

NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

1:07 P.M.

Volume 1

Pages 1 through 56

A P P E A R A N C E S

(All Parties Participated by Microsoft Teams)

Board of Trustees:

John Wilson, Chair
Ann Browning
Amy Grissom
E. Greer Cawood
Renee Kumor
Jason Walser
Mike Rusher
David Womack

Staff:

Hank Fordham, DNCR Legal Counsel
Will Summer, Interim Executive Director
Terri Murray, Restoration Program Assistant
Steve Bevington, Restoration Program Manager
Marissa Hartzler, Stewardship Program Manager
Marie Meckman, Acquisition Program
Justin Mercer, Eastern Field Representative
Damon Hearne, Western Field Representative
Reid Wilson, Chief Deputy Secretary, Department of
Natural and Cultural Resources

P R O C E E D I N G S

1:07 P.M.

1
2 Chairman Wilson: I'd like to call today's
3 meeting of the North Carolina Land and Water Fund Board
4 of Trustees to order. I am John Wilson, the Board
5 Chair, and I just want to welcome everyone who is with
6 us virtually today. I know that some of you are in
7 person together. I guess we're all in person with
8 ourselves, but some of you are in person together. I'm
9 sure that we all hope to be able to meet again, have
10 meetings again in person in 2022. Let me start by
11 asking you to please mute your computers unless you're
12 speaking and also while I'm at it, ask you to please
13 put your mobile phones on vibrate or turn them off all
14 together. I want to start by thanking our staff and
15 Trustees and our applicants, everyone with any
16 connection to the Land and Water Fund for being so
17 accommodating as we did our best to adjust our meeting
18 schedules according to the State budget timeline. And
19 many thanks regarding that budget to our elected
20 officials, the Governor, and the General Assembly, for
21 agreeing upon a budget containing significant and badly
22 needing funding for land and water conservation, State
23 parks, and other conservation funding, and a special
24 thanks to all of you who let our state leaders know how
25 critically important this funding is and who encouraged

1 many others to do the same in contacting our elected
2 officials. So with that, I will call the role of our
3 Trustees. Please let us know that you're here; Ann
4 Browning?

5 Ms. Browning: Here.

6 Chairman Wilson: Greer Cawood?

7 Ms. Cawood: Here.

8 Chairman Wilson: Amy Grissom?

9 Ms. Grissom: I'm here.

10 Chairman Wilson: Renee Kumor?

11 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
12 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Here.

13 Chairman Wilson: Mike Rusher?

14 Mr. Rusher: Here.

15 Chairman Wilson: Jason Walser?

16 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Here.

17 Chairman Wilson: Darrel Williams has let
18 us know that he could not be here; David Womack?

19 Mr. Womack: Here.

20 Chairman Wilson: All right, and John
21 Wilson is here. All right, so General Statute 138A-15
22 mandates that the Chair inquire as to whether any
23 Trustee knows of any conflict of interest or the
24 appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to
25 matters on the agenda. If any Trustee knows of a

1 conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of
2 interest, please state so at this time.

3 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
4 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Mr. Chairman, Renee
5 Kumor, I'd like to state I have a conflict of interest
6 with 2021-409, and I will recuse myself when we have
7 any discussion or vote on that matter.

8 Chairman Wilson: Thank you.

9 Ms. Grissom: And, Mr. Chairman, this
10 is Amy. I'd like to recuse from Jordan/Panther Branch
11 2021-070.

12 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you, Amy; I
13 have a conflict on project 2021-014, the Foothills
14 Blowing Rock project; any more conflicts? All right,
15 hearing none, we will move on. I've already asked you
16 to please put your cell phones on vibrate. Regarding
17 the agenda, are there any revisions or additions to the
18 agenda which you see on your screen in front of you.
19 All right, I'll entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

20 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Jason
21 Walser moves for adoption.

22 Ms. Cawood: Greer will second.

23 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Jason and Greer;
24 any discussion; all right, vote now please; Ann?

25 Ms. Browning: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

2 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

4 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

6 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
7 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

8 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

9 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

11 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: David?

13 Mr. Womack: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes also.

15 We have adopted our agenda. We can now move on to item
16 2, our consent agenda. We have two items on the
17 consent agenda, the approval of minutes from our
18 September 2021 Board meeting and also a request to
19 extend the date to enter into a construction contract
20 for an existing grant. There were multiple of those;
21 any discussion on either item on the consent agenda?

22 Ms. Browning: This is Ann. I just had
23 two what I believe are corrections to the minutes I
24 want to offer up. One is page 18, line 5, I think the
25 word development should be velvet, so a velvet --

1 Nancy's velvet hammer, not her development hammer, and
2 on page 24, line 14, the word native, I think should be
3 creative, so think in a creative way, not a native way.

4 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thanks, Ann; any
5 more comments on the minutes; so page 15, line 5,
6 velvet, not --

7 Ms. Browning: Page 18, line 5, velvet,
8 not development.

9 Chairman Wilson: And -- sorry, go ahead.

10 Ms. Browning: Page 25, line 14,
11 creative, not native.

12 Chairman Wilson: All right, with those
13 suggested changes, can we have a motion to adopt our
14 consent agenda?

15 Ms. Browning: So moved, it's Ann.

16 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
17 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: And I'll second,
18 Renee.

19 Chairman Wilson: Okay, any more discussion
20 on the consent agenda; all right, please let me know
21 how you vote, Ann?

22 Ms. Browning: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

24 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

1 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

2 Chairman Wilson: Renee

3 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
4 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

6 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

7 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

8 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

9 Chairman Wilson: David?

10 Mr. Womack: Yes.

11 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes. All
12 right, I'd like to make a velvet hammer joke as I get
13 ready to introduce our Secretary of the Department of
14 Natural and Cultural Resources, Reid Wilson, but I'm
15 going to avoid that and just pass it on to you, Reid.

16 Secretary Wilson: Well, do you still have a
17 second item, consent item, or is that all the consent
18 items?

19 Chairman Wilson: I -- I included both
20 items and the consent agenda as a whole.

21 Secretary Wilson: All right.

22 Chairman Wilson: See, he does have a
23 velvet hammer.

24 Secretary Wilson: No, I'm just confused.
25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman; good to see all of you on this

1 beautiful December afternoon; I hope you all had a
2 great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to wonderful
3 holidays in this rest of this month. I think all of us
4 might consider the State budget to be early holiday
5 presents for organizations like the Land and Water
6 Fund, but it's not just the Land and Water Fund that
7 did well in the Department of Natural and Cultural
8 Resources; significant investments across our
9 department, whether it's history, art, culture, natural
10 resources, just kind of stunning actually. So that's a
11 great thing, transformational for some our divisions
12 actually. And of course, most of this one-time money,
13 whether it's for grants like yours or capital projects
14 around the State, but still, some of it is for new
15 staff, and some of it is recurring money that we'll
16 have every year, but it's a great budget for our
17 department. And I think you all know, the -- the
18 Governor on balance thought that it provided more good
19 for the people of the North Carolina, and that's why he
20 signed it even though he had concerns about specific
21 parts of it. I will say that he pushed very hard for
22 the 100 million dollars for Land and Water Fund and
23 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in those final days of
24 negotiations where we were all wondering how things
25 would turn out, but, you know, I think we all, as John

