about Lake Waccamaw.
11 So I just wanted to give a shout out to her for her
12 service; thank you.

13 Chairman Wilson: Nancy, you look like
14 you were going to say something.

15 Ms. Guthrie: I was going to say
16 that I believe Greer's memory is correct on that,
17 because she was from that area, and there was at that
18 meeting quite a bit of discussion on the project
19 because of really a lower scoring project at that time
20 that needed some special attention, so yes, another
21 decision that we got it right, yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: All right, any more
23 discussion, and is it possible to see this
24 recommendation from Committee on our screen before we
25 vote on it or has this been written up? I remember

1 seeing it. Renee, you're muted, I think.

2 Mr. Bevington: I have a write-up I
3 can present.

4 Restoration Committe Chairman Kumor: Yeah.

5 Mr. Bevington: It's --

6 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: It's
7 right up on the -- Steve, it was on the bottom of the
8 third page of the list of charts.

9 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, I'm bringing
10 it back up.

11 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Okay;
12 okay, there it is.

13 Chairman Wilson: All right, so this
14 motion from Committee to approve a no cost budget
15 amendment for the North Carolina Division of Parks and
16 Recreation project 2017-409 with a new budget line item
17 of up to \$80,000.00 for two boat washing stations, and
18 the reduction by \$80,000.00 in the line item for
19 hydrilla control to \$145,000.00. Any more discussion;
20 all right, we'll vote on this now; Ann?

21 Vice Chairman Browning: Yes.

22 Chairman Wilson: Okay, I heard Ann
23 say yes; Greer?

24 Ms. Caywood: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

1 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

2 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

3 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

4 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

5 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

6 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

7 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Yes.

8 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?

9 Mr. Williams: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: David?

11 Mr. Womack: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes;

13 all right, thank you; Renee, any more from committee?

14 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor:

15 That's all; thank you very much, John.

16 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you; all

17 right, item three on agenda, Will Summer will explain

18 any special provisions in the budget and present

19 options for addressing them.

20 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank you,

21 John; as you know we do not yet have a budget, and we

22 did not know that when we sent the agenda out. But I

23 still think this agenda item and the next one are worth

24 just discussing at a hypothetical level just so

25 Trustees can begin thinking about this if any of these

1 do come to fruition. So in the current version of the
2 House budget, there is the following provision, twenty
3 million to the North Carolina Land and Water Fund and
4 the Department of Natural Cultural Resources. The
5 Division shall use the funds to provide grants to
6 counties, municipalities and nonprofit corporations
7 and other State agencies for projects addressing the
8 purposes specified in General Statute
9 143B-135.234(c) (12). Now that's referring to our
10 specific purposes. One of our specific purposes that
11 I've put down below, and it further goes on to say that
12 the Division shall develop criteria to score the
13 projects based on the ability of a project to reduce
14 flood risks. So if this language appears in a
15 Reconciliation Bill or a Conference Bill between the
16 two and passes, this would be on our plate. And I do
17 want to note that because it requires development of
18 criteria by the Trustees, I don't think this is --
19 these are funds we are meant to spend right now this
20 fall. I think we've got to develop criteria, go out
21 and seek applications, and then fund according to that
22 purpose. To dig a little deeper, that General Statute
23 in our Fund purpose reads, to protect and restore flood
24 plains and wetlands for the purpose of storing water,
25 reducing flooding, improving water quality, providing

1 wildlife and aquatic habitat, and providing
2 recreational opportunities. That purpose is kind of
3 covered in some of the work we do, or it is -- sections
4 of it are certainly covered in some of the work we do
5 in the Acquisition Committee, the protection part. The
6 restoration part is done in the Restoration, Innovative
7 Stormwater, and Planning Committee. I think to really
8 get at a project that can reduce flood risks, and this
9 is what I just want to put this seed in your head to be
10 thinking of. It might be advantageous to kind of the
11 benefits of both programs because the Acquisition
12 Project can purchase land, but it can't fund, as
13 currently set up, can't fund construction or design or
14 permitting or that sort of thing. On the other hand,
15 the Restoration Program as it's set up, it doesn't
16 permit us to purchase land, but it does permit us to
17 fund removal of structures, design, and construction.
18 And I think some of these solutions are going to
19 require that we both protect land and then improve its
20 ability to reduce flood risks to really get at what the
21 -- what the decision-makers are after here with this
22 fund to really aggressively kind of begin to address
23 the issues. So all of that said in addition to
24 developing criteria if language similar to this passes,
25 I think the committees, a committee has a pretty good

