

NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Held at The Nature Resource Center
Raleigh, North Carolina

Wednesday, October 2, 2024
3:04 P.M.

Volume 1
Pages 1 through 45

A P P E A R A N C E S

Board of Trustees:

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

Staff:

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

3:04 P.M.

1
2 Chairman Wilson: Hello, everyone; I'd
3 like to call today's meeting of the North Carolina Land
4 and Water Fund Board of Trustees to order. I'm John
5 Wilson, the board chair. I want to welcome all of you
6 who are with us today, whether in person or virtually,
7 or some other way that I don't know about. As has been
8 said in both of our committee meetings during the past
9 two days, we are all thinking a great deal about our
10 fellow North Carolinians in the western part of the
11 state, our friends, our families, our conservation
12 partners, first responders, and many others as they
13 deal with the devastating impacts of Helene. I know
14 that our Executive Director Will Summer will speak more
15 about that during his report, as might our Department
16 Secretary Reid Wilson. Also, before I call the role of
17 our nine trustees, I'll mention that one of them,
18 Clement Riddle, understandably is unable to be here
19 today as he deals with and helps others deal with the
20 aftermath of the storm around his home in
21 Hendersonville. So with that, I'll now call the role
22 of our nine trustees; Jimmy Broughton?

23 Mr. Broughton: Here.

24 Chairman Wilson: Ann Browning?

25 Restoration Committee Chair Browning: Here.

1 Chairman Wilson: Amy Grissom?

2 Acquisition Committee Chair Grissom: Here.

3 Chairman Wilson: Clemment is not with
4 us today; Mike Rusher?

5 Mr. Rusher: Here.

6 Chairman Wilson: Jason Walser?

7 Vice-Chairman Walser: Here.

8 Chairman Wilson: Darrel Williams?

9 Mr. Williams: Here.

10 Chairman Wilson: David Womack?

11 Mr. Womack: Here.

12 Chairman Wilson: And John Wilson is
13 here. All right, General Statute 138A-15 mandates that
14 the Chair inquire as to whether any Trustee knows of
15 any conflict of interest or the appearance of a
16 conflict of interest with respect to matters on the
17 agenda. We're also required to record any potential
18 conflicts of interest identified by the Ethics
19 Commission into the minutes during this meeting. There
20 were no confirmed conflicts of interest identified, but
21 there was the potential for a conflict of interest
22 identified for Mr. Broughton associated with his
23 employment with Wake Forest University, his role on the
24 Board of Directors of the Nature Conservancy, and
25 interests in publicly-owned companies and privately-

1 owned real estate LLCs. As Mr. Broughton and all
2 trustees know, any trustees with a conflict or
3 potential conflict are expected to announce them as
4 they arise in this and future meetings and to recuse
5 themselves from any discussion or action on those
6 matters. And just a point of reference, the letter
7 that I mentioned from the Ethics Commission pertaining
8 to Jimmy is the same type of feedback we got from the
9 Ethics Commission that pertained to three of our
10 trustees that I read at a prior meeting. I think it
11 was the immediate prior meeting, so routine procedure
12 there. So now let me ask if any trustees knows of a
13 conflict of interest or the appearance of one as they
14 might pertain to today's agenda, please state so at
15 this time.

16 Restoration Chair Browning: Mr. Chairman, I
17 have a conflict with four projects, one of which is the
18 restoration project 401, and I said this and then three
19 acquisition projects, Project 2002, 003, and 004.

20 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you,
21 Ann.

22 Acquisition Chair Grissom: I also have a
23 conflict, Mr. Chairman. It's with the acquisition
24 project. It's 2024-067, Three Rivers Land Trust -
25 Newport Tract - Little River.

1 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you,
2 Amy.

3 Mr. Broughton: Mr. Chairman, I have
4 a number of conflicts. I have five conflicts, five
5 acquisition project conflicts, items 24, 033, 051, 060,
6 061, and restoration item 429.

7 Chairman Wilson: Okay, thank you, and
8 I have a conflict with the planning project 2024-807,
9 TLC Jordan Lake; any others? We are a conscientious
10 group; perfect. All right, moving on, I'll ask
11 everyone to please make sure your phones, computers,
12 any things that buzz or hiss won't make any noise. And
13 if you are a guest joining us remotely, please mute
14 your audio and turn off your video unless you're called
15 on to speak. And now I'll ask the trustees and staff
16 if there are any suggestions of revisions or additions
17 to today's agenda.