1 pointed out, need to thank members of the General
2 Assembly who supported this budget, which is just about
3 every single one of them. But I also do want to thank
4 all of you on this Board and also all of you with your
5 circles and initials over there on the right side of my
6 screen who did so much to educate Legislators about why
7 the Land and Water Fund needed this level of funding,
8 because I think you all know these funding levels at
9 one point were not at all locked in. It was not close
10 to certain that Land and Water and part of -- other
11 places would get the funding that they did, and I think
12 it happened because of all of you participating in this
13 call and many others, whether it was Wildlife Resources
14 Commission, Trails Groups, Land for Tomorrow, other
15 conservation groups, local government and parks
16 departments. Everybody sort of pitched in and talked
17 to the Legislature, and voilà. We have this great
18 budget for this incredibly important Trust Fund, and I
19 think in the end, this budget shows that there is a
20 recognition among the State's leaders from both parties
21 that North Carolinians really truly value clean water
22 and open spaces and parks and trails and greenways so
23 they can take their families out for healthy outdoor
24 exercise, especially in a pandemic. So that is a
25 really good place to be, to enjoy such strong and broad

1 public support both from the people of the State and
2 the Legislature and the Executive branch. You all know
3 what you got, but I'm just going to repeat it. A
4 hundred million dollars for Land and Water Fund normal
5 programs, plus 15 million for flood plain protection,
6 and in addition there were specified grants going to
7 some of the projects that were -- that are pending
8 applicants, and I know you've talked about all that in
9 the last day and a half. But some of your sister
10 agencies did -- divisions did really well in terms of
11 open space and parks and trails. I'll get to parks in
12 a second, but a number of our directed grants go
13 towards existing State historic sites or historic sites
14 that will be created, or there will be opportunities
15 for people to hike trails and be outside. So it's not
16 just parks that's going to benefit. Some of our
17 historic sites as well will have additional
18 opportunities for people to get out and enjoy not only
19 the history of the place, but the nature of the place,
20 and anytime you can do both of those things that's a
21 great -- that's a great day for a family. So parks,
22 and I know they often come to you guys with grant
23 applications, and that's fine, but, you know, they got
24 91 million for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, plus
25 another ten million for parks and other recreational

1 facilities designed for children and children with --
2 well, anybody with disabilities and -- and for
3 veterans. And this was modeled after a three million
4 dollar program that came through the 2016 bond that the
5 Parks and Rec Trust Fund administered really well, and
6 it was very popular. And it's great to see an
7 additional ten million into that program through this
8 budget. Parks also got 40 million dollars for water
9 and sewer projects at a number of their parks where
10 really their water and sewer infrastructure is not in
11 good shape, so that is a great thing. You all know
12 Pisgah View State Park got 12.2 million dollars;
13 Hanging Rock State Park, four million; Mayo River State
14 Park, \$500,000.00; Pilot Mountain State Park, not the
15 park that's burning, a different park, four million;
16 three million will go to State Way State Trail. We're
17 going to get a new part of Stone Mountain State Park,
18 because what was Rendezvous Mountain State Forest is
19 going to become park property with money to get that up
20 to sort of park standards; 29.25 million for State
21 trails projects around the state, which is huge;
22 \$200,000.00 recurring for the Conservation Core, which
23 is run by the Conservation Core of North Carolina; 33
24 new positions in state parks, because under the 2016
25 bond when campgrounds and visitor centers are

1 completed, you need people to work in them. So as
2 those projects have been completed, we need the people,
3 and the Legislature and the Governor provided those new
4 staff people for those positions. There is probably
5 more. Yeah, it goes on and on and on, but as you know,
6 there's a number of directed grants for local and state
7 park and trail and greenway projects around North
8 Carolina. So it's really a home run for the things we
9 all care about, clean water, outdoor recreational
10 opportunities across the state. It's going to be a
11 huge task for our department to manage all of this, all
12 these expenditures over the next two years. The good
13 news is there are organizations like yours who exist to
14 distribute grants, and you've been doing it for 25
15 years, correct? So this is just sort of getting back
16 to the levels you used to have years and years ago. So
17 you all know how to do this. It's going to be more of
18 a challenge for the parts of our department that
19 haven't had grant programs before, haven't done
20 construction projects, but you don't have to worry
21 about that. It's just I want you all to know that from
22 the senior levels of this department, we're going to be
23 very careful about how we spend the dollars because
24 they belong to the people, and that we're going to do
25 the best job we can to spend the money quickly, but to

1 spend it well and to spend it efficiently and to
2 fulfill the purposes that were written into the budget.
3 So that's what's going on. There's a lot to do in the
4 next two years, and I know you all have already had a
5 day and a half of good discussions about your funding
6 decisions to make. So I'll just leave you with
7 reminding you how important your work is to ensure
8 clean water across the state and outdoor recreational
9 opportunities and support to the economy. Everything
10 you do is important, and I have great confidence you
11 will make really smart decisions as you go through your
12 list of pending projects to expend the funds that you
13 have received from the Legislature and the Governor, so
14 as always, thanks for having me, and thank you for all
15 of the time and the effort you put into this incredibly
16 important organization; back to you, Mr. Chair.

17 Chairman Wilson: Thank you very much; any
18 questions for Secretary Wilson or suggestions; yes?

19 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes,
20 this is Jason Walser; thank you for joining us,
21 Secretary. This has been an honor to have so much of
22 your time, and thanks for your advocacy in Raleigh. I
23 wanted to take the opportunity before you leave to just
24 say how much we value the staff of the Land and Water
25 Fund. We've had a strange year. We had a retirement,

1 and then we had another retirement. We've had budgets
2 that have come and gone, and we've had meetings set
3 that we've had to change, and I've gotten, as the
4 Acquisition Committee Chair, emails and text messages
5 and phone calls from your staff on the weekends, at
6 night. They've been phenomenal, and as you think about
7 the future staffing needs of LWF, which I know are
8 going to be great because of all of the things you just
9 said, I just want you to know that the Acquisitions
10 Committee Chairman is really grateful for the current
11 staff that we have, and I hope that you're taking care
12 of them. I just wanted to say that.

13 Secretary Wilson: Very good point, Jason;
14 you know all of the staff at the Land and Water Fund
15 and the Natural Heritage Program within this division
16 do a phenomenal job, and I think they serve the people
17 of North Carolina and their boards extremely well, so
18 thanks for saying that. I couldn't agree more.

19 Chairman Wilson: Okay, anything else for
20 Reid; make sure you get a lot of coffee, Reid. You all
21 have a lot of work to do; thank you very much for being
22 here with us.