1 bit of work to do. So if and when this passes, we
2 really need to hit the ground running and get to work
3 aggressively so that we can get a program, criteria,
4 applications, requests in so that we can start putting
5 that, what in this version is twenty million dollars to
6 good work, so no action items, particularly since
7 there's no budget, but just be rolling that around in
8 the coming weeks particularly if a budget does draw
9 near to passing and language anything like this is in
10 it. And I will say that this language is similar to
11 what has been in House Bill 500. I've seen Senate
12 Bills with similar language, so I think there's an
13 appetite in both chambers to kind of take some
14 aggressive swings at this problem. So it wouldn't
15 shock me if a budget passes that something like this
16 appears in there. So I just want us to be prepared to
17 jump in and just be thinking about that. So, John,
18 that's all I have to say. I don't want to go get ahead
19 of ourselves, but I just wanted everyone to know what
20 may be out there.

21 Chairman Wilson: Any -- thank you, Will;
22 any questions or comments for Will regarding this
23 agenda item?

24 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Renee
25 has a question. I wanted to know if there's a

1 difference between dealing with stormwater management
2 and dealing with flooding, because aren't they both
3 caused -- aren't they both the same thing or to my mind
4 one leads to the other?

5 Interim Executive Director Summer: They are
6 both the result of having too much precipitation on the
7 ground in places you don't want it, and there's
8 certainly a lot of overlap. When I think of
9 stormwater, I think of -- at least when I think of
10 stormwater measures, I think of things that are
11 designed to handle the first inch and a half of rain
12 from a 24 hour storm that falls predominantly in an
13 urban area. And of course, you know, flooding is
14 anything that happens both from a small urban scale,
15 you know, behind Crabtree Mall to down east where 30
16 inches of rain fall in two days and everything in the
17 500 year flood plain for counties around is under
18 water. So I think they're both, there's overlap, but I
19 don't quite see them as the same. Let me let Steve who
20 is our fund expert on that tell me where I'm -- what
21 I'm missing, where I'm wrong.

22 Mr. Bevington: Not wrong, the thing
23 I would add to that is that just colloquially how people
24 think of them. Stormwater also has to do really with
25 water quality. So it's not totally impact just to

1 prevent water all getting to the same place and being a
2 nuisance flooding which it could be. It's also
3 treating it to improve the water quality. So it's
4 keeping things out of the water in effect, while
5 flooding is keeping water out of things. So stormwater
6 is one approach to it, but there is much larger
7 concerns. When you're looking at flooding, you may be
8 actually moving things out of harms way, getting them
9 out of the flood plain, doing much more landscape-based
10 changes with flood management, climatic issues, things
11 like that. So it's partly dealing with scale, and it's
12 also a fact that stormwater really has two parts. It's
13 quantity and quality, and so it really, it does
14 separate the techniques people use to address those two
15 fields. I'm not an engineer, so there's another whole
16 set of definitions we could get if you want them.

17 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: I
18 just think if we get into this, it's going to have to
19 be really clear, because a community who has an
20 ineffective stormwater management program might see
21 flooding as their problem and not stormwater. And on
22 the other hand, 14 inches of rain at one time clearly
23 is going to start flooding whether you have stormwater
24 management or not. So I think we might have to just be
25 very clear, because we've seen it in our planning

1 programs today, our proposals, that there are very
2 small communities looking for stormwater -- to address
3 stormwater issues, and I would wonder if they might not
4 be more in the line of flooding issues.

5 Mr. Bevington: Yeah, expectations
6 are really hard to deal with either of those two areas
7 and especially with the stream restoration we do. For
8 example, there's often a tiny benefit to reduce
9 flooding, but it's so small compared to a hurricane
10 sized flooding. I was thinking also earlier today, in
11 the Committee we were talking about shoreline
12 protection issues and they prevent wave action during
13 certain kind of high tides, but in a hurricane tide,
14 the storm goes completely over them or maybe, you know,
15 10, 20 feet deep. So again, it kind is a thing of
16 scale, and the expectations have to be very carefully
17 managed, because when people hear you have millions of
18 dollars to spend on flooding and then they get flooded
19 five years later, they are going to be hugely
20 disappointed. So they need to understand the scope and
21 scale of what's being undertaken. And, you know, as
22 much money as some of these programs sound like, you
23 know, distributed over 100 counties in North Carolina,
24 it's really not much to address the threat of flooding
25 that we all -- all face even those who live at the top

1 of the hill.