18 Ms. Burnet: Mr. Chair?

19 Chairman Wilson: Yes.

20 Ms. Burnet: I would like to
21 offer two revisions, or I guess additions, both of
22 them. One is relatively minor. You'll remember that
23 annually we go back and reaffirm the use of our board
24 guidelines and practices as well as the application
25 rating system. It would be great if we could do that

1 before we issue our funding decisions today. The other
2 is that we would go to a closed session at the end of
3 our meeting, and that is to preserve attorney-client
4 privilege related to an open title insurance claim.
5 That's claim 2018-045, North Carolina Coastal Land
6 Trust - Salter's Creek Landing.

7 Chairman Wilson: Okay, so a request
8 from Zoe to reaffirm our guidelines and procedures, and
9 we'll do that as our first business item on our agenda,
10 and then a request to go into closed session, and that
11 will occur as the final item of business, correct?

12 Vice-Chairman Walser: I believe that's a
13 motion to change the agenda. I'd like to move that we
14 make those changes to the agenda.

15 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

16 Acquisition Chair Grissom: I'll second
17 that.

18 Chairman Wilson: Jason, second from
19 Amy; any discussion; all in favor of adopting our
20 agenda with those two additions, please say aye?

21 All Board Members: Aye.

22 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed; all
23 right, and that gets us to the minutes from our August
24 2024 board meeting. Is there any discussion regarding
25 the minutes from that meeting? I'm looking at you,

1 Amy.

2 Acquisition Chair Grissom: You can look
3 toward someone else who didn't lose power for seven
4 days.

5 Chairman Wilson: Any discussion of
6 the minutes; okay, I'll entertain a motion to adopt the
7 minutes from our August 2024 board meeting.

8 Vice-Chair Walser: So moved.

9 Chairman Wilson: Jason?

10 Restoration Chair Browning: Second.

11 Chairman Wilson: A second from Ann;
12 any discussion; all in favor, please say aye?

13 All Board Members: Aye.

14 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed; okay,
15 we now have the pleasure of hearing from the Secretary
16 of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
17 Here he is, Reid Wilson.

18 Secretary Wilson: Good afternoon,
19 everyone; it is good to be with you today; welcome to
20 the Museum of Natural Sciences, another fantastic
21 element of the Department of Natural and Cultural
22 Resources. I'm going to move this and hope that I
23 don't set off the entire system. I kind of want to
24 start the way John Wilson did as well to make sure
25 we're all thinking of the people out in the mountains

1 of North Carolina who we're dealing with, as the
2 Governor has said repeatedly unprecedented challenges,
3 disasters. It's catastrophic everywhere you look, and
4 I know we've all been looking at the videos and the
5 photos, and it's really breathtaking to even be able to
6 comprehend what these places look like compared to what
7 they used to look like. In terms of our department,
8 all of our facilities that are west of I-77 are
9 currently closed to the public and will be for some
10 time. That includes about 10 state parks roughly. We
11 have a regional archives building in Asheville. We
12 have the Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort, and we
13 have the Vance and the Wolfe historic sites, one in
14 Weaverville, one in Asheville respectively. I'm
15 relieved to say that all of our employees out west are
16 okay, accounted for, and they're doing okay. They all
17 have challenges of various degrees, but alive and
18 healthy, which is -- you know, for a little while we
19 hadn't heard from some of them. I'm really proud to
20 report that I think 28 of our state parks employees,
21 all but one are rangers, have been deployed to seven
22 different spots in the mountains where they are needed,
23 and they are doing things like law enforcement because
24 some people are, you know, at wit's end, helping people
25 clean up their buildings, their houses, their

1 businesses, getting people to healthcare. One of our
2 rangers, I guess, was in a grocery store with someone,
3 and the person tried to buy their food, and their card
4 wouldn't go through, and the ranger bought their
5 groceries with I think her own credit card. And so
6 they're just going above and beyond the call of duty,
7 and we will have more of our rangers going out there.
8 There will be a rotation, but I'm just really pleased
9 at how quickly our folks responded. A number of these
10 rangers are from the parks that are affected and really
11 can't be in their parks, and we don't know the
12 condition of all of our state parks out there, but we
13 know they're all damaged in significant ways. And the
14 recovery for the parks and for the homes and the
15 businesses and streams is just going to be years and
16 years and years, and we're going to be paying attention
17 to this for a long time. But I want to turn to a
18 couple things that in I think a significant way address
19 the problems we're seeing. One is -- and I don't think
20 I've talked to this group since February. When
21 Governor Cooper signed Executive Order 305 on natural
22 and working lands, the purpose of that -- and it was in
23 part a response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to
24 weaken wetlands regulations across the land. So part
25 of the purpose of this Executive Order was to make sure

