

NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Held at the Nature Research Center
Raleigh, North Carolina

Wednesday, September 20, 2023
3:55 P.M.

Volume 1
Pages 1 through 54

A P P E A R A N C E S

Board of Trustees:

John Wilson, Chairman
Jason Walser, Vice-Chairman
Ann Browning, Chairman Restoration, Innovative
Stormwater and Planning Committee
Amy Grissom, Acquisition Committee
Mike Rusher
Clement Riddle
Darrel Williams (via Teams)
David Womack

Staff:

Zoe Hanson Burnet, DNCR Assistant General Counsel
Will Summer, Executive Director
Steve Bevington, Restoration Program Manager
Marissa Hartzler, Acquisition Program Manager
Justin Mercer, Stewardship Manager
Marie Meckman, Acquisition Project Manager
Will Price, Restoration Program Assistant
Damon Hearne, Western Field Representative
Chelsea Blount, Central Field Representative
Jill Fusco, Eastern Field Representative
Phil Feagan, DNCR General Counsel

Also present:

Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary of the Department
of Natural and Cultural Resources - (via Teams)
Sandy Switzer, Triangle Land Conservancy

P R O C E E D I N G S

3:55 P.M.

1
2 Chairman Wilson: Hello,
3 everyone; I'd like to call today's meeting of the North
4 Carolina Land and Water Fund Board of Trustees to
5 order. I'm John Wilson, the board chair. I want to
6 welcome all of you who are with us today, whether in
7 person or by Teams or phone or Owl or otherwise. I
8 want to especially thank our staff who have worked so
9 hard to arrange this meeting and also to prepare the
10 trustees for two very productive lengthy committee
11 meetings and for this full board meeting. As Will
12 Summer mentioned in an email to trustees and staff last
13 month, we have a new trustee since our last meeting.
14 Clement Riddle has now filled Renee's old seat and is
15 no doubt aware that he has big shoes to fill. He is
16 certainly well qualified, as I'm sure you read in the
17 bio that Will sent. And he is off to a great start
18 having served very ably in his first Restoration
19 Committee Meeting and very ably last night at dinner
20 also, you might say, so welcome, Clement.

21 Mr. Riddle: Thank you.

22 Chairman Wilson: And with that,
23 I'll call the role of our trustees. Please let us know
24 if you're here; Ann Browning?

25 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

1 Chair Browning: Here.

2 Chairman Wilson: Greer Cawood,
3 Greer could not be with us; Amy Grissom?

4 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Here.

5 Chairman Wilson: Clement Riddle?
6 Mr. Riddle: Here.

7 Chairman Wilson: Mike Rusher?
8 Mr. Rusher: Here.

9 Vice-Chair Walser: Jason Walser?
10 Mr. Walser: Here.

11 Chairman Wilson: Darrel
12 Williams?

13 Mr. Williams: Here.

14 Chairman Wilson: David Womack.
15 Mr. Womack: Here.

16 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson
17 is here also. I want to let you know that General
18 Statute § 138A-15 mandates that the chair inquire as to
19 whether any trustee knows of any conflict of interest
20 or appearance of a conflict with respect to matters on
21 the agenda. If any trustee knows of a conflict or the
22 appearance of a conflict of interest, please state so
23 at this time.

24 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee
25 Chair Browning: Mr. Chairman, I

1 have four acquisition projects that I must recuse
2 myself of.

3 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

4 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

5 Chair Browning: So they are
6 2023-002, 003, 041, and 001.

7 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank
8 you; any other conflicts?

9 Ms. Hartzler: May I just
10 confirm? Is 2023-041 DPR Peak Tract - Bear Paw State
11 Natural Area?

12 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

13 Chair Browning: I'm sorry. Say
14 that again.

15 Ms. Hartzler: 041 is --

16 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

17 Chair Browning: Yes.

18 Ms. Hartzler: -- DPR Peak
19 Tract - Bear Paw State Natural Area?

20 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

21 Chair Browning: Yes.

22 Ms. Hartzler: Okay, thank
23 you.

24 Chairman Wilson: Okay, hearing
25 no more conflicts, we'll move on. I'd like to ask

1 everyone to please make sure your mobile phones,
2 computers, watches, et cetera, won't make any noise
3 unless you are recognized to speak, and even if you are
4 recognized to speak, you might not want your phone to
5 ring. Next, I will ask if there are any revisions or
6 additions to today's agenda.

7 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee
8 Chair Browning: Motion for
9 approval.

10 Chairman Wilson: Okay, we have a
11 motion from Ann to adopt today's agenda.

12 Mr. Rusher: Second.

13 Chairman Wilson: Second from
14 Mike; any discussion; all right, all in favor, please
15 say aye?

16 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

17 Chairman Wilson: All right,
18 sounds unanimous to me; we'll now move on and discuss
19 the minutes from our May 2023 board meeting; any
20 discussion of the minutes?

21 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: I
22 have a few corrections that I'd like to suggest.

23 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

24 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: The
25 first one is page 123, line 13. It's an attribution

1 issue where Chairman Wilson is designated twice in a
2 row, but I talked to both John and Jason, and that
3 second one that starts on line 13 should be his at that
4 point, Acquisition Chair Walser.

5 Chairman Wilson: Thank you.

6 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom:
7 Acquisition Committee Chair Walser; the next one is on
8 page 175. It's line 25, and this is when we were
9 talking about the split between our different
10 investment options, which is 70/22/8 because that
11 totals 100 percent, but it's written as 70/22/80, which
12 makes no sense. The last three are just very minor
13 things that perhaps voice recognition just didn't quite
14 get accents or the endings of words that I spoke, Will
15 spoke, and Justin spoke. If you care to get that level
16 of detail, I'll point them out. If not, we can skip
17 it.

18 Chairman Wilson: Up to you.

19 Executive Director Summer: It was the
20 physical and fiscal?

21 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Yes.

22 Executive Director Summer: So noted, and
23 I'll have -- Terri and I will get that changed.

24 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Okay,
25 all right; well, I'll continue on quickly then. 104,

1 line 4, Justin is quoted as saying something about a
2 force community, but it's really a forest community.
3 And on page 171, line 21, I'm talking about something
4 needs saved, and that's our endowment. We're talking
5 about how they invest, but it's listed as being saved.
6 Those are my suggestions for corrections.

7 Chairman Wilson: And that last
8 one was what page and line?

9 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: The
10 last one was 171, line 21.

11 Chairman Wilson: All right, any
12 discussion of the changes that Amy is suggesting; yes,
13 ma'am.

14 Ms. Burnet: I would like to
15 offer another thing for the trustees. The name of the
16 state, was it representative, Will, on the front page
17 was McGrady. If I remember correctly, it's Edwards on
18 the notes, so that's another suggestion.