2 Chairman Wilson: Any more thoughts on
3 this; all right, thanks, Will; we'll move on to our
4 final agenda item, which is additional funding
5 considerations.

6 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank you,
7 John, and again, this is -- this is put into the agenda
8 before a budget was not on the forefront, but still
9 worth considering because a budget might happen. So
10 just putting these here to bear fruit at a later date,
11 but, you know, over the years, I heard comment that if
12 we only had the extra money, we should do this and
13 that, kind of the once we get our most immediate
14 conservation restoration needs taken care of, there are
15 some other things and other interests. For instance,
16 you know, when we -- you know, in the early 2000s, when
17 we had large grant funds coming, we invested a lot in
18 planning. And of course, it's just planning is
19 generally good money to see that the things that are
20 being brought to us via acquisition or restoration are
21 well thought out, well planned for. And there came a
22 time when our funds were very limited, that we had lots
23 of projects that had been planned for, and I think the
24 board kind of rightfully so at that time said, well, we
25 don't really need to fund planning so aggressively.

1 We've already planned the pipeline is full. What we
2 need to do is focus on the implementation, and I think
3 we're back to a time where we can consider, again,
4 putting some funds in the planning if the budget passes
5 and moneys come through. And we used to do Riparian
6 Corridor Planning Grants when the then Clean Water
7 Management Trust Fund was in the business of focusing
8 on riparian corridors. And I think those worked to
9 great effect with our partners and resulted in a lot of
10 well thought out and ultimately executed and
11 implemented plans. So what's been discussed is perhaps
12 providing those kind of plans, large regional plans,
13 but with the added focus on flood reduction, watershed
14 planning, and conservation planning that can considers
15 the broader purview that we have since June 13. You
16 know, we do historic and cultural sites. We do natural
17 heritage and military buffers. So those are things
18 that weren't considered in previous plans, and they
19 match our current purview. And it's one thing that if
20 we are funded generously, and we have a small amount we
21 might set aside and focus on some of these things that
22 I think a lot of Trustees have brought up over the
23 years and have interest in, but the funds were just too
24 tight to do anything, I'll say extra. So that's one of
25 the ideas. Something we had discussed in recent years,

1 particularly when the Board considers a project that
2 has undergone a large -- a restoration project that
3 might have undergone a large rain event that has
4 damaged the project and not during its infancy, but
5 once it's established and stable and everyone signed
6 off, moved off the site, everything looks good, and
7 years go by and just one of these massive storms like
8 we've had in western North Carolina in recent months
9 comes through and, you know, collapses a hillside or
10 just brings so much water down that some of the benefit
11 of our project is impacted from a -- you know, a failed
12 structure or something. And rather than watch that
13 continue to damage or unravel upstream and do damage to
14 something we invested in, it would be nice on occasion
15 to consider having some funds set aside to repair that.
16 So we save, put a little money in to save the benefit
17 from our previously funded project. And finally as
18 those of you have been on the Board for a while know,
19 prior to 2007 we didn't always satisfy funds to steward
20 our projects. Sometimes we granted them to our partner
21 agencies. Sometimes they were included as a match in
22 an application. Sometimes they were just not
23 considered. I mean, in the infancy of the Fund, I
24 don't think the emphasis on stewardship, the emphasis
25 was placed on stewardship that we place on it today.

1 As you know since 2007 when we fund a project and we
2 put a State or a conservation easement, we set funds
3 aside in the endowment, and those funds generate
4 interest that we can use each and every year to do the
5 necessary monitoring to make sure that our investment
6 in that conversation is protected in perpetuity. And
7 Marissa has -- has compiled a list of projects that --
8 older projects that for which we don't have funds set
9 aside. So third, the potential option, if we are so
10 fortunate as to have an abundance of funds, is to
11 strategically look at the list, find the ones the ones
12 that are most at risk and we can identify stewards for
13 and begin to kind of work out some of that backlog, so
14 that, you know, ten years from now we're not looking at
15 a big pile of unfunded mandates that we have to monitor
16 and protect those lands that we have the resources we
17 need to properly protect them. So again, I'm planting
18 seeds. There are other ideas that we may -- that
19 Trustees may want to discuss if we get back together
20 later this fall or perhaps in the winter or spring and
21 are looking at things that are consistent with our
22 purpose, appropriate for our funds and important and
23 necessary, but just that haven't come to the front in
24 recent years because things have been so tight for so
25 long. So, John, that's really all I'll say about that.