1 we protect our wetlands, whether that is preserving
2 them or restoring those that need restoration, but it's
3 broader than that. It's also aimed at preservation and
4 restoration of forests and other natural lands and
5 working lands, including farmland, and it set three
6 really ambitious goals. And this group, more than any
7 other, will understand how ambitious these are. The
8 first is to conserve an additional one million acres in
9 North Carolina. The second, pay attention to me, is to
10 restore an additional one million acres in North
11 Carolina. And the third is to plant one million trees
12 in urban areas, all -- and the timeline is by 2040.
13 And we're working on it and trying to coordinate as
14 much as possible. And to me the easiest way to reach
15 these goals is to provide you all and the Parks and Rec
16 Trust Fund and the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
17 more funding so you can fund those acquisition and
18 restoration projects all around the state. And
19 important is that Executive Order 305 is for the whole
20 state. It's not just focused on one region or another.
21 So that was big, and it's moving forward. And people
22 in this room, I'm looking at Misty, spent a lot of time
23 back with Executive Order 80 years ago building,
24 building, building towards this, the issuance of this
25 Executive Order. The other big thing is even much,

1 much bigger than that, and you've probably heard about
2 it, but in July the U.S. Environmental Protection
3 Agency delivered. That's not the right word, granted,
4 funded, approved a \$421 million grant that comes to
5 this department. It is a five-year grant. It is
6 multi-state, so it's North Carolina, South Carolina,
7 Virginia, Maryland. And I think that's important
8 because it's two Democratic governors, two Republican
9 governors, and everyone's in this together. This is a
10 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. It's the largest
11 nature-based Climate Pollution Reduction Grant EPA has
12 ever approved. There were 300 applications for this
13 type of grant, and only 25 were funded, so we feel
14 great about that. It is easily the largest grant our
15 department has ever received. But again it's over five
16 years, so it's, you know, like \$85 million a year on
17 average. So what's the money going to be spent on,
18 preservation and restoration and enhancement of natural
19 and working lands, focusing in the east. It definitely
20 has a coastal focus to it. That might not be the case
21 in the other three states. Every state gets to figure
22 out what their priorities are, but I think they also
23 are focused on the coast like we are. And this thing
24 is all about partnerships. In or each state -- state
25 agency gets \$50 million, so that's 200 right there.

1 Then the Nature Conservancy, hi, Will, he knows this --
2 receives \$200 million as well to be divvied up among
3 the four states. I don't think it necessarily has to
4 be 50-50-50-50. TNC can figure out whether one state
5 has more need than others. A lot of this is focused on
6 protecting peatlands and wetlands and living shorelines
7 and forests in the eastern part of the state, so it's
8 really exciting. We will be hiring a significant
9 number of people to manage and implement this grant and
10 work with all those partners. We are the lead agency
11 for the four states, so we have to make sure the other
12 three states over the next five years are doing their
13 part to implement this huge grant, but it is extremely
14 exciting. And I do think that the events of the last
15 three weeks underscore why protecting natural lands in
16 a time of climate change is really important. Three
17 weeks ago in the eastern part of the state we had an
18 unnamed storm, not even strong enough to get a name,
19 that dumped 20 inches, 18 inches in Carolina Beach and,
20 you know, wreaked havoc there. And then what we've had
21 just this past week in the mountains where a warming
22 Gulf enables the clouds, the atmosphere, to hold a
23 whole lot more water, and we see for instance at Mount
24 Mitchell State Park, 29 inches of rain and 109 mile an
25 hour winds. But there are stories like that throughout