19 Chairman Wilson: I will make a
20 motion that we change that. It was Chuck McGrady.
21 Okay, so we have four suggested changes from Amy, and
22 we have Will and Terri, who are going to go catch those
23 other physical and fiscals. And we have one, thanks to
24 Zoe, that I got to say, which is that it was Chuck
25 McGrady, not Representative Edwards. Does everybody --

1 any more changes to the minutes; can we have -- Amy,
2 would you like to make a motion that we accept all
3 those changes?

4 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Sure.

5 Chairman Wilson: All right.

6 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: I'll
7 make that motion.

8 Chairman Wilson: A motion for
9 Amy.

10 Vice-Chair Walser: I'll second.

11 Chairman Wilson: All right, all
12 in favor of those amendments and accepting the minutes
13 with those amendments, please say aye?

14 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

15 Chairman Wilson: All right,
16 thank you, thank you; we will now move on to the -- are
17 we at the -- can we scroll down on that? I think we're
18 at the Deputy Secretary's update.

19 Deputy Secretary Michael: Hello, Chairman
20 Wilson; can you all hear me okay?

21 Chairman Wilson: Yes, all right,
22 this is Deputy Secretary of the Department of Natural
23 and Cultural Resources, Jeff Michael. Take it away.
24 Jeff.

25 Deputy Secretary Michael: All right,

1 Chairman Wilson; well, first of all, my apologies for
2 not being there; I'm in Cherokee, North Carolina today.
3 I have been this week for the National Outdoor Economy
4 Conference, and I'm taking the call from my hotel room.
5 My signal is maybe a little weak based on an earlier
6 call, so if I'm a little jerky and breaking up, that's
7 the reason, but please let me know if you're having
8 trouble hearing me. Secretary Wilson was likewise here
9 this week, but he is on his way back to Raleigh, or he
10 would be joining you also. It's been a great week in
11 terms of gathering with many of our partners, not only
12 here in North Carolina, but around the country to talk
13 about the role that conservation and public lands play
14 in promoting a healthy economy for many of our
15 communities. And I think you would be pleased to know
16 that it's not all of the conferences and conversations
17 have not only been about tourism, but it's also been
18 about the responsibility that the tourism and outdoor
19 economy industry have in giving back and particularly
20 around conservation. So I've heard a lot of great
21 ideas about partnerships that we can carry forward. In
22 terms of a report from the department, I think probably
23 the thing that's foremost in all of your minds, as it
24 is with all of us, is the budget. We seem to have had
25 a breakthrough yesterday with the vote occurring today

1 and tomorrow or for tomorrow. I haven't gotten the
2 latest on that. When I say today or tomorrow, I think
3 any time now, and you all may actually have more of an
4 update now than I do since I've been in sessions all
5 afternoon. But it's looking very promising for our
6 department and particularly the Land and Water Fund.
7 Please forgive me if I repeat anything that you've
8 already discussed, and I know Will Summer will probably
9 also have some comments about this. But if approved as
10 we currently understand it, there could be a recurring
11 increase of \$3.84 million dollars for Land and Water,
12 bringing the total up to \$28,000,000.00, as well as
13 \$2,000,000.00 non-recurring to supplement that for this
14 year, so very exciting news for all of us who have been
15 working hard to get the amount that we have to
16 distribute up. There's also some good news on the
17 staffing front for the Division of Land and Water
18 Stewardship, a new field biologist, and new pollinator
19 biologist for the National Heritage Program. These are
20 some positions that I know Will and Misty Buchanan and
21 others there have been hoping for and looking forward
22 to, and we're really excited to hear about that. In
23 terms of your sister grant-making program here in our
24 department, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund,
25 likewise is seeing a very similar boost that we're

1 seeing for the Land and Water Fund in the budget, a
2 recurring increase of 3.76 million for them bringing
3 their total, likewise, to \$28,000,000.00 in recurring
4 funding. And they will also be getting a \$2,000,000.00
5 non-recurring supplement for this year only. There's
6 also funds in there for some accessible park grants,
7 money from the new great -- or a new Great Trail's
8 State fund, as well as additional funds for Complete
9 the Trail, so all in all some real promising and
10 exciting news coming out of the state budget for
11 conservation in our state. Just a couple of -- well,
12 let me stop there and say, I think our success in all
13 of this is in many ways a reflection not only on the
14 demand that our legislators and leaders -- state
15 leaders are seeing for conservation in North Carolina,
16 but I think also the great respect for and confidence
17 in the great work that all of you do. You approach
18 your work with a level of seriousness and thoroughness
19 that people really appreciate, and they understand that
20 you're being good stewards of these resources, so we
21 thank you for that. Just a couple of other things that
22 might be of interest to you; I think since the last
23 time we were together, Brian Strong has been named the
24 new director of the Division of Parks and Recreation,
25 which, of course, is where our state parks are located,

1 as well as programs like the Parks and Recreation Trust
2 Fund. Many of you know Brian. He comes -- he's a
3 long-time veteran of state parks. He comes from the
4 natural resources side of the parks, so he fully
5 understands the importance of conservation as one of
6 the three-pronged mission of state parks. So if you
7 see Brian, please congratulate him, and I know we are
8 all looking forward to working with him in that role.
9 Also, this summer you may have heard that Secretary
10 Wilson passed a new native plant policy for our
11 department. And what that means is that any project
12 that is undertaken by our department, whether it's a
13 new visitor center in our state parks, other facilities
14 and parking lots, or whatever it might be at any of our
15 sites around the state, we have a directive to use
16 native plants in the landscaping around those new
17 improvements. It will also apply to our grant programs
18 and, of course, the work that you do that's already,
19 you know, an important part of your restoration work.
20 Land acquisition is helping us hopefully, you know,
21 preserve more of our natural landscapes. But I think
22 it's just an indication of how we as a department want
23 to be a leader around the things that we say we care
24 about, and in fact, as our name implies, that we are
25 stewards of and on behalf of the people of North

1 Carolina. So I believe that's everything I've got on
2 my end. I'll be happy to field any questions anyone
3 has before we turn it over to Will.

4 Chairman Wilson: Thank you,
5 Jeff; you look great by the way. You know we can see
6 you.

7 Deputy Secretary Michael: Yeah, it is
8 sort of -- it's odd lighting in this hotel room, but
9 hopefully you've been able to see and hear me okay.

10 Chairman Wilson: Yes, we have.

11 Deputy Secretary Michael: Well, I should
12 note, I've been carrying -- thanks to Will Summer, I've
13 been -- all around the conference, I've been wearing my
14 Land and Water Fund's hat, so I've been carrying the
15 banner, no problem, but again, thank you all for all
16 that you do. And, Clement, I didn't take the time to
17 thank you and welcome you to this board, and I'm really
18 grateful for your service as well.

19 Mr. Riddle: Thank you.

20 Chairman Wilson: Thank you,
21 Jeff; okay, we will now move on to the Executive
22 Director's update from Will Summer.