23 Secretary Wilson: Sure.

24 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

25 Secretary Wilson: I'll hang on for a few

1 minutes, and then I got to do another thing, but I
2 always like spending time with you guys.

3 Chairman Wilson: All right, thanks; all
4 right, well, speaking of our excellent staff, it's time
5 for our Executive Director's update with Will Summer.

6 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank
7 you, Mr. Chair, and let me welcome all of the members
8 of the Board, staff, and our guests. I think I'll --
9 I'll mirror a lot of what Secretary Wilson said, but at
10 a more local scale. Obviously, the item of most
11 interest is the budget, so let me start there. This
12 budget includes the largest investment in conservation
13 in 13 years in the state over the biennium. The North
14 Carolina Land and Water Fund will receive an additional
15 115 million dollars. So before I get into the details,
16 let me thank Governor Cooper and the members of the
17 Senate and House for their support. I think it's a
18 vote of confidence in our process and the
19 thoughtfulness that you, the Trustees, all put into
20 your deliberation. In my opinion, what we do is the
21 best bang for your buck if you want to spend one-time
22 funds and get long-term benefits, so let me talk about
23 a few of the details. While this budget was
24 overwhelmingly positive, we did lose a relatively new
25 dedicated revenue stream of 12.5 percent of certain

1 sales of State property. That repeal is going to
2 affect about 3.8 million that we were anticipating, but
3 it's certainly easier to swallow this year, so I won't
4 dwell on it any longer. We received an additional 48.5
5 million in year one and 51.5 million in year two of the
6 biennium. Most of that 37.5 million each year comes
7 from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund, also
8 known as the SCIF, a new buzzword in most of our
9 vocabularies. Staff is going to have to track those
10 SCIF funds a little differently than our general
11 appropriations, but that shouldn't affect your funding
12 decisions to the -- to the Board. It all spends the
13 same. On those funds, we are permitted to set aside up
14 to 3 percent of the SCIF funds for administrative
15 costs, and I'll talk a little bit more about that in an
16 agenda item later today. Moving on, there was a four
17 million dollar direct appropriation from our funds for
18 stormwater and watershed restoration projects in Surry
19 County. As you know, I'm a staunch advocate for our
20 process, and I'm always a little disappointed to see
21 deliberation taken out of your hands. However, as
22 we've done in the past in similar situations, staff
23 will advise and make recommendations to the recipient
24 where appropriate to advocate for the strongest project
25 possible. We're learning more about the project, and

1 we'll let you know as our understanding develops.
2 Finally, there was an additional 15 million for
3 projects that protect and restore flood plains and
4 wetlands for the purpose of storing water, reducing
5 flooding, improving water quality, providing wildlife
6 and aquatic habitat, and providing recreational
7 opportunities. The bill also requires that Trustees
8 develop criteria to score projects on their ability to
9 reduce flood risks with this 15 million. So we can't
10 spend this money yet, and staff is preparing options
11 for Trustees to consider so that we can implement this,
12 and a committee meeting will be convened soon to get
13 this process started. I'd also like to take a moment
14 to update you on staff. In the midst of what has
15 turned out to be a very busy year, we've also had a
16 relatively large period of staff transition, and we
17 currently have three vacancies. The department has
18 completed interviews of the Executive Director
19 position, and that's going through the HR process now.
20 We're holding off on advertising the Executive
21 Assistant position until the Executive Director is
22 appointed. And finally, as you may recall, Marissa
23 Hartzler was promoted to the Acquisition Program
24 Manager, which left a vacancy in the Stewardship
25 Manager position. We've interviewed and submitted our

1 recommendations to HR for that position and hope to
2 move forward on that soon. That leaves us with seven
3 positions filled as we are awarding funding at levels
4 not seen since we had a much larger org chart. I see
5 this as an opportunity to further develop my existing
6 staff and bring on new talent to help us meet the
7 challenge. My top priority will be getting these
8 positions filled. Though we are few at the moment,
9 there is no team with whom I would rather take the
10 field. To our partners, I will continue to work
11 aggressively to ramp up our capacity, and I would
12 encourage all of you to do the same. This workload is
13 -- it's good, and it's coming for all of us. So bottom
14 line, there are huge opportunities for conservation and
15 restoration in the coming few years. They come with
16 big challenges for all of us, and I could not be more
17 excited to be in the middle of it. Mr. Chair, that
18 concludes my report.

19 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Will; any
20 questions/comments for Will; okay, we now move on to
21 the public comment section of our meeting. I'd like to
22 invite any members of the public who would like to make
23 comments to the Board to please do so, and please limit
24 your comments to three minutes. So just remember to
25 unmute yourself if you would like to speak and identify

1 yourself, please. Okay, so I'm not hearing anybody.
2 So either no one wants to comment or whoever does is
3 still muted, so last chance on that just in case. All
4 right, no public comments then, and so we'll now move
5 on to the three items on our business agenda. Number
6 one is back to you, Will, for discussion of 2021 Budget
7 Administrative Funds.

8 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank
9 you, Mr. Chair; as I mentioned in my opening report,
10 over the next two years our funding will be
11 substantially increased. In fact, it's a little more
12 than four times what we have been awarded in any of the
13 recent years, and before this budget was even a
14 possibility, one of my greatest concerns was the
15 workload on staff. Technology has and continues to
16 serve us well, but there's only so much juice you can
17 squeeze out of that grape. As I look at the
18 implantation burden that these two years of funding
19 will put on my team, I need more staff for
20 conservatively five years which is the typical lifespan
21 of grants we will be awarding in the next two years.
22 So let me give a shout out to advocates and
23 particularly the DNCR Legislative Liaison, Deans
24 Eatman, for getting us some administrative funds
25 included in this budget. They are desperately needed

1 and very much appreciated. We're permitted to use up 3
2 percent of the SCIF funds for administrative purposes.
3 That amounts to \$1,125,000.00 in each of the next two
4 years. I'm working on a five-year staffing plan that I
5 would hope will be brought back to you when the
6 Executive Director is appointed. As interim, you know,
7 I see my job is to maintain the status quo. I don't
8 think it would be appropriate for me to make long-term
9 decisions in this role. In the meantime, what I'm
10 asking of the Board is that you set aside the full 3
11 percent for later use and consideration, and the
12 committee recommendations that you will see later today
13 have taken that into account and not spent those funds
14 on their actions. To that end, I am asking the Board
15 to approve the staff recommendation to set aside 3
16 percent of the State Capital Infrastructure Funds for
17 future administrative purposes, and I'll take any
18 questions.

19 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: This
20 is Jason Walser. I'd like to make that motion that we
21 approve the staff recommendation of setting aside 3
22 percent of the State Capital Infrastructure Funds.

23 Ms. Grissom: I'd like to second that.
24 This is Amy.

25 Chairman Wilson: Okay, motion from Jason,

1 second from Amy, any discussion; all right, please let
2 me know how you vote; Ann?