1 the mountains. You've all seen it and read about it,
2 how devastating, how much rain there was, how much wind
3 there was, and what it has done to people and the
4 natural environment. It's just breathtaking. So this
5 grant, we're getting to try and fight that kind of
6 thing. And the goal -- well, the expectation of this
7 grant is that it will pull 28 million metric tons of
8 carbon out of the atmosphere, which is no small amount.
9 And by restoring wetlands and streams and conserving
10 land along them, we will help ensure that communities
11 are less vulnerable to flooding that surely we will see
12 because of climate change. So it's a lot going on.
13 It's very exciting. We have a whole lot of work to do,
14 and now you all are here today with a significant
15 amount of money to approve for grants that are worthy
16 around the state. I know you all will do a fabulous
17 job, as you always do. I mean this group, you all,
18 board and staff, you do this so well. You bring so
19 much expertise and -- and effort and passion and
20 knowledge to this, and you work well together. You
21 know, we have I think 20 different divisions in our
22 department. Some of them I worry about, not this one.
23 This is so well run, both on the staff side and the
24 board side, and I just want you to know how much we
25 appreciate the great job you all do. And I have no

1 doubt that you all will make a bunch of great decisions
2 today that will help preserve clean water, enhance
3 water bodies around the state, make our state a more
4 healthy, natural place. And I also just want to add
5 that we appreciate the partnership we have with the
6 Department of Environmental Quality with their
7 floodplain resilience blueprint project and the way
8 they are partnering with you all. That is just a great
9 thing and hope to do more of that in the future. So
10 I'll get out of the way because I know you have a lot
11 of projects to talk about; thanks for having me; thanks
12 for doing a fantastic job. The people of North
13 Carolina benefit from all the great work you guys do in
14 this room; thanks, and I have to go, sorry.

15 Chairman Wilson: All right, we'll now
16 move on to our Executive Director's update, Will
17 Summer.

18 Executive Director Summer: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair, and good afternoon, trustees, staff, and guests;
20 I'd like to start by echoing the Secretary and our
21 chair and say how thankful I am that all staff and
22 trustees are safe and in good spirits. Our trustee
23 from Hendersonville, Clement Riddle, is safe and doing
24 as well as can be expected. He's dealing with Helene
25 and understandably is not able to join us today. He

1 did want me to share the following with you. I'm
2 honored and humbled to be part of this organization,
3 and I know that the work done by NCLWF staff is such a
4 vital part in taking care of our state. It's painful
5 for me to miss this meeting, and I will greatly miss
6 participating, but I look forward to meeting with all
7 of you again soon and helping to protect and restore
8 the important resources throughout North Carolina. I
9 know he and many others will be in our thoughts as they
10 start rebuilding. Two NCLWF staff that live in western
11 North Carolina, Steve and Damon, were also impacted,
12 but I'm happy to say they're also safe and able to join
13 us today in person and via Teams, respectively. I'm
14 also glad to report that two of our Natural Heritage
15 Program staff in western North Carolina, David and
16 Jess, are also safe. Helene has been so impactful to
17 people and places we all love, and we need to
18 acknowledge how strange, perhaps guilty, we all feel
19 about going about our lives and business when we know
20 others are struggling. We deliberated a lot about
21 whether to have this meeting as scheduled or to
22 postpone it, and ultimately, I think the citizens are
23 best served by us getting our work done now, and I
24 believe that conservation and restoration will play a
25 part in rebuilding after the storm. With limited

1 infrastructure and road access, I think now is the time
2 for the emergency response professionals to do their
3 work, and I feel confident there will be a time soon
4 for us regular civilians to volunteer and give our time
5 to help rebuild. So let's clear the decks now and make
6 space in our schedule later to assist when they're
7 ready for us. In the meantime, there is no shortage of
8 ways to support legitimate organizations and others
9 impacted through donations. I've contributed via
10 GoFundMe to one of my favorite places in one of the
11 many towns significantly impacted by Helene, but if you
12 don't have a direct connection to something you know is
13 legitimate, you can donate to the NC Disaster Relief
14 Fund at [NC.gov/donate](https://www.nc.gov/donate). You can find that link in the
15 banner of many state websites, including our own.
16 Donations at that site are managed by the United Way
17 and go to provide for immediate unmet needs through
18 reimbursements to nonprofits working with disaster
19 survivors. Switching gears, I was recently asked to
20 compile some stats for our work over the last eight
21 years as we approached the end of Governor Cooper's
22 administration, and I thought they were worth sharing.
23 Since 2017 the North Carolina Land and Water Fund has
24 been awarded over \$275 million in grants. When
25 completed, these will result in the permanent