23 Executive Director Summer: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chair; well, good afternoon, and thank you all for
25 joining us today; while our board meets at least

1 quarterly, they don't award funds at the other
2 meetings, so this is the only one we really have a good
3 audience for. And as such, it provides me the
4 opportunity to address board staff and our partners at
5 the same time of the state of the Land and Water Trust
6 Fund, so here we go. Three years ago, we had 13.2
7 million in appropriations. In 2021, that more than
8 quadrupled to over 61 million. In '22, it happened
9 again with 64 million. And as we sit today, our
10 recurring appropriation is nearly double what it was
11 only a few years ago, and the current draft on the
12 appropriations bill would bring our total appropriation
13 to 30 million for the year. I don't want to be buried
14 and leave there; 28 of that would be recurring, so yet
15 another big year for the conservation and restoration
16 work we do. Revenue availability aside, here's what I
17 attribute that to. Our partners continue to bring
18 strong applications and through their hard work and
19 perseverance turn our grant awards into showpieces all
20 over the state. That makes it possible for our
21 advocates to show decision makers the undeniably
22 tangible benefits of our work and the Land and Water
23 Fund trustees and staff continue to be good stewards of
24 taxpayer funds. So long as our trinity continues
25 working together to maximize our effectiveness, I feel

1 confident that we'll continue to enjoy strong
2 bipartisan support. So let me say thank you to our
3 partners, to our very successful advocates, and to my
4 staff and board. We wouldn't be where we are today
5 without everyone working together. And of course, I
6 would like to thank Governor Cooper and the General
7 Assembly for their generous support. We could do
8 nothing without their funding. Please let the record
9 show that there was thunderous applause for our
10 decision makers. Last year at this meeting, I heaped a
11 lot of praise on staff and all the things I said are
12 still true and then some, but this year I've got a big
13 problem with them. There's just not enough of them.
14 So we need to increase the speed with which we do our
15 part of the review and processing of these grants. And
16 our problem is not that staff are resigned to our
17 overwhelming situation and clocking out early, in fact
18 quite the opposite. We are all as committed as ever to
19 moving things along. However, there's only so many
20 hours in the day and so many days in the week. And
21 while we continue to use DocuSign, Airtable, and other
22 technology to improve our efficiency, there's only so
23 much juice you can squeeze out of that grape. To date
24 the budgets that have increased our grant funding have
25 not yet provided any additional funds for permanent

1 staff. We currently have the same number of permanent
2 appropriated staff, ten, that we've had for the last
3 decade. Thankfully, some of our non-recurring SCIF
4 funds provide some flexibility to hire a limited number
5 of temporary and time-limited staff, and that's what
6 we've been doing. Since last year, we've hired an
7 additional Acquisition Project Manager, provided funds
8 for the department to hire an additional paralegal, and
9 as of Monday, they brought on yet another part-time
10 paralegal with real estate expertise. Two weeks ago, I
11 signed an MOA with the State Property Office and
12 provided funds to hire a property agent dedicated to
13 the division of Land and Water Stewardship, and that
14 position should be posted soon. I'll also share with
15 you that I'm very encouraged by language in the
16 proposed budget that would permit us to use a small
17 percentage of our grant funding for additional
18 administrative needs. If that passes, we should be
19 able to increase our permanent capacity. And even if
20 you ignore the big one-time increases we've seen in the
21 recent years, our baseline recurring appropriations
22 have doubled, and continuing with the same staffing
23 levels that we've had for the last decade is
24 unsustainable for us and does not provide our partners
25 with the service they expect. To that end, I want to

1 again thank my staff for their hard work and long
2 hours, and I want to thank our partners for their
3 patience as we continue to increase our capacity in the
4 coming months. In the meantime, we need to focus on
5 making the most efficient use of the resources we have.
6 There are days and weeks, if not months, that are being
7 left on the table right now that can be reclaimed by
8 our partners with a little additional attention to
9 detail and investing time on the front end, and we are
10 looking for ways to streamline our process. And part
11 of that is for us to improve communication about the
12 expectations that we have, and we're working on that.
13 So I want to encourage all of you to continue to reach
14 out to NCLWF program staff often and me as needed, and
15 I think we all want the same thing here, and that's to
16 get these projects on the ground and closed as soon as
17 possible. And we're going to need to continue to make
18 an effort on all sides to get there. On to today's
19 business, there will be a few perfunctory items early
20 in the agenda before we get to the part everyone is
21 waiting for. And while I could not be more pleased
22 with the thoughtful deliberation that resulted in what
23 I think is the optimal list of funded projects you'll
24 see today, there's one other item on the agenda that I
25 really want to call out. The Executive Committee will

1 recommend that we fully fund our stewardship endowment,
2 and I think this speaks volume about our commitment to
3 protecting the state's investment in conservation. So
4 before I get out of your way, let me share one light
5 anecdote. My youngest daughter is about 13 and
6 starting to get a little bit of wit and sass about her,
7 and on the ride this morning, she saw that I'm all
8 dressed up, and she says, oh, you have your big meeting
9 today. I said, yes, and she says, what are you going
10 to do, fund land and water in North Carolina? Well,
11 yeah; so, Mr. Chair, with renewed appreciation for the
12 simplicity of our name, I will conclude my report.

13 Chairman Wilson: Very good;
14 okay, thank you, Will; before I open the floor for
15 public comments, I'd just like to remind our guests
16 that the North Carolina Land and Water Fund guidelines
17 prohibit using this time to advocate for individual
18 projects before the board. Other public comments on
19 general issues falling within the jurisdiction of the
20 Land and Water Fund are welcome, but please limit any
21 comments to three minutes per person. And with that,
22 I'll ask anyone who would like to make a public comment
23 to make themselves known.

24 Ms. Sweitzer: Should I just
25 go up there?

1 Chairman Wilson: Yes.

2 Ms. Sweitzer: Hi, I'm Sandy
3 Schweitzer. I'm executive director of the Triangle
4 Land Conservancy. I wanted to thank you first of all
5 for your hard work. These days I know were very long,
6 and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these
7 applications. I wanted to ask, I had mentioned this to
8 Will earlier. We are working really hard to bring
9 local funding, public funding from counties to some of
10 our projects and their deadline for passing their
11 budgets is generally June 30th, which is two weeks
12 after you all's deadline on the 15th. So if there's
13 any way there's room to move on that, we would really
14 appreciate it. So that's it; thanks.

15 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Sandy;
16 any more comments; okay, hearing none, we'll move on to
17 the business portion of our agenda starting with
18 requests to extend the date to enter into a
19 construction contract for existing restoration program
20 grants, and this will be led by Will Price.

21 Mr. Price: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair; Damon, if you can scroll down to the first
23 document; so this year, we have two projects requesting
24 extensions of their construction contracts. Briefly,
25 by the way of background, by law historically, our

1 grant recipients were required to enter into a
2 construction contract within one year of the date that
3 the funding was awarded to them. That law has just
4 changed this year to require an addendum to
5 construction contracts within one year from the date
6 that we signed a contract with them, which is really
7 great for them and me. So this year we only have two
8 projects, PCC College Branch and Carteret County Carrot
9 Island Living Shoreline. We've been in regular
10 communication with both of these partners. Staff feels
11 that their requests are reasonable given their
12 circumstances. I'm happy to go into detail and give
13 you some context if the board would like would like.