3 Ms. Browning: Yes.

4 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

5 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

6 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

7 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

8 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

9 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
10 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

11 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

12 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

13 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

14 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

15 Chairman Wilson: David?

16 Mr. Womack: Yes.

17 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes also.

18 All right, --

19 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank
20 you.

21 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Will; that's
22 taken care of. Before we move on to the next two
23 business agenda items, Will, I'd like to ask you to do
24 what you just did. Yes, can you run through this for
25 us, please?

Interim Executive Director Summer:

1 Absolutely, I didn't mean to jump ahead of you there.
2 I was actually trying to throw that up on my own
3 screen, but I'm sharing. So this is a breakdown that I
4 shared with each of the committees, just kind of
5 talking about the funds that we have, how it was broken
6 down, and resulting in what we are spending today. So
7 these top two rows are recurring appropriations, a
8 little over 12 million is our annual base budget
9 recurring appropriation and the one million that's
10 specifically tied to military funds. So of the initial
11 12 per the Executive Committee and Board action in
12 September, 80 percent of those funds will go to the
13 Acquisition Committee, and 20 percent to the
14 Restoration Committee. Moving down to the next column
15 of the one million tied specifically to military
16 buffers, obviously that goes to the Acquisition
17 Committee. These next three lines -- well, let's talk
18 about the next two lines are the sum to the 48.5
19 million I was talking about. The 11 million comes from
20 general appropriations, and again, that's split 80/20
21 between Acquisition and Restoration, and the 37.5 is
22 the aforementioned State Capital and Infrastructure
23 Fund, SCIF, that is also split 80/20 with Acquisition
24 and Restoration. The 15 million that I was talking
25

1 about for flood reduction, it comes in the first year
2 of the budget, but it also comes with the stipulation
3 that the Trustees create criteria. And for those of
4 you that have been through that before, it's not a one-
5 day process, and I expect that we will be convening a
6 committee very shortly to begin to dive into getting
7 that task completed and implementing the requirements
8 of this 15 million. So we'll put a pin in that.
9 That's there, but we are not going to -- to touch it
10 today. Subtracting from that is the 1.125 that we just
11 mentioned. These are the 3 percent of the SCIF funds
12 that I've asked the Board and the Board has agreed to
13 set aside, as in that -- that was split again 80/20,
14 that burden from each of the two committees. And
15 finally, on the subtraction is the four million that
16 was legislatively directed, and these were --
17 legislatively directed in a way that said of the funds
18 appropriated to the North Carolina Land and Water Fund.
19 So they didn't give us the extra four million, per se.
20 It comes from what we -- what we already had been --
21 the generous sums we had already been allocated, so
22 that as I had mentioned earlier today, both because it
23 is stormwater and watershed restoration related and
24 because there was a capacity to do that in the
25 Restoration Committee without harming any of the grants

1 that were in front of us, that four million came out of
2 the -- the funds from the Restoration Innovative
3 Stormwater and Planning committee. Moving on to other
4 sources, we do already have almost a little over 2.2
5 million from license plate revenue year to date. That
6 also is split 80/20 between Acquisition and
7 Restoration. We have unencumbered funds from the
8 Acquisition and Restoration program, and this is just
9 since the beginning of the year when we, I guess,
10 dissolved the previous funds to reallocate to each
11 committee and then decided all that came in after that
12 date would be, again, split 80/20. So that resulted,
13 there was some -- some big projects in Acquisition that
14 came back earlier in the fiscal year and as well some
15 from Restoration. So these funds all told left each
16 committee today 52.8 million for the Acquisition
17 Committee and 8.8 million for the Restoration and
18 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee. Those
19 funds were spent today, and in some cases things were
20 put on the provisional list, and because we're only
21 halfway through the year, and we received roughly
22 \$400,000.00 a month from the license plate revenue,
23 there will be additional funds coming into each of
24 those committees that can be -- could be used towards
25 any provisional grants that were made. As one done at

1 the beginning of this year, I think we're going to get
2 to the end of this fiscal year having funded the few
3 things that are the provisional list and carry several
4 million into the next fiscal year. When the Executive
5 Committee meets again late in the summer, I think
6 following what they did this year, I expect that they
7 will take those funds, put them back into the pot, and
8 then there will be the discussion as there is every
9 year of how to allocate those funds going forward. So
10 any funds that we get through with at the end of this
11 year unspent will be reallocated between the committees
12 next year. That said, is there anything else you
13 wanted me to cover in this area, John, or anyone else?

14 Chairman Wilson: No, thank you; very
15 helpful; any questions about this for Will; okay,
16 thanks, Will; all right, second item on our business
17 agenda is consideration of the Acquisition Committee
18 recommendations. I'm handing it over to the
19 Acquisition Committee Chair, Jason Walser.

20 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Thank
21 you, Chairman; I know you're going to get tired of
22 hearing my voice. I have a formal recommendation to
23 make, and I will read it, and it will take some time.
24 Before I do that, I think for our guests to understand
25 how we got to this point, it's worth me taking a few

1 more minutes and moments of reflection and invite input
2 from other Acquisition Committee Members. We did not
3 take this job this year very lightly at all. We have
4 had multiple committee meetings over the course of the
5 summer and then this fall. We visited a lot of sites.
6 I think our Chairman showed great wisdom in recognizing
7 the opportunity a large budget might present to us, and
8 so we visited. Different groups of us visited some of
9 the best scoring projects, some the most expensive
10 projects, and also some of the lowest-scoring projects
11 just so that we would have a feel. We also reviewed,
12 during our long day of acquisition project review, we
13 had staff review every single project with us, which is
14 something we haven't had occasion to do in years past
15 because we knew that we couldn't possibly fund that
16 many projects. So we did not make the staff go through
17 all of the projects at length, but we did do that in
18 September of this year. We spent the better part of a
19 day, a long day doing that. We asked questions. We
20 took the job seriously. Renee, you'll be happy to know
21 we talked about maybe if we had full funding putting
22 more money into Innovative Stormwater and Restoration
23 if that's where demand was. We talked about carrying
24 money over to a future funding cycle. We talked about
25 all of the things that you could imagine you might want

1 to talk about when given a windfall like this,
2 recognizing this was a very special moment in time.
3 And out of that, we had a very health discussion
4 yesterday, a little over three -- well, right at three
5 hours of really healthy discussion that was not
6 predetermined at all as to how we were going to make
7 the recommendations that I'm about to make. And after
8 I read these, we'll answer questions, and I'll invite
9 other committee members to join in, but we did talk
10 about projects that had specific appropriations. We
11 talked about lifting the caps, and we talked about
12 raising the caps, but not eliminating the caps on
13 projects as we've had to do in years past. We talked
14 about a number of other things, but at the end of the
15 day, I'm very proud and excited to make the
16 recommendations we're about to make. And before I do,
17 I will invite any other acquisition -- excuse me,
18 acquisition members to say if I left out anything in
19 describing the process we went through to make these
20 recommendations today; anybody want to add anything?
21 We took our job seriously.