1 protection of over 121,000 acres and 183,000 linear
2 feet of stream restored or enhanced. During the same
3 time, the Natural Heritage Program added 33 new
4 dedicated nature preserves, adding over 48,000 acres
5 that protect North Carolina's natural heritage, almost
6 all of which are the result of our funding. This is
7 all the result of eight years of thoughtful
8 deliberation by this board and many long hours by our
9 partners and our staff on implementation. And the
10 second part isn't over. We're still working with our
11 partners on completing many of the previously awarded
12 grants, even as we sit here today, ready to increase
13 that burden. I expect that the decisions that will be
14 finalized in a few moments will add over \$45 million to
15 that grand total. So on that note, I'd like to thank
16 Governor Cooper and the General Assembly for their
17 generous support. We could do nothing without their
18 funding. So with that, I'll wrap up and let you get to
19 work so we can protect some more places people love,
20 not despite those who are going through the hardship
21 right now, but because of them. And then let's get
22 some good news ready to share when the time is
23 appropriate; thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Will; any
25 comments, questions for Will; Reid scooted out of here

1 before we could. He thought he could compliment us and
2 then just hit the road without any Q&A. Anything for
3 Will; okay, we will move on to the public comment
4 section of our meeting. Before I open the floor for
5 public comments, I'd like to remind our guests that
6 North Carolina Land and Water Fund guidelines and
7 procedures state that comments should be limited to
8 subjects of business falling within the jurisdiction of
9 the Land and Water Fund. We welcome public comments on
10 general issues, but comments will not be allowed on
11 individual projects before the Land and Water Fund for
12 funding during our regular meeting. Comments will be
13 limited to three minutes per person. And with that,
14 are there any comments from our guests, members of the
15 public either in person or online? Hearing none, we
16 will now move on to the business portion of our agenda.
17 And, Zoe, let me ask you to lead us in our first item
18 of business if that's okay.

19 Ms. Burnet: Yes, thank you; in
20 preparation for the funding decisions that are about to
21 be contemplated by the entire board, and especially
22 with a new member here, it's time that we reaffirm the
23 use of our board guidelines and practices in the
24 application rating system. As a reminder, the
25 guidelines and practices in the application rating

1 system are a compilation of procedures, standards,
2 expectations, and evaluation tools that assist the
3 board in the implementation of its duties, and also
4 help direct staff in execution of administrative
5 procedures. The board updates these as needed, and we
6 will reaffirm them at least annually. So my
7 recommendation to you is to affirm the use of the board
8 guidelines and practices in the application rating
9 system.

10 Chairman Wilson: Okay, I will
11 entertain a motion from a trustee to do just that, to
12 affirm use of the board guidelines and practices in the
13 application rating system.

14 Mr. Williams: So moved.

15 Chairman Wilson: Darrel.

16 Mr. Womack: Second.

17 Chairman Wilson: A second from David,
18 any discussion; all in favor, please say aye?

19 All Board Members: Aye.

20 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed; okay,
21 thank you very much; thanks, Zoe; all right, we will
22 now move on to the Acquisition Committee action items
23 with consideration of recommendations from the
24 committee, Amy Grissom, the chair.

25 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman; the Acquisitions Committee met yesterday and
2 considered three items of business. First, we
3 considered requests to extend two grant contracts from
4 the 2021 grant cycle. Staff recommended extending both
5 through January 31st of 2026. All of the committee
6 members participated in what I thought was a thoughtful
7 and nuanced discussion about the importance of
8 projects, especially those that receive substantial
9 funds, to make good progress and close expeditiously.
10 We voted on the two specific requests separately. Our
11 first motion was regarding 2021-037, the Conservation
12 Fund Johnson Farm Hector Creek, and that passed
13 unanimously. So the motion is on the screen up front,
14 and that is our recommendation to the full board to
15 extend grant contract 2021-037, Conservation Fund
16 Johnson Farm Hector Creek through January 1, 2026.

17 Chairman Wilson: Okay, coming to us
18 from the Acquisitions Committee, so we can have any
19 discussion that we want on that. We don't need a
20 second on it, and then we can vote on it. Any
21 discussion on this motion one before us regarding
22 2021-037; all right, please let me know how you vote,
23 please. All in favor, please say aye?

24 All Board Members: Aye.

25 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed; all

1 right, that carries; back to you, Amy.

2 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, and then
3 the second, we considered 2021-051, The Nature
4 Conservancy 421 Sand Ridge Phase 2. That passed with
5 four members voting in favor of extending through
6 January 31, 2026, and one member opposed. So it comes
7 as a recommendation from the committee.