14 Vice-Chair Walser: Mr. Chair, I'd
15 like to move that we approve the extension request of
16 both these projects.

17 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Jason.

18 Mr. Womack: Second.

19 Chairman Wilson: And David with
20 a second, any discussion; this is something that we
21 used to have on the consent agenda of our meetings, but
22 we decided to split it out and just let you hear from
23 Will or Steve and have a look at it, so any
24 discussions? All right; all in favor, please indicate
25 by saying aye?

1 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

2 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed;
3 all right, sounds unanimous; the second business item
4 is a reaffirmation of Land and Water Fund Board
5 Guidelines and Practices, and Zoe Hansen Burnet will
6 lead this discussion.

7 Ms. Burnet: Thank you; in
8 preparation for the funding decisions that are about to
9 be contemplated by this whole board, with a new member
10 here, it's time that we reaffirm the board guidelines.
11 So the board guidelines and practices are a compilation
12 of procedures, standards, expectations that assist the
13 board in the implementation all of its duties and to
14 help direct the staff in the execution of
15 administrative procedures. The board updates these
16 individual guidelines as needed, and we will reaffirm
17 them at least annually.

18 Chairman Wilson: Questions for
19 Zoe; okay, our recommendation from staff is to approve
20 the continued use of the Land and Water Fund Board
21 Guidelines and Practices for the 2023 grant cycle. Do
22 we have a motion to that effect?

23 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

24 Chair Browning: So move.

25 Chairman Wilson: All right, Ann,

1 you get the nod.

2 Vice-Chair Walser: Second.

3 Chairman Wilson: Jason with a
4 second; any discussion; okay, all in favor, please say
5 aye?

6 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

7 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed;
8 all right, that is unanimous; thank you. All right,
9 the third item is the Jennette's Pier Advisory
10 Committee Appointment, and Will Summer will lead this
11 discussion, please.

12 Executive Director Summer: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair; so the Jennette's Pier Advisory Committee was
14 created by a memorandum understanding as a result of a
15 2001 Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant for the
16 purpose of the purchase of their property. Per the
17 bylaws, two of the members of that group shall be
18 appointed by the North Carolina Land and Water Fund.
19 The director of Jennette's Pier has recommended
20 Michelle Donahue of Nags Head to fill a vacant seat.
21 You all received a letter containing that request,
22 including a brief biography, in your board packet.
23 This request comes with the support of the Jennette's
24 Pier Director, Mike Remige, and the board is being
25 asked to appoint Ms. Donahue to a three-year term.

1 Chairman Wilson: Okay, do I hear
2 a motion that we --

3 Mr. Womack: So move.

4 Chairman Wilson: Okay, David is
5 moving that we appoint --

6 Mr. Williams: Okay.

7 Chairman Wilson: -- and Darrel
8 is seconding, --

9 Mr. Williams: Okay, all
10 right.

11 Chairman Wilson: -- I think.

12 Mr. Williams: Yeah, I think
13 your wife did call me back.

14 Chairman Wilson: No, I don't
15 think he's seconding.

16 Mr. Williams: So if she can
17 email me the address.

18 Chairman Wilson: All right,
19 David has made a motion that we appoint Michelle
20 Donahue to the Jennette's Pier Advisory Committee for a
21 three-year term from David.

22 Vice-Chair Walser: Second, I
23 second.

24 Chairman Wilson: Jason seconds,
25 any discussion; all right, all in favor?

1 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

2 Chairman Wilson: All right, that
3 sounds close to unanimous. It sounds like it carries;
4 how about that? All right, moving on, we will discuss
5 a pair of recommendations from the Executive Committee.
6 We met more than once over the summer, and we have a
7 couple of motions for you today. The first is
8 regarding the Stewardship Endowment deposit, and Justin
9 Mercer will lead this discussion for us.

10 Mr. Mercer: Okay, thank you, Mr.
11 Chair, and, Damon, I'm going to take over and share my
12 screen for a moment if that's all right, if I find the
13 right one of the many windows I have open. Here we go.
14 I'll just give a brief recap of what I've presented to
15 the Executive Committee over the last few months, and
16 we'll start here with just a brief overview of where
17 this conversation has gone. It starts back in May of
18 last year at the full board meeting. A \$2,500,000.00
19 deposit was approved into the Stewardship Endowment,
20 and the board committed to funding or to contribute an
21 additional \$3,000,000.00 over the next three years with
22 the intent of fully funding the unmet monitoring need
23 in our endowment. In May of this year, we brought it
24 back with an update along with the stewardship report,
25 and the board considered those needs and assigned

1 further discussion to the Executive Committee, which
2 has happened over the past several months. In August
3 of this year, the Executive Committee did meet and
4 finalize their recommendation. So just to recap how we
5 came up with the numbers that we're looking at, it was
6 originally based off of estimates looking at five
7 years' worth of actual invoices from our stewardship
8 partners. So those invoices that came in representing
9 real numbers, real time, real value applied to the
10 monitoring of our conservation easements across the
11 State. And based on that, we were able to come up with
12 an estimate of roughly \$500.00 per property per year.
13 Board guidelines require that the annual cost be
14 multiplied by 25 to make sure that there's enough money
15 in the endowment to fund our annual expenses off of the
16 interest generated. This results in an investment need
17 of \$12,500.00 per easement. We originally identified
18 412 properties in need, which gave us the original
19 \$5,200,000.00 contribution estimate, \$2,500,000.00 of
20 which has already been contributed, so that leaves us,
21 and I'll kind of skim through these numbers here a
22 little bit. I'm happy to go into more detail on
23 anything you would like. Ultimately, we took that
24 \$2,500,000.00. We've assigned some of it. We're
25 continuing to work on the rest of it, but we still have

1 216 easements that do not have funding available for
2 perpetual monitoring. So if we apply the same numbers,
3 \$500.00 per year times 216 easements times 25, it gives
4 us still an outstanding need of \$2,700,000.00, which is
5 right in line with what our original estimate was.
6 We're continuing to implement these funds to get these
7 projects monitored. Our first, our preferred strategy
8 is still to contract with our local land trust partners
9 to take on the monitoring of these with the local
10 expertise. The reality of that is that we're going to
11 run out of willing partners to do that eventually. We
12 are likely not going to find permanent monitors for all
13 412 easements. So we will eventually have to start
14 exploring other options, whether that's looking at sort
15 of our non-traditional contractor options, either non-
16 land trust conservation organizations or potentially
17 for-profit organizations that are willing to take on
18 this work on our behalf. And then, of course, we --
19 there are going to be a number where we have to explore
20 options for Land and Water Fund staff to continue
21 monitoring in perpetuity, whether that's current staff
22 or additional staff that we might be able to bring on
23 utilizing funds from that endowment interest. Annual
24 spending is set at 4 percent or at 4 percent of a 36-
25 month average. So we anticipate -- were additional

1 funds to be added today, we anticipate full
2 implementation of this proposed strategy by fiscal year
3 '28-'29. So I will turn this over to the Chair to
4 discuss the recommendation. Ultimately, we are looking
5 at roughly 2.83 million dollars that we have remaining
6 at the end of last fiscal year. And so that's the
7 number that you see in front of you and will be
8 recommended by the committee, and I'm happy to answer
9 any additional questions or provide additional
10 information if you need me to.