22 Chairman Wilson: Jason, just a quick
23 logistical question, and this is to Will. Is it
24 possible as Jason goes through these to do the share
25 screen so that we can see what he's reading?

1 Interim Executive Director Summer: Yes, sir.

2 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Nice.

3 Chairman Wilson: Thank you.

4 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: And I
5 think in years past when we've only had 12, 15, and 20
6 projects to read, I read them all. I don't want to
7 deprive anyone of the spotlight, so I'm happy to read
8 the 51 projects that we have, but is there a preference
9 by the Chair? Chairman Wilson, do you prefer that I
10 read them all, or do you have a thought? I'm happy to
11 read them.

12 Chairman Wilson: I guess it's a Hank
13 question as to whether it needs to be read aloud so it
14 can be -- become part of the minutes, or could be
15 entered in --

16 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: I'll
17 read them, and let everybody have their moment in the
18 spotlight. I'll read that. How's that, and I'll
19 just --

20 Chairman Wilson: Yes, they're worthy --
21 worthy of savoring, do it, and paint a visual picture
22 of each one also.

23 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: I
24 can't pass that test, but we don't get to do this very
25 often. And while I'm thinking about it, it's already

1 been said, but a special thank you to our Land Trust
2 partners who brought us great projects, to all those
3 who lobby, a lot of Land Trust Directors, I know. Bill
4 and Catherine are out there working General Assembly
5 constantly, Will Robinson, Will Morgan, Deans. We
6 really had a huge support network when people sensed
7 that there was an opportunity here. A lot of folks
8 went out on our behalf so that we'd have the
9 opportunity to do what we're going to do today, which
10 is fund 50 million dollars worth of projects. We just
11 haven't had that opportunity in a long time, and this
12 was really a great blessing. We took the job very
13 seriously, but it took a lot of hands to get to this
14 point, and we are very grateful for the heavy lifting
15 that all of you all in the field did. So with no
16 further ado, let me begin. The Acquisition Committee
17 met on November 30th and makes the following
18 recommendations. First of all, we withdrew a September
19 14th recommendation that was made back then. We
20 rescinded that so that we could begin from scratch. We
21 tabled that recommendation and again began from scratch
22 by considering the donated mini-grant program. So
23 here's our first recommendation. The Committee
24 recommends up to \$250,000.00 be made available to the
25 Acquisition Committee funding -- I'm sorry, be made

1 available for the donated mini-grant projects from
2 December 1, 2021 through the funding meeting in 2022.
3 The funds will be taken from license plate revenue as
4 needed. And we also propose/recommend the following
5 grant awards. We had \$52,876,133.00 to allocate,
6 including a million dollars which was directed towards
7 protecting military buffers to award in this round of
8 awards. We reviewed 51 applications at our September
9 meeting and re-reviewed two projects yesterday that had
10 specific legislative appropriations, and we reviewed
11 four projects that had requests exceeding 1.2 million
12 dollars, which was our historic cap over the last
13 several years. With that in mind, the Committee
14 recommends funding two projects that also had
15 legislatively appropriated funds, project 2021-026,
16 North Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation,
17 Pisgah View Phase 4. We propose that be fully funded.
18 And project 2021-022, North Carolina Department of
19 Parks and Recreation, Shallow Ford Tract at its full
20 1.2 million request as well. And I'm happy to talk
21 about that after I finish reading this to other board
22 members who might want to know how those conversations
23 played out, but this is our recommendation. We also
24 make the recommendations for the following list of
25 projects totaling \$51,632,748.00 and then following

1 that a list of provisional funded projects at
2 \$1,575,088.00. So let me dive in. We recommend
3 funding fully project 2021-032, The Conservation Fund,
4 Cabin Flats Tract at \$539,450.00; project 2021-015,
5 Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, Pinnacle
6 Mountain West, Wilderness Gateway project at 1.2 --
7 \$1,203,486.00; project 2021-049, Triangle Land
8 Conservancy, Liles Tract, Swift Creek at \$784,518.00;
9 2021-051, The Nature Conservancy, 421 Sand Ridge Phase
10 2, Corbett Industries project. We recommend funding at
11 8,901,455.00; project 2021-040, The Conservation Fund,
12 Long Bay, Piney Island Bombing Range at \$2,400,000.00;
13 2021-029, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy,
14 Mt. Pisgah, Pisgah Creek, \$824,415.00 purposed and
15 recommended; 2021-053, Nature Conservancy, Caddell and
16 BLATCO, Sandhills Game Lands project, \$400,948.00
17 recommended; 2021-069, Three Rivers Land Trust, Evan
18 Miller Tract, Yadkin River, 1.2 million dollars; 2021-
19 030, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Reems
20 Creek Bowl, recommended at \$373,114.00; project 2021-
21 023, North Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation,
22 Crisp Tracts, Pineola State Natural Area, \$11,075.00;
23 project 2021-027, North Carolina Wildlife Resources
24 Commission, White Springs, Military Ocean Terminal
25 Sunny Point (MOTSU) project, \$441,000.00 recommended;

1 North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, Chowan River
2 Initiative, \$314,800.00; The Conservation Fund, Rocky
3 River, Deep River State Trail, 1.2 million dollars
4 proposed; Triangle Land Conservancy, Holler Tract, Cape
5 Fear River, \$854,589.00 recommended; project 2021-055,
6 The Nature Conservancy, Horrell Tract, Black River,
7 proposed at \$81,769.00 funding; project 2021-022, North
8 Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources,
9 the Shallow Ford Tract on the Yadkin River,
10 \$1,200,000.00 recommended; project 2021-054, The Nature
11 Conservancy, Corbett Tracts, Holly Shelter Game Lands,
12 proposed funding at \$1,174,795.00; project 2021-017,
13 Mainspring Conservation Trust, Pinnacle Park IV,
14 \$166,275.00 recommended; project 2021-059, Tar River
15 Land Conservancy, Murray Tract, Tar River, \$177,563.00
16 recommended; The Conservation Fund, Johnson Farm,
17 Hector Creek, recommended amount of \$3,363,230.00; The
18 Conservation Fund project 2021-035, Expansion Tract for
19 Ridges Mountain State Natural Areas, \$617,776.00; 2021-
20 026, North Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation,
21 Pisgah View Phase 4, \$1,200,000.00 recommended; project
22 2021-005, Conserving Carolina, Chestnut Hills, Face
23 Rock Bearwallow project, \$221,042.00 recommended; 2021-
24 047, Triangle Land Conservancy, Fitch Tract, Big Woods
25 Forest, recommended amount 1.2 million dollars; project