8 Chairman Wilson: Okay, so on this
9 second motion with Jimmy recusing, any discussion on
10 this; all right, all in favor, please say aye?

11 All Board Members: Aye.

12 Chairman Wilson: And I am a no on
13 this one, but it carries, just one no; all right,
14 moving on.

15 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, so our
16 second item of business was the allocation of funds for
17 the Donation Mini-Grant Program. Members continue to
18 express support for this program, and especially its
19 great value in conserving land in our state. The quote
20 is lots of bang for the buck. So again, the committee
21 followed the staff's recommendation of allocating up to
22 \$500,000.00, and the motion passed unanimously. And
23 you can see the motion on the screen.

24 Chairman Wilson: Okay, funding up to
25 \$500,000.00 in Donation Mini-Grants from license plate

1 revenue and/or return grant funds through the 2025
2 funding meeting and via administrative approval
3 delegated to the Land and Water Fund Board of Trustees
4 Chair; any discussion on this coming from the
5 Acquisition Committee; no; all right, all in favor,
6 please say aye?

7 All Board Members: Aye.

8 Chairman Wilson: Any opposed; all
9 right, that carries.

10 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, and then
11 our final item of business was review of the 2024
12 applications and funding recommendations. So the
13 projects were presented to the committee and discussed
14 in score order with 46 of the 54 viable projects
15 presented. The committee had 34.2 million dollars
16 currently available for funding projects, as well as an
17 additional \$2.4 million from the NC Flood Resiliency
18 Blueprint Project to potentially help fund three
19 specific acquisition projects that had been identified
20 by DEQ. Staff also recommended that the committee
21 consider up to 18 -- sorry, \$10.8 million for
22 provisionally funded projects. During our funding
23 discussion the committee members all agreed to the
24 following. First, we designated our top scoring
25 project, 2024-033 NC Parks and Rec. Ives Track Weymouth

1 Woods, as this year's project to buffer military sites.
2 The site this year is Fort Liberty, and this project
3 also ranked as a top priority for the military,
4 receiving the maximum number of points for their
5 benefit. Also, I'll just note that instead of the
6 typical 1 million dollar designation for this military
7 project, we recommended allocating \$2 million because
8 last year's military project was withdrawn. Secondly,
9 we set a funding cap of 4 million dollars for all
10 projects, which impacted only three. Third, we ensured
11 that all three of the projects that DEQ had identified
12 for supplemental funding of \$800,000 each, so the \$2.4
13 million total scored high enough to be funded
14 immediately through available funds. Fourth, we chose
15 to move one project higher on our ranked list, so it
16 would be the first on the list of provisionally funded
17 projects. That project is 2024-025 NC Department of
18 Natural and Rural Resources, the Nantz Track - Fort
19 Dobbs State Historic Site. And fifth, we stopped the
20 provisionally funded projects at a score of 63. So
21 that's the narrative of what the committee discussed
22 yesterday and agreed on unanimously. These were
23 presented to the staff -- I mean, sorry, presented to
24 committee by the staff in our spreadsheet, which I'll
25 ask the staff to put on the screen now for the full

1 board's review. So while that's up, I'll just add that
2 we actually voted on eight separate motions. All of
3 those passed unanimously, and we did so because of the
4 multiple recusals from various trustees on both
5 committees. So you've heard the narrative, and here's
6 our spreadsheet that memorializes our decisions. And
7 we can also go through the eight motions as our
8 recommendations to the full committee, so however you'd
9 like to handle that, Mr. Chairman, from there. That
10 seemed to be the best way to explain and inform, in the
11 best language.

12 Chairman Wilson: Okay, is that the
13 bottom of the spreadsheet?

14 Acquisition Chair Grissom: I think so.

15 Chairman Wilson: Now we're seeing it
16 in reverse order, I guess. Okay, Amy, do you want to
17 just call out these motions, and then I'll ask for the
18 votes on them?

19 Acquisition Chair Grissom: I can,
20 absolutely.

21 Vice-Chairman Walser: So, Mr. Chairman, I
22 agree with this. This was eight hours of work to get
23 to what she just read in three minutes. Board members
24 who weren't here yesterday, I don't know if Mike or
25 Jimmy, do you all have any questions or thoughts before

1 we start voting? I'm sorry to usurp, --

2 Chairman Wilson: No, go ahead.

3 Vice-Chairman Walser: -- but it's a lot of
4 information.

5 Acquisition Chair Grissom: It was.

6 Vice-Chairman Walser: Personally, I mean I
7 feel really good about the decisions that were made
8 just as somebody who was there, but I would give
9 everybody a chance to ask away.