11 Chairman Wilson: Thanks, Justin;
12 questions, comments for Justin; so is the number going
13 to be the more precise number up top, or is it going to
14 be --

15 Mr. Mercer: It will be the
16 precise number because that's what was remaining. So
17 the remaining funds from FY '22-'23, that's the --

18 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

19 Executive Director Summer: That's the
20 direction for us to take what is remaining. The upper
21 number is that number. There's actually some stats on
22 it.

23 Mr. Mercer: And I can
24 change that if you prefer. If you prefer to have a
25 sentence for the firm --

1 Chairman Wilson: Let's just vote
2 on this as if -- instead of saying approximately 2.83
3 million, if it said exactly that, \$2,828,958.00. Is
4 that okay with everyone because that's what the
5 Executive Committee did? Well, I for one want to say
6 this is just fantastic and momentous and is a testament
7 to the work of our staff, Justin and Marissa, and many,
8 many other staff; thank you. This is really wonderful
9 important work and a vote of confidence, but also we're
10 not just doing a vote of confidence. We're doing what
11 we need to do, so thank you.

12 Mr. Mercer: Thank you.

13 Vice-Chair Walser: Well said.

14 Chairman Wilson: Okay, this
15 comes as a motion from the Executive Committee, so we
16 don't need a second on it. If there's no more
17 discussion, we can vote on this, and remember that
18 we're voting for that precise number up top, so ready;
19 all in favor, please say aye?

20 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

21 Chairman Wilson: And any
22 opposed; that is unanimous; thank you. All right, the
23 second recommendation coming from the Executive
24 Committee was regarding allocation of funding for 2023
25 applications, and Will Summer is going to lead our

1 discussion on that.

2 Executive Director Summer: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chair; so the Executive Committee is charged with
4 making the recommendation to the board about funding
5 allocations between the committees and direction for
6 staff about how to handle additional revenue received
7 after this meeting. As you know, the funding
8 committees have moved forward with these numbers in
9 good faith, but we still need this resolution approved
10 by the board to finalize the direction of staff.
11 Before we get into this committee recommendation as
12 presented, I do have one request with the Chair's
13 blessing. The current budget bill would permit up to 3
14 percent of our appropriation to be used for
15 administrative purposes. While I won't presume to know
16 the fate of the budget, I don't want to wait until next
17 year to begin putting a portion of those funds to work
18 if it does pass. However, our normal course of action
19 will have all the funds assigned to the projects via
20 the provisional funding list the moment they become
21 available. So to that end, I would like to request
22 that if those funds become available, the
23 administrative funds in the budget, that this board
24 wait to decide how to spend them until a future
25 meeting. Given that the appropriation in the current

1 budget would be 30 million, 3 percent of that that's in
2 the special provision would be \$900,000.00 or divide
3 that, 720 from Acquisition and 180,000 for restoration
4 -- 720,000 for acquisition. I'm not asking for you to
5 set that aside permanently this year. In fact, if any
6 of it were approved, say at a December board meeting,
7 I'd be able to spend very little of it by the end of
8 the fiscal year, and most of it would end up going back
9 into the provisional list anyway. But to that end, I'd
10 like to request consideration of a small amendment to
11 the motion. Damon, would you mind sharing that?

12 Perfect, thank you, and you can just go straight down
13 to the proposed because it's got the underline. So
14 this recommendation is identical to what the committee
15 recommended except for the second line that is offset
16 by comments and then underlined in bold, less any
17 amount able to be set aside for administrative
18 expenses. So that's basically just -- if the budget
19 passes, then 3 percent of that is just set aside for
20 this board to decide what to do with at the next
21 meeting in December, at which point presumably I would
22 propose that a portion of that be set aside for
23 administrative purposes so I can get the ball rolling
24 with HR and start bringing in some additional resources
25 to get projects moving and close and move things along.

1 The board would certainly be free to reject my proposal
2 in December and put all that money back into grant
3 funds. I just ask for the opportunity to make that
4 case at the next meeting if the budget passes. To that
5 end, Zoe's helped me with this language, I think which
6 would accomplish that in the simplest way possible.
7 And aside from that, I'll go ahead and explain the rest
8 of the motion, which stands either way. Essentially,
9 80 percent of the funds that we have go to the
10 Acquisition Committee, as everyone is aware. 20
11 percent of the funds go to the Restoration, Innovative
12 Stormwater and Planning Committee. Acquisition
13 funding, the Acquisition Committee will allocate
14 funding for the Donated Mini-Grant Program.
15 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and Planning
16 Committee will allocate funding for each of its three
17 program areas based on the merit of the application.
18 And all return or unspent grant funds received after
19 the funding meeting will revert to the respective
20 programs to be used for provisional awards for the
21 remainder fiscal year. With that, I'll take any
22 questions or comments about the motion as a whole or my
23 proposal.

24 Vice-Chair Walser: I've got a
25 question. Knowing that we need staff, you've said it.

1 We've heard it. The trustees have heard it. Is there
2 an opportunity for the Executive Committee to approve
3 some of those administrative expenses being deployed
4 sooner than December, and do we want to even go down
5 that road?

6 Executive Director Summer: I think without
7 a budget being passed, it might be presumptuous, but --
8 and plus I don't know how today to give you a finer
9 number, but I think December would be --

10 Vice-Chair Walser: Okay.

11 Executive Director Summer: -- soon enough
12 given what I think the committee has done as far as
13 financing, but thank you for thinking of it. I
14 appreciate your bold interest.

15 Vice-Chair Walser: Yes, sir.

16 Mr. Feagan: You can always
17 schedule a special meeting with 48 hours notice.

18 Vice-Chair Walser: Awesome, thank
19 you; trustees have heard from you and from partners
20 that we need more staff. We're committed to help you
21 get that.

22 Executive Director Summer: Thank you.

23 Vice-Chair Walser: I think that
24 needs to be said out loud. I think we've said it, but
25 I want everybody in the audience to hear it.

1 Chairman Wilson: Okay, so we
2 have the original recommendation from the Executive
3 Committee, and we have from Will the request that we
4 amend that Executive Committee recommendation. So we
5 will need a trustee to make a motion that we add the
6 language that you see underlined and in bold to the
7 Executive Committee motion. If that is your wish,
8 we'll need a motion and a second, and then vote on
9 that, and then we'll vote on the whole motion.