1 2021-004, Conserving Carolina, Camp Woodson project,
2 \$414,933.00 recommended; project 2021-019, North
3 Carolina Coastal Land Trust, Cashy Land and Timber,
4 Hoggards Mill Run project, recommended funding of
5 \$250,000.00; project 2021-057, The Nature Conservancy,
6 Riverstone White -- White Marsh, Waccamaw River, a
7 whopping \$12,092,230.00 recommended for a whopping big,
8 beautiful project; 2021-065, Three Rivers Land Trust,
9 Crisp Tract, McLendons Creek, recommended amount
10 \$358,148.00; project 2021-060, Three Rivers Land Trust,
11 Alcoa Falls, Little Mountain Creek project, recommended
12 amount \$355,865.00; project 2021-050, Triangle Land
13 Conservancy, McLean Tract, Big Woods Forest,
14 \$1,200,000.00 recommended; project 2021-058, The Nature
15 Conservancy, White Tracts on the Roanoke River,
16 recommended amount \$1,257,519.00; project 2021-056, The
17 Nature Conservancy, Matthews Tract, Horse Swamp,
18 recommended amount \$67,086.00. Project 2021-067, Three
19 Rivers Land Trust, Deans South, Drowning Creek project,
20 recommended amount \$591,220.00; Three Rivers Land Trust
21 project 2021-061, the Auman Farm on Drowning Creek,
22 recommended amount \$1,027,970.00; project 2021-066,
23 Three Rivers Land Trust, Deans North, Drowning Creek,
24 recommended amount \$352,520.00; project 2021-064, Three
25 Rivers Land Trust, Blake Tract, Jackson Creek,

1 recommended amount \$202,970.00; project 2021-063, Three
2 Rivers Land Trust, Bennett Tracts, Little River,
3 recommended amount \$973,970.00. I'll take a minute to
4 catch my breath and give special commendation to
5 Crystal Cockman for writing a lot of grant applications
6 for Three Rivers Land Trust last year. Okay, so I
7 think I am at project 2021-044, The Conservation Fund,
8 Amazing Grace Phase 1, Soapstone Ridge, recommended
9 amount \$1,242,747.00; project 2021-039, The
10 Conservation Fund, Little Alligator River, Alligator
11 River Game Land, recommended amount \$105,500.00;
12 project 2021-007, Conserving Carolina, Floodplain
13 Addition, Mouth of Mud Creek, recommended amount of
14 \$46,950.00; project 2021-024, North Carolina Department
15 of Parks and Recreation, Lafayette Taylor, Carvers
16 Creek State Park, recommended amount \$625,000.00;
17 project 2021-031, The Conservation Fund, Bogue Town
18 Park, Goose Creek, recommended amount of \$115,000.00;
19 project 2021-071, Three Rivers Land Trust, Price Tract
20 on the Rocky River, recommended amount \$1,062,350.00;
21 project 2021-068, Three Rivers Land Trust, DeBerry
22 Tract on the Little River, recommended amount
23 \$166,470.00, and that is all of the -- all of the
24 projects we expect to be fully funded with our
25 allocation amounts. We also recommend the following

1 projects be funded from the provisional list as funding
2 becomes available, which we do anticipate based on
3 previous license plate revenue streams that we've seen
4 in the past. Project 2021-003, Blue Ridge Conservancy,
5 Berry Tract, Grandfather Mountain State Park,
6 recommended amount \$184,992.00; project 2021-033, The
7 Conservation Fund, Carolina Timberlands, Cape Fear
8 Wetlands Game Land, recommended amount \$100,000.00;
9 project 2021-043, The Conservation Fund, Sharpe Tract,
10 Alamance Battleground, recommended amount \$50,526.00;
11 project 2021-013, Charlotte Mecklenburg Storm Water
12 Services, Unnamed Tributary, Long Creek Wetlands,
13 recommended funding amount of \$543,370.00, and last but
14 surely not least, project 2021-038, The Conservation
15 Fund, Kings Creek, State Forest, \$696,200.00
16 recommended on the provisional list. So to be clear,
17 I'll finish reading this. The Committee with Amy
18 Grissom recused, also recommended funding project 2021-
19 070, Three Rivers Land Trust Jordan Tract Panther
20 Branch at \$158,434.00, and that would be recommended to
21 be funded as the 38th funded project based on score.
22 The Committee, with John Wilson recusing himself, also
23 recommended funding project 2021-014, Foothills
24 Conservancy of North Carolina Blowing Rock Tract, Johns
25 River Headwaters, recommended funding amount of

1 \$704,000.00 as the 31st funded project in our list, and
2 we recommend designating the million dollars required
3 for military buffers to be applied to the 2021-040,
4 Conservation Fund, Long Bay, Piney Island Bombing Range
5 project. So that comes as a recommendation, and I'm
6 sitting here thinking through how we're going to move
7 with the recusals. I might have to get some help on
8 that. I think we -- I think I proposed -- we propose
9 all of these as presented, but I think I would propose
10 the recusals project 2021-070, project 2021-014, those
11 two projects where we have a conflict of interest be
12 held off on, and we recommend voting on -- the full
13 Board voting on all the rest, and I will open it up for
14 questions and discussion at this point if that makes
15 sense.

16 Chairman Wilson: Indeed, thanks, Jason.

17 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: I
18 really do welcome questions from other board members.
19 We put a lot of work into -- into getting to this
20 point. We did not just say we're going to fund all the
21 projects, so if you have questions about the State
22 Appropriation Projects or the caps, I'm happy to talk
23 in greater detail, but I know you all -- you all have
24 busy lives, so I don't want to beat a dead horse.

25 Ms. Cawood: Jason, this is Greer.

1 I'm just very impressed with your reading of all of the
2 projects. You did a great job.

3 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Thank
4 you, Greer.

5 Ms. Grissom: Likewise, Jason, I was
6 envisioning you as an auctioneer one of these days.

7 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Thank
8 you; my apologies for mispronouncing any -- any of the
9 land conservancy names or some of the project names.

10 Chairman Wilson: So we have five
11 recommendations from the Acquisition Committee. Jason
12 has suggested that we perhaps group three of them
13 together, A, B, and E, and then take C and D, which
14 were the two recusals separately. I'll be able to ask
15 for the vote on C and then Ann Browning as Vice-Chair,
16 if you would please handle committee recommendation D.
17 So unless there's any objection, I would like to --
18 well, first -- first let me just say, is there any more
19 discussion? To me, it's okay if we ask for a vote on
20 A, B, and E together. Is there any objection to that
21 from a Trustee or from staff, especially Hank, because
22 I'll read the roll call all these different but, all
23 right.

24 Mr. Fordham: As long as the motion is
25 clear, and you read the roll call as to all of them, I

1 think it's fine.

2 Chairman Wilson: Okay, great; can we
3 scroll back up to the top, please, so that we can see A
4 and B again? All right, so these are recommendations
5 coming to us from the Acquisition Committee, so they
6 don't need -- they are coming as a motion that does not
7 need a second. Any more discussion on A, which is
8 funding the two projects with legislatively
9 appropriated funds, or B, which is our long wonderfully
10 read list or, and also E, which is the designating a
11 million dollars to military buffers to be applied to
12 project 2021-040, Conservation Fund, Long Bay? All
13 right, then no more discussion on those three; I'll ask
14 for a vote please; Ann?