10 Chairman Wilson: And hats off to you,
11 Amy, for the summary.

12 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Thank you very
13 much.

14 Chairman Wilson: That was well
15 summarized of something that was quite complicated.

16 Vice-Chairman Walser: And for her
17 leadership yesterday, keeping us on task moving forward
18 when we were stuck sometimes.

19 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Thank you.

20 Vice-Chairman Walser: All right, any
21 questions; I'm sorry for interrupting, but I thought it
22 was worth having the question made.

23 Chairman Wilson: Thank you; yeah, and
24 obviously, feel free; we're going to have opportunities
25 for discussion on each piece if there is one.

1 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, so I will
2 start with our first motion for the grant cycle
3 section; our funding decision, apply a cap of 4 million
4 dollars to all to grants.

5 Chairman Wilson: All right, coming to
6 us from the Acquisition Committee, is there any
7 discussion on motion one; okay, all in favor say aye?

8 All Board Members: Aye.

9 Chairman Wilson: I'm an aye, also.
10 Anybody opposed; all right, it passes.

11 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Motion two,
12 fund the following at the updated funding order as
13 noted and subject to the cap as applicable and using
14 the \$800,000 of NC Flood Resiliency Blueprint Funds on
15 each designated project. Those projects are 2024-056,
16 TLC Lowgrounds, which was in our funding order the very
17 first project. 2024-038, NC Wildlife Resources
18 Commission Big Swamp, that was the second in our
19 funding order.

20 Chairman Wilson: And just to be
21 overly clear, those were the DEQ projects that would
22 have been down in the provisional area that we moved up
23 as the two final to be funded with the available funds
24 at this moment.

25 Acquisition Chair Grissom: I think with

1 the cap that they actually did move up, is that
2 correct? Can you clarify, Marissa?

3 Acquisition Program Manager Hartzler: They
4 did. They were the last two to fund today. I believe
5 they were moved up to achieve that.

6 Acquisition Chair Grissom: And we did also
7 fund the third one, but that's down in motion five.
8 Again, I apologize for the complications of all the
9 motions, but this was the way to simplify the votes as
10 recommended by staff.

11 Chairman Wilson: Okay.

12 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Does that make
13 sense to everyone?

14 Chairman Wilson: All right, so back
15 to motion two, which Amy just read, any discussion; all
16 right, hearing none, all in favor, please say aye?

17 All Board Members: Aye.

18 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; all
19 right, motion two carries.

20 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, so on to
21 motion three, fund the following at the updated funding
22 order, as noted and subject to cap, as applicable, and
23 this one, I think, is -- Jimmy is recused for this one.
24 And so it's 2024-033 Parks and Rec Ives Tract Weymouth
25 Woods, which was our top scoring project, funding order

1 number one, and as the designated military project,
2 receiving \$2 million in military funding. And then
3 O24 Nags Head Municipal Tracts, which was funding order
4 number nine.

5 Chairman Wilson: All right, so this
6 motion, with Jimmy Broughton recusing, is one that Amy
7 just read; any discussion; all in favor, please say
8 aye?

9 All Board Members: Aye.

10 Chairman Wilson: Anybody opposed; all
11 right, motion three carries.

12 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, on to
13 motion four, fund the following at the updated funding
14 order as noted and subject to the cap, as applicable;
15 this one Ann recused; 2024-002 BCR Broyhill, 2024-003
16 BCR Creeper Trail Park, 2024-004 BRC Northern Peaks
17 Connector.

18 Chairman Wilson: Okay, and this is
19 with Ann recusing; any discussion on motion four; all
20 in favor, please say aye?

21 All Board Members: Aye.

22 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed;
23 motion four passes.