10 Mr. Womack: Should I vote
11 to amend the Executive Committee's recommendation to
12 approve the language less any amount that would be set
13 aside for administration -- administrative expenses.

14 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

15 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee
16 Chair Browning: Second.

17 Chairman Wilson: A second from
18 Ann; is there any discussion? Again, this is just on
19 amending the Executive Committee recommendation; any
20 discussion? Okay, all in favor, please say aye.

21 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

22 Chairman Wilson: All right, that
23 passes, and now we have in front of us that entire
24 motion as amended; any discussion on that? Now that
25 we've amended it, let's make a motion on it all over

1 again because I don't know whether it's still valid as
2 coming from a committee. Maybe it's not, so a motion
3 on the amended recommendation.

4 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

5 Chair Browning: So moved.

6 Chairman Wilson: So moved from
7 Ann.

8 Vice-Chair Walser: Second.

9 Chairman Wilson: Jason second,
10 any discussion; all in favor?

11 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

12 Chairman Wilson: And I'm an aye
13 also. All right, we have just approved -- we have
14 amended and approved this from the Executive Committee;
15 thank you, Will.

16 Executive Director Summer: Thank you.

17 Chairman Wilson: Okay, we will
18 now move on to consideration of recommendations from
19 the Acquisition Committee. And I'll turn it over to
20 Acquisition Committee Chair Amy Grissom.

21 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Thank
22 you, Mr. Chairman; first on our list was a request for
23 extensions of contracts. The committee does recommend
24 extending grant contracts for 2021-037 The Conservation
25 Fund Johnson Farm Hector Creek, 2021-040 The

1 Conservation Fund Long Bay Piney Island Bombing Range,
2 and 2021-051 The Nature Conservancy 421 Sand Ridge
3 Phase 2, to extend those three contracts for one year
4 to January 31st, 2025. And just by way of background,
5 in 2021 when these were awarded, there was no cap on
6 the projects. Four projects were funded at their full
7 higher than typical requests. As part of that funding,
8 the board wanted to limit these contracts to two years,
9 expiring in January of 2024, and to receive annual
10 progress reports at the funding meeting. One of those
11 projects fell through, as we discussed yesterday at our
12 committee meeting, returning the total of
13 \$12,000,000.00 to the fund, which is split between the
14 two committees. And the three remaining projects are
15 the ones that I just listed. The committee did discuss
16 the importance of supporting large projects like these
17 as well as concern if those projects don't progress
18 expeditiously given that we now have many more strong
19 and viable projects than we have funds available to
20 distribute. So that's the context for it. We voted
21 unanimously, and that's the recommendation to the
22 board.

23 Chairman Wilson: Okay, these
24 requests for extensions that Amy listed and that you
25 see on the screen in front of you are coming to us from

1 the Acquisition Committee. Is there any discussion of
2 these before we vote? Okay, please indicate; all in
3 favor, please say aye?

4 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

5 Chairman Wilson: All right, Amy,
6 number two from you.

7 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Okay,
8 and then second, we discussed funding. We started with
9 the Donated Mini-Grant allocation, which our committee
10 is tasked to recommending. Staff had anticipated a
11 high demand this year and suggested \$500,000.00 to be
12 the amount for Donated Mini-Grants for this specific
13 term. Generally, when we've discussed this program at
14 committee level or at board level, it's really gotten a
15 great deal of support. People seem to love this
16 program. I will, as an aside, say that the committee
17 also hopes to consider at a subsequent meeting
18 potentially raising the \$25,000.00 cap, which is for
19 the transaction cost for each mini-grant. And as a
20 side note, I did double-check our board guidelines
21 regarding the program, and the original effective day
22 for this program was November 18, 2003, so 20 years ago
23 almost. And the program was awarding that \$25,000.00
24 at that time, so it's well overdue for an increase if
25 we should consider that at a subsequent meeting. So

1 the committee is recommending the half a million
2 dollars funding coming from the Acquisition Committee's
3 dedicated funding allocation to be available for
4 Donated Mini-Grants from September 20, 2023 through the
5 typical funding meeting in 2024, and that grants will
6 be awarded via administrative approval delegated to the
7 Land and Water Fund Board Chair, and that the awards
8 will be made from provisional funds as needed because
9 those are throughout the year.

10 Chairman Wilson: Okay, also
11 coming to us from the Acquisition Committee, any
12 discussion on the Donated Mini-Grant allocation that
13 Amy has described and read and is before you; all
14 right, everybody ready to vote on this; okay, all in
15 favor, please say aye?

16 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

17 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed;
18 okay, that was unanimous; back to you, Amy.

19 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Okay,
20 so then we got into the real meat of our work
21 yesterday. This year the Acquisition Committee had a
22 total of 75 viable applications that totaled 60.1
23 million dollars in requested funding. 66 of those
24 projects were reviewed at the meeting, totaling 58.7
25 million in requested funding. Those projects were

1 reviewed in ranked order, according to our scoring
2 system, from a high score of 82 to a low score of 60.
3 So that meant we reviewed 61 of those 75 projects. We
4 also asked for any -- if any committee members wanted
5 to review any of the lower-scoring projects. So five
6 were recommended for being reviewed at the committee
7 level. What followed was a really wide-ranging
8 discussion of many topics, whether to cap the requests,
9 which we've done in the past, and if so, at what
10 amount, how to handle one very important significant
11 project, which was our largest request for funds, but
12 it did not have a high secured match. Beyond that, we
13 talked about potentially elevating one of the lower-
14 scoring projects that we've reviewed to ensure that it
15 would be funded with funding in hand. We continued
16 talking about potentially elevating three projects to
17 ensure that they would be funded with anticipated
18 license plate revenue. That would be for an extension
19 of the Haw River State Park that had match fundings
20 designated from a part that we didn't want to lose.
21 And then finally, we wanted to designate the
22 \$1,000,000.00 to protect the military or the buffer --
23 buffering the military sites, I should say. So it was
24 a very far-ranging discussion, and all of that
25 remarkably yielded one single motion that was

1 unanimously approved, and it was done just shortly after
2 5:00 P.M., which was phenomenal. So I'll mention just
3 a couple of asides with that. Regarding the projects
4 that buffer the military sites, staff confirmed with me
5 today that nine projects were actually recommended by
6 the committee to fund, either as with funds in hand or
7 provisionally funded for military buffers that total
8 \$11,845,766.00 and that's around Fort Liberty, Camp
9 LeJeune, Sunny Point, Cherry Point, lots of places. And
10 lastly -- oh, I have one other thing. I'm sorry. About
11 the Haw River State Park, that's for three projects in
12 particular, two of which are in Rockingham County.
13 One's just across the line in Guilford. And that would
14 expand that state park, we think, by 20 percent, which
15 is really significant. And lastly, it's The Year of the
16 Trail. We had lots of projects that talked about trails
17 and expanded trails, and I don't have a specific number
18 today, but many of the projects that are recommended for
19 funding will offer citizens and visitors to the state
20 access to a lot of trails. So that's my report. I think
21 that there is a circulated list of the motion because
22 it's very complicated, and it includes the listing of
23 our funded projects and provisionally funded projects
24 in order. Zoe, I need to turn to you though
25

1 on how we need to potentially amend that.