1 I again don't want to get ahead of us. I just want to
2 plant that seed and have folks be thinking in the
3 coming weeks of things that might fit that bill; thank
4 you.

5 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Will; any
6 comments or questions for Will on this agenda item?

7 Ms. Caywood: Mr. Chairman, just
8 overall I would love to, you know, just publicly thank
9 the Legislative members for having this faith in us and
10 believing in our mission and the work that we've done,
11 and the stewards that we are to the funds that they and
12 the Governor decide to give us, so I just publicly want
13 to thank them.

14 Chairman Wilson: Amen, thanks, Greer; any
15 more thoughts, comments from Trustees about anything or
16 shall I say anything pertaining to the North Carolina
17 Land and Water Fund or to Nancy?

18 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser:
19 There's a comment from Sandy Sweitzer in the dialogue
20 about the impacts of the delay on land protection
21 projects and then a question. Will the applicants be
22 able to resubmit for more than the cap, and I think
23 it's appropriate for me to address it as the Chairman
24 of the Acquisition's Committee. We did talk about this
25 some, and I personally wrestled with the cost and

1 benefit of delaying and tabling, and this is certainly
2 a cost and it's a risk. My thought was we're three to
3 four weeks away from what we hear from a very likely
4 budget that will be better and delaying another month
5 is certainly going to be an inconvenience. But in the
6 grand scheme of how these projects are managed over
7 time, it seemed like a cost that was worth taking this
8 chance on. So I don't have a better answer, and I'm
9 stumbling, but I did think about that. We talked
10 briefly about a new application process yesterday. We
11 did not make -- we did not come to any decision on that
12 or take any action, but it's hard for me to imagine
13 that we'll allow applicants to resubmit or rework their
14 applications in any way. But obviously, that's a
15 conversation we can have in the future, but I wanted to
16 at least address the question since it was asked, and I
17 wanted to do it because we talked about it a little bit
18 yesterday. And I welcome staff's thoughts on my
19 response as well, if they want to add to that.

20 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, Will, I'd like
21 to invite you to share the same information you did
22 yesterday at the committee meeting regarding the time
23 frame for the next funding cycle.

24 Interim Executive Director Summer: Certainly,
25 so as I mentioned really beginning very soon, staff

1 will be working on our 2022 applications. We generally
2 publish those December 1st with our application
3 deadline being the first Monday in February, which is
4 to say that the next grant cycle is right around the
5 corner. And if a budget passes, you know, it will pass
6 as a biannual budget presumably, which means we'll know
7 what we have this year, and we'll get to see what's in
8 store for next year. So I think if folks can be bring
9 their big acts and their bold projects that I know they
10 all have been sitting on to us in the very near future,
11 which is to say that squeezing in another grant cycle
12 between here and there might not make a lot of sense
13 for the effort. I don't think that entirely addresses
14 Sandy's question, but that -- I think it addresses your
15 question about the additional grant cycle.

16 Chairman Wilson: Okay, I would like
17 to conclude just by reminding Trustees to continue to
18 hold those October 19th and 20th dates on your
19 calendars, the 19th for the Acquisition Committee
20 meeting and the 20th for the Restoration, Innovative
21 Stormwater, and Planning Committee as well as the full
22 Board meeting. We will be in touch with you, of
23 course, regarding confirmation or modification
24 potentially of those dates if and as necessary, but
25 final thoughts, anyone; okay, thanks; I'll entertain a

1 motion to adjourn.

2 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Jason

3 Walser so moved.

4 Chairman Wilson: Jason, thanks;

5 second, anyone?

6 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Renee

7 seconds.

8 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Renee, and

9 any discussion; hearing none, Ann, how do you vote?

10 Vice Chairman Browning: Yes.

11 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

12 Ms. Caywood: Yes.

13 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

14 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

15 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

16 Restoration Committee Chairman Kumor: Yes.

17 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

18 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

19 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

20 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser: Yes.

21 Chairman Wilson: Darrel?

22 Mr. Williams: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: David?

24 Mr. Womack: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes.

1 Thank you everyone; thank you especially to our staff,
2 and we will see you next time.

3 (The proceedings were concluded at 4:55 P.M.)
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NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Diane C. Byrd, Notary/Reporter, do hereby certify that this Board of Trustees Meeting was taken by me and transcribed under my direction and that the eighty-two pages which constitute this Board of Trustees Meeting are a true and accurate transcript.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of October, 2021.

Diane C. Byrd

Diane C. Byrd
Notary Public
Certificate No.: 19933130099