24 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, on to
25 motion five then, fund the following at the updated

1 funding order as noted and subject to cap, as
2 applicable, using \$800,000 of NC Flood Resiliency
3 Blueprint Funds on their designated project, so funding
4 order two is 2024-027 Coastal Land Trust (South Topsail
5 Beach) through funding order eight, 2024-032 NC Parks
6 and Rec Creek Expansion; additionally, funding order
7 10, 2024-013, CTNC Cascades Overlook through funding
8 order 15, 2024-008 Conserving Carolina Hogback Mountain
9 Phase 4, in addition funding order 17, which is 2024-
10 055 Triangle Land Conservancy Little River Forest
11 through funding order 18, 2024-046 Southern Appalachian
12 Highlands Conservancy White Oak Mountain Slopes,
13 additionally, 2024-048 Conservation Fund Lockville
14 funding order 20, and funding order 22 which is 2024-
15 058 Triangle Land Conservancy Rose Dairy Tract, through
16 funding order 30, which is 2024-043, Piedmont Land
17 Conservancy Kapps Mill-Mitchell River.

18 Chairman Wilson: All right, thanks,
19 Amy; any discussion on motion five; all in favor,
20 please say aye?

21 All Board Members: Aye.

22 Chairman Wilson: Is anyone opposed?
23 Motion five passes.

24 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, motion
25 six, provisionally fund the following at the updated

1 funding order as noted and subject to the cap. This is
2 another one for Jimmy to recuse. It's 2024-061 The
3 Nature Conservancy Ramsey and Sharpe, funding order
4 number 42.

5 Chairman Wilson: All right, any
6 discussion of motion six; all in favor, please say aye?

7 All Board Members: Aye.

8 Chairman Wilson: Is anyone opposed?
9 All right, that carries with Jimmy recusing.

10 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, so motion
11 seven is the one I am recusing myself from, so if you
12 can take over this one.

13 Chairman Wilson: Sure, all right,
14 motion seven, to provisionally fund the following at
15 updated funding order as noted and subject to the cap,
16 as applicable; this is 2024-067 Three Rivers Land Trust
17 Newport, funding order 43. Any discussion; all in
18 favor, please say aye?

19 All Board Members: Aye.

20 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; and
21 Amy recused, and it passed; all right, back to you,
22 Amy.

23 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Okay, and
24 motion eight, provisionally fund the following at the
25 updated funding order as noted and subject to the cap,

1 as applicable, 2024-025 NC Department of Natural and
2 Cultural Resources - Nantz Tract - Fort Dobbs State
3 Historic Site as the first provisionally funded
4 project, funding order 33, also, funding order 34,
5 2024-001 Alamance County Recreation and Parks - Alston
6 Quarter Tract - Haw River, through funding order 41,
7 which 2024-034 NC Parks and Rec Kotis Track Phase 2,
8 and funding order 44, 2024-062, Three Rivers -- TRLC --

9 Acquisition Program Manager Hartzler: Tar
10 River.

11 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Thank you, Tar
12 River Edwards Tract - Billy's Creek.

13 Chairman Wilson: All right, that was
14 motion eight. Any discussion; all in favor, say aye?

15 All Board Members: Aye.

16 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; all
17 right, motion eight carries also.

18 Acquisition Chair Grissom: Thank you;
19 that's the end the Acquisition Committee report.

20 Chairman Wilson: Okay, that was
21 something; thank you, well done. All right, and now we
22 are ready to consider recommendations from the
23 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and Planning
24 Committee. I'll hand it over to Chair Ann Browning.

25 Restoration Chair Browning: Okay, thank you

1 so much; our hardworking committee started this morning
2 at eight o'clock to consider this year's Planning,
3 Innovative Stormwater and Restoration applications, and
4 we are so grateful to all of our partners who spend so
5 much time and effort bringing us these good projects
6 and to our staff for working with our partners,
7 learning so much and preparing the committee members
8 with the material to study and discuss. So we've had
9 some great discussions. The Restoration Committee had
10 \$8,047,147 available in North Carolina Land and Water
11 Funds on this day to award for 2024 applications. An
12 additional \$800,000 was also made available from the
13 North Carolina Department of Environmental and Quality
14 Flood Resiliency Blueprint Fund towards the funding of
15 one project that fell within their study area, Project
16 2024-428 - Wilmington - Wisteria and Clearbrook
17 Restoration. So that resulted in a total funding
18 available of \$8,847,147. The committee reviewed 41
19 applications, which were all the applications submitted
20 to us. That was nine planning, six innovative
21 stormwater, and 26 restoration applications.
22 Recommendations of awards today total \$8,830,364 with
23 six projects recommended to be placed on the
24 provisional list. So much like the Acquisition
25 Committee to avoid the perception of any conflict of

1 interest, several