2 Ms. Burnet: Sure.

3 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom:
4 Because of Ann's recusal from those four acquisitions.

5 Ms. Burnet: Right, that we
6 have tried to draft mostly for you; it is up here on
7 the screen. So what we thought might work best is if
8 Ann recuses from the beginning section, or -- I'm
9 sorry; if we take the motion for everything except for
10 those projects at once, and then do a separate one
11 where Ann can recuse for those four projects. Okay,
12 and I'm new to these rules and procedures. So, Mr.
13 Chair, that is good and solid, and it's John's idea.

14 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Okay,
15 great.

16 Chairman Wilson: Yes, okay, so
17 what we're looking at now is this multi-part motion
18 that excludes the projects that Ann is recusing from.
19 And there have been meetings in the past where the
20 Acquisition Committee Chair has read the detailed list
21 with project numbers and dollar figures; don't need to
22 do that, okay?

23 Vice-Chair Walser: You are messing
24 her up. You were messing with me.

25 Chairman Wilson: This is Amy

1 Grissom era.

2 Vice-Chair Walser: See Amy's tight
3 with the legal counsel.

4 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

5 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Let
6 me say that's the best news I've heard in a long time.

7 Chairman Wilson: Okay, so this
8 multi-part motion for projects except those from Blue
9 Ridge Conservancy and project 2023-041, which is the
10 NCPDR - Peak Tract Bear Paw State Natural Area, and Amy
11 adequately read those as she was describing the actions
12 of the committee, I feel. And so there is your motion
13 coming to you from the Acquisition Committee for any
14 discussion now before we vote on it.

15 Ms. Hartzler: And I'll just
16 add, if I can, if you want to see the projects in order
17 in a table that follows in this section, David can
18 scroll down, and you can see the projects.

19 Chairman Wilson: Why don't we do
20 that.

21 Vice-Chair Walser: I think that's
22 a great idea for the Restoration Committee folks that
23 weren't here.

24 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, yeah;
25 here they are.

1 Mr. Hearne: Just tell me
2 when you're ready.

3 Chairman Wilson: And those were
4 all at the requested amount except for Sledge, which
5 was capped at \$5,000,000.00. That's line 10.

6 Ms. Hartzler: That line 31
7 marks the end of the funded with available funds if the
8 recurring budgets stay the same or recurring funds stay
9 the same. The next page as we scroll down that is the
10 beginning of the provisional list.

11 Vice-Chair Walser: Clement, I
12 don't want to single you out, but do you have any
13 questions about the provisional list and the license
14 plate funding? I mean for your first meeting, this is
15 really confusing stuff.

16 Mr. Riddle: Well, it is
17 confusing. I think I'm hanging in, yes.

18 Vice-Chair Walser: Okay, good;
19 sorry, I didn't mean to single you out.

20 Chairman Wilson: And that's the
21 bottom of the list right there, right?

22 Mr. Hearne: Yes.

23 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

24 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Would
25 it be helpful to read that section?

1 Chairman Wilson: Sure; go for
2 it, Amy.

3 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Okay,
4 so the multi-part motion contains the following items.
5 The committee recommends a \$5,000,000.00 cap. The
6 committee recommends a contract expiration of May 31,
7 2024 for 2023-069 The Conservation Fund Sledge Forest
8 Nature Park. The committee recommends funding the
9 first 30 projects in score order from 2023-075 Triangle
10 Land Conservancy Kidzu Children's Museum through
11 2023-043 North Carolina Division of Parks and Rec
12 Scheld Track Lake Norman. The committee recommends
13 moving 2023-072 The Conservation Fund Worrells Mill to
14 be the 31st project funded. The committee recommends
15 moving three North Carolina Division of Parks and Rec
16 projects, including 2023-038 Kotis Tract, 2023-045
17 Waynick Tract and 2023-040 Moore Tract, to the first
18 three provisionally funded projects, in that order.
19 The committee recommends funding provisionally projects
20 in score order from project 2023-011 Conserving
21 Carolina Hogback Mountain Phase 2 through 2023-035
22 North Carolina Coastal Land Trust Smith-Sugg Pocosin.
23 The committee recommends designating the \$1,000,000.00
24 military funds to 2023-047 North Carolina Wildlife
25 Resources Commission Jordan Timber Tracts Sandhills

1 Game Land.

2 Chairman Wilson: Are we good;
3 all right, any discussion on this? And we will all
4 vote on this except for Ann who is recusing.

5 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: And
6 Ann.

7 Chairman Wilson: And Ann; sorry,
8 Ann, don't forget to vote. Okay, hearing no
9 discussion, all in favor, please say aye?

10 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

11 Chairman Wilson: All right, all
12 opposed, none; all right, that is unanimous. And back
13 to you, Amy, for the non-Ann part.

14 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: You
15 might need to direct me there. Okay, let's see if I
16 can read this. With Ann Browning recusing, a motion is
17 made for projects from the Blue Ridge Conservancy and
18 2023-041 North Carolina Division of Parks and Rec Peak
19 Tract - Bear Paw State Natural Area per the following
20 motion. The committee recommends funding the following
21 projects in their score order: 2023-002, 2023-003, and
22 2023-041. And the committee recommends funding
23 provisionally project 2023-001 in funding order 43 of
24 the provisional list, and those are summarized on the
25 list.

1 Chairman Wilson: Okay, any discussion
2 on this coming to us from the Acquisition Committee;
3 okay, now you really don't get to vote, Ann. All in
4 favor, please say aye?

5 (Board of Trustees vote aye with Ann Browning
6 recusing.)

7 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed;
8 all right, that carries, also; thank you, Amy; anything
9 else from the Acquisition Committee; no?

10 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom:
11 Nothing.

12 Chairman Wilson: All right, well
13 done; okay, we will now consider recommendations from
14 the Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and Planning
15 Committee, and this will be led by Chair Ann Browning.