15 Ms. Browning: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

17 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

19 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

21 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
22 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

24 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

1 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: An
2 enthusiastic yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: David?

4 Mr. Womack: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes also.

6 Let me --

7 Interim Executive Director Summer: I think
8 we've got items --

9 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: So
10 let me --

11 Chairman Wilson: Wait a minute.

12 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Let
13 me make a recommendation for part C.

14 Chairman Wilson: I'm sorry. I skipped one
15 and two and went straight into three, which has parts A
16 through E, didn't I?

17 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Okay, Jason, do you want
19 to say something before I go back and fix my error?

20 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: No,
21 please go back.

22 Chairman Wilson: Okay, all right, so also
23 coming to us as recommendations from the Acquisition
24 Committee item 1, recommendation number 1 is withdrawal
25 of the September 14th recommendations; any discussion

1 of that? All right, I'll ask for a vote on that; Ann?

2 Ms. Browning: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

4 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

6 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

7 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

8 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
9 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

11 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

13 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: David?

15 Mr. Womack: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes, so
17 that passes. Item 2 is the donated -- donated
18 mini-grant allocation up to \$250,000; any discussion of
19 that?

20 Ms. Grissom: John, this is Amy, just
21 one thought that I just had about withdrawing the
22 November 14th recommendations. Do we as a Board need
23 to officially adopt the 80/20 split that was I think
24 voted on and discussed last time or not? And I don't
25 mean to bring up something if it's completely

1 irrelevant, but just wanted to --

2 Chairman Wilson: Well, we thank you. We
3 did adopt that in September, and that still stands
4 unless we modified it, which we did not. So that's why
5 we operated under those parameters.

6 Ms. Grissom: Okay, thank you for that
7 clarification; I just wanting to make sure everything's
8 in order.

9 Chairman Wilson: Thank you; the donated
10 mini-grant allocation, this is recommendation 2,
11 recommending up to \$250,000.00 of Acquisition Committee
12 funding to be available for donated mini-grant projects
13 from today through our next funding meeting in 2022.
14 The funds will be taken from the license plate revenue
15 as needed; any discussion of that? Coming from the
16 Acquisition Committee, so I'll ask for a vote if
17 there's no discussion; Ann?

18 Ms. Browning: Yes.

19 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

20 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

21 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

22 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

24 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
25 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

1 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

2 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

3 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

4 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

5 Chairman Wilson: David?

6 Mr. Womack: Yes.

7 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes. All
8 right, so with grant awards, I got all excited and went
9 straight to those letters, because that's Jason's fault
10 because he got me so excited with his readings of all
11 of those, not my fault. Now let's look at
12 recommendation C. This is 3C with Amy Grissom recused,
13 recommended funding of 2021-070, The Three Rivers Land
14 Trust Jordan Tract Panther Branch at \$158,000.00; any
15 discussion of this recommendation? Okay, Ann, how do
16 you vote?

17 Ms. Browning: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

19 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

20 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

21 Ms. Grissom: I'm taking a pass on that
22 one.

23 Chairman Wilson: Oh, I'm so sorry; Renee?

24 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and

25 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Renee says yes.

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Chairman Wilson: Mike?

Mr. Rusher: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Jason?

Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: David?

Mr. Womack: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes, and, Ann, may I hand the gavel to you, please?

Ms. Browning: Yes, sir, consideration of item D, the 2021-014, Foothills Conservancy Blowing Rock Tract, Johns River Headwaters at \$704,000.00 funded as the 31st funding project. How do you vote, Greer?

Ms. Cawood: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Amy?

Ms. Grissom: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Renee?

Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Mike?

Mr. Rusher: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Jason?

Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: David?

Mr. Womack: Yes.

1 Ms. Browning: And I'm a yes, so back to
2 you, John.

3 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you, Ann;
4 and, Jason, let me ask you if you think our business is
5 complete from the Acquisition Committee?

6 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: I
7 think you have officially acted on all of our
8 recommendations, yes; thank you.

9 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you; all
10 right, now to our Restoration and Innovative Stormwater
11 and Planning Committee Chairperson, Renee Kumor.

12 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
13 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Thank you very much,
14 John, and I'm envious of all that screen time that
15 Jason had. We're not going to take that much time. I
16 guess we'll only take 20 percent of the time in that
17 20/80 split. Our committee, as you recall, awarded the
18 funds that we had available at our meeting in
19 September, so we reviewed what we had. We reviewed the
20 applications that somehow were concurrent with the
21 funds also received in the State budget. We reviewed
22 the status of our provisional and our unawarded funds
23 in Restoration and Innovative Stormwater, and we
24 reviewed and will make recommendations on the four
25 remaining projects that were not awarded or made

1 provisional in Restoration in our September meeting.
2 So we did much of the following. We are going to ask
3 you to support as a recommendation that we remove the
4 cap of \$250,000.00 previously established in Innovative
5 in the 2021 Innovative Stormwater Awards and fund
6 project 2021-1001, Durham Soil and Water Conservation
7 District, Riverside High School to its full requested
8 amount of \$392,000.00. We are going to also make -- we
9 are making the motion to keep the cap award of
10 \$400,000.00 that was placed on the project 2021-421,
11 Resource Institute, unnamed tributary to Cape Fear
12 River Phase 2. To be clear, we had set a cap at this
13 restoration project, and we are keeping the cap. As a
14 further explanation to the Board, this project received
15 an additional two million dollar proposal from the
16 State. We are also making the motion to remove the
17 funding caps from projects 2021-401, 411, 415, and to
18 fund them at the amounts that they requested. That
19 would be --

20 Mr. Bevington: There should be a 14 in
21 there. I apologize, Chair Kumor.

22 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
23 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Okay.

24 Mr. Bevington: That's the second one.
25 It says 411 twice. It's a typo of mine.

1 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
2 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes, that's 14;
3 okay, got you. 2021-401, Apex, the unnamed tributary
4 to Beaver Creek will be funded at \$409,658.00; 2021-
5 411, Morganton, Bethel Park, East Prong Hunting Creek
6 will be funded at \$488,694.00; 2021-414, North Carolina
7 Coastal Federation, Fort Macon Living Shoreline will be
8 funded up to \$514,391.00; 2021-415, North Carolina
9 Coastal Federation, Living Shorelines Phase 2 will be
10 funded up to \$410,140.00. And we are making the
11 motion, again, that we do not increase the funding. We
12 will -- then are recommending to the Board that we will
13 not -- that shouldn't be a motion. We are just
14 reporting back to the Board that we are not
15 recommending that we fund 2021-406, Ellerbe Creek
16 Watershed Association. We are then recommending, this
17 was -- this project 2021-406 was not funded, nor
18 provisionally funded at our September meeting, and we
19 are continuing to recommend it not be funded. We are,
20 however, making at motion that we fund project 2021-
21 413, the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water
22 Conservation, unnamed tributary to Jonathans Creek up
23 to \$445,233.00, and we are making a motion that we fund
24 2021-420, Resource Institute, EQIP Restoration on Line
25 Creek at up to \$234,428.00. So those are the motions

1 that I bring forward to you from our committee. Are
2 there any questions? That's where we stand, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you, Renee,
5 and I think that taking action to specifically not fund
6 a project is considered Board action if I'm not
7 mistaken. Our choices are to fund a project, to
8 specifically not fund a project, to put it on the
9 provisional list, or to take no action, and so correct
10 me if I'm wrong, Steve, or -- or, Will, is that -- is
11 that correct?