16 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee
17 Chair Browning: Okay, our
18 committee met today, September 20th, right before this
19 meeting and had a really in-depth and robust discussion
20 about a very interesting collection of projects with a
21 lot of diversity, types of projects, applicants,
22 geography. We just had a lot of interesting things to
23 chew on. So we're so appreciative of all the
24 applicants that brought these projects forward. We
25 heard -- we had \$7,943,262.00 available on this date

1 for award. The calculation of funds available includes
2 an assumption of no change in recurring funds based on
3 the most recent state budget drafts, and we put
4 additional projects on the provisional list. We
5 reviewed all of our 39 applications, including 15
6 planning, 2 innovative stormwater, and 22 restoration
7 applications for a total of -- I think, it was 13.8
8 million total requests. We did -- in our discussion we
9 talked about -- in a couple of cases, we reduced the
10 amount of rewards from the request. In a couple of
11 cases, we updated projects that trustees thought had
12 merit that was not reflected in the score. So that
13 brings us to this motion. So we make a motion to fund
14 the following projects identified by their application
15 numbers that will be shown on the screen. And we kind
16 of -- this motion comes in four parts. First, we
17 recommend funding both innovative stormwater
18 applications at the requested amounts for a total of
19 \$488,321.00. Second, we recommend funding the top 12
20 planning projects in score order, as well as project
21 2023-810 for a total of \$749,347.00. Third, we move
22 funding restoration projects scoring 67 and above at
23 the requested amounts, with the exception of project
24 2023-422, which will be funded at \$900,000.00. In
25 addition, we recommend funding project 2023-403 at the

1 requested amount and fund project 2023-423 at a
2 thousand -- \$137,540.00. Then the last of the four, we
3 provisionally recommend funding the following projects
4 in the following order: Project 2023-410 funded at
5 \$300,000.00, project 2023-419 as requested, project
6 2023-420 as requested, project 2023-411 as requested,
7 followed by the remaining restoration projects in score
8 order funding as requested, with the exception of
9 project 2023-406 to be funded at \$650,000.00, the
10 provisional list to conclude with planning projects
11 2023-814 and 2023-808 in score order at the requested
12 amounts. This motion was unanimously approved by our
13 committee. Questions, it's a lot.

14 Vice-Chair Walser: Yeah, I'm
15 embarrassed to ask, but is there a chart like there was
16 back -- thank you; that's helpful.

17 Mr. Bevington: If I could make
18 a Scribner's errors note; in our hurry to translate an
19 excellent motion into black-white copy, I typed at a
20 couple times, and really all the awards are meant to be
21 -- in our standard contracts, it's always up to, so as
22 long as that's understood.

23 Vice-Chair Walser: Thank you, good
24 catch.

25 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee

1 Chair Browning: So as you can
2 tell from the motion, there was a lot of thought put
3 into each of these.

4 Vice-Chair Walser: Yeah, this is
5 complex. Could you scroll back down again; sorry.

6 Chairman Wilson: The first two
7 are the innovative stormwater, and then starting there
8 are planning.

9 Mr. Bevington: All the 800
10 numbers are planning; 400 would be restoration.

11 Chairman Wilson: These are the
12 restoration.

13 Vice-Chair Walser: So these are
14 all proposed for funding. These are not provisional
15 what I'm seeing so far, is that correct?

16 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee
17 Chair Browning: Correct.

18 Vice-Chair Walser: Okay.

19 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee
20 Chair Browning: Provisional is
21 in the next batch.

22 Chairman Wilson: Okay, got it; I
23 see it now, sorry.

24 Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee
25 Chair Browning: I will say we

1 saw merit in all the projects. So we -- everything
2 that we looked at was either funded or provisionally
3 funded, and of course, those towards the end we thought
4 they still have merit.

5 Chairman Wilson: Okay, any
6 questions for Ann or the committee; this motion coming
7 from the Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and
8 Planning Committee has been read, and if there are no
9 questions or discussion about it, then we can vote on
10 it, so last chance for discussion. Everybody good;
11 okay, all in favor of the motion Ann read and that is
12 on the screen in front of you from the Restoration,
13 Innovative Stormwater and Planning committee, please
14 indicate by saying aye?

15 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

16 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed;
17 okay, sounds unanimous, and thank you, Ann, and thank
18 you, Amy, and thank you, staff, and before we adjourn,
19 I will ask for any last minute housekeeping.

20 Executive Director Summer: Nothing
21 official.

22 Chairman Wilson: Okay, all
23 right, well, we --

24 Vice-Chair Walser: I would like to
25 say something. I just can't not talk. I want to give

1 a shout-out to Amy Grissom for doing a magnificent job
2 yesterday in her first day as the Acquisition Chair.
3 As someone who held the gavel for a while, you did a
4 phenomenal job keeping us moving forward. That was a
5 lot of complicated moving parts, and you did a great
6 job. I just want to publicly thank you for your
7 service. You came prepared. You read all your notes.
8 You read all the background materials for every
9 project. You were more prepared than I ever was, and
10 you did a great job. So I wanted to give you a little
11 bit of shout of gratitude.

12 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom:

13 That's very kind of you, Jason, but you set a high bar
14 because you're so quick and smart and knowledgeable and
15 just one of the kindest people I know. It's true.

16 Vice-Chair Walser: Well, I'm going

17 to keep sharing some love. So we were fortunate to
18 have this money because of great government relations
19 work, and we've had Will Robinson and Lenore (phonetic)
20 from our department, a lot of our partners here, a lot
21 of executive directors; they have invited our
22 legislators to ground breakings and ribbon cuttings.
23 They have done all they can to make sure that our good
24 work is shared by legislators, and it showed. And I
25 just want to thank them publicly for all of their hard

1 work. I know all of our partners and our lobbyist
2 friends do a phenomenal job getting the good work that
3 we do out. We all have to carry the load and do our
4 part as trustees. Now that we funded these projects,
5 we need to make sure that the legislators know what was
6 funded in their district. That's on us. That's on our
7 partners. I would encourage us all to let them know
8 what we're doing with these allocated funds today.
9 Lastly, and this is the last thing I'm going to say,
10 and I'll be quiet. When I first started my land
11 conservation work in 1999, Bill Holman was absolutely
12 one of my heroes. He was the former Secretary of
13 Natural Resources. He was the former Executive
14 Director of this organization. He announced his
15 retirement. In the process, he's brought us a lot of
16 great projects. He's brought us some dogs. He's been
17 a great champion for this organization for a long time,
18 and this, I think, is his last meeting as a staff
19 person of the conservation fund. And I just want to
20 publicly thank you, Bill, for helping this organization
21 grow and bringing us great projects and being a hero of
22 mine in the conservation world, so thank you for your
23 work.

24 Mr. Holman:

Thank you.

25 Vice-Chair Walser:

And I'm done.

1 Chairman Wilson: Thank you,
2 Jason, and I told Clement he had big shoes to fill in
3 following Renee as a trustee. Ann Browning has very
4 capably followed in Renee's footsteps as Chair of the
5 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and Planning
6 Committee because it was not an easy meeting. We saw a
7 lot of presentations. Thank you, staff; they ate and
8 presented at the same time today, and anyway, thanks,
9 great job. All right, anybody else want to say
10 something nice about somebody; do you want me to
11 adjourn, or do you want to say something? Do you want
12 to say something nice about me?

13 Executive Director Summer: John, you're
14 the greatest, officially end the meeting.

15 Chairman Wilson: We're
16 adjourned. All right, all in favor of adjourning,
17 please say aye?

18 (Board of Trustees vote aye.)

19 Chairman Wilson: Now we are
20 adjourning.

21 (The proceedings were adjourned at 5:05 P.M.)
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25

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of November, 2023.

Dona E. Overby

Dona E. Overby
Notary Public
Certificate No.: 19971920107