12 Mr. Bevington: In this case, you did --
13 the Committee did vote to take an action to not fund
14 it.

15 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
16 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Okay.

17 Chairman Wilson: Yeah.

18 Mr. Bevington: Many years -- many years
19 with less money, things are left undecided, which
20 actually can be a difficulty to, so.

21 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
22 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Well, then I will
23 rephrase that. We are recommending to not fund project
24 2021-406, Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association. These
25 -- I don't know how much of an explanation the Board

1 would like, but the staff was unable to answer a number
2 of questions that we had. It was a -- it is a project
3 that's an urban project. They felt there were some
4 questions that were still needed to be refined before
5 this project could go forward. There was not a
6 definite response from either of the staff that spoke
7 to this issue that it was so outstanding that we could
8 overlook some of the unanswered questions is -- and I
9 return to the Committee if you'd like to add more to
10 that information.

11 Chairman Wilson: All right, so let's take
12 those recommendations from the Committee and vote on
13 those, and then we have a recusal on a specific project
14 from Renee that I'll read briefly. We'll take that
15 separately, but first, let's look at these
16 recommendations from the Restoration Innovative
17 Stormwater and Planning Committee. Is there any
18 discussion on these? Okay, coming to us from the
19 Committee, so we can go straight to a vote if there's
20 not any additional discussion. All right, Ann, how do
21 vote?

22 Ms. Browning: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

24 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

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Ms. Grissom: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Renee?

Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Mike?

Mr. Rusher: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: Jason?

Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: David?

Mr. Womack: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes, also.

All right, we can scroll down to the next project,
2021-409, Laurel Park, the Laurel Green Creek. This is
after recusal from Chair Kumor. The Committee
recommends funding this project up to \$187,963.00 with
the following four contract conditions; that match from
local sources be produced as described in the 2021
application to the North Carolina Land and Water Fund;
that stormwater BMPs be included into the project scope
as described in the conceptual design attached to the
2021 application; that enhancements to the project
outside of the NCLWF budget are not adversely -- will
not adversely affect project buffers and conservation
areas; and that funds outside of the budget are used to
upgrade the size and maturity of plantings from that of

1 standard restoration practices. So we have this coming
2 from the Committee; any discussion regarding project
3 2021-409 recommending \$187,963.00; all right, hearing
4 none, vote please, Ann?

5 Ms. Browning: Yes.

6 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

7 Ms. Cawood: Yup.

8 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

9 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Not Renee, Mike?

11 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

12 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

13 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: David?

15 Mr. Womack: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes. Okay,
17 Renee, any final business or comments?

18 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
19 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: No, I thank you all,
20 my Committee, for working so hard this morning and
21 working so hard in September. It was a pleasure that
22 we said before to have funds to be able to serve so
23 many people in our state. I appreciated that; thank
24 you.

25 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, and thanks,

1 Jason; what great Committee Chairs we have and what
2 wonderful Committee members and staff we have
3 supporting all of us; any final thoughts or comments
4 before we adjourn?

5 Ms. Cawood: Mr. Chairman, I just
6 would like to thank Will for the role he has undertaken
7 and especially through the budget process. He kept us
8 all so informed throughout the discussions and did
9 great explanations of what was going on and what the
10 next steps would be, and I'm just very grateful for
11 that.

12 Interim Executive Director Summer: Thank
13 you, Greer; so kind to say, my pleasure.

14 Chairman Wilson: He certainly has grown
15 the budget of the Land and Water Fund during his brief
16 time as the interim Executive Director.

17 Interim Executive Director Summer: It's
18 definitely going on the résumé, the first bullet point.

19 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, any more -- I'm
20 sorry. Go ahead, Jason.

21 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: I
22 just want to add to that, just I really can't wait to
23 hear what happens with HR and with staffing long-term.
24 I'm very, very interested, but even over the last year
25 and a half as we've done Teams and you've kind of been

1 the de facto technology guy, Will, you have kept all of
2 our information flowing freely, and it's no small
3 thing. It's kind of a love fest that we're -- we're
4 dumping on you, but you are a steady keel, easy-going
5 kind of guy that just doesn't get flustered. Every
6 time we had a Committee meeting and somebody's phone
7 didn't work, or the internet went out, or there was
8 feedback, you just kept on going. So everything Greer
9 said is right on. You have, at a time when we needed a
10 steady hand, you have been a steady hand, so thank you.

11 Ms. Grissom: Hear, hear.

12 Interim Executive Director Summer: Very kind
13 to say, and I, for the first time, have had no issues
14 getting on. All Trustees, we finally got all the old
15 Macs replaced with new ones, and everybody's computer
16 cooperated, so thank you all.

17 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, what a mixed
18 blessing, Will; don't try to spend any money on hiring
19 an IT person because that's you, man. You're doing
20 such a good job. Don't mess it up.

21 Interim Executive Director Summer: I'm
22 hiring two IT people, John.

23 Chairman Wilson: All right, last chance
24 for final comments, thank you all, staff and Trustees
25 and partners and applicants and elected officials, so

1 thanks, everyone; I'll now entertain a motion to
2 adjourn.

3 Ms. Browning: So moved.

4 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
5 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: So moved.

6 Chairman Wilson: Ann, and who was that,
7 Renee?

8 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
9 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

10 Chairman Wilson: Okay, Ann, how do vote;
11 Ann?

12 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
13 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

14 Chairman Wilson: Greer?

15 Ms. Cawood: Yes.

16 Chairman Wilson: Amy?

17 Ms. Grissom: Yes.

18 Chairman Wilson: Renee?

19 Restoration and Innovative Stormwater and
20 Planning Committee Chair Kumor: Yes.

21 Chairman Wilson: Mike?

22 Mr. Rusher: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

24 Acquisition Committee Chairman Walser: Yes.

25 Chairman Wilson: David?

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Mr. Womack: Yes.

Chairman Wilson: And John is a yes. We
are adjourned.

(The proceedings were concluded at 2:15 P.M.)

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 fifty-six pages which constitute this Board of Trustees Meeting are a true and accurate transcript.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of January, 2022.

Diane C. Byrd

Diane C. Byrd
Notary Public
Certificate No.: 19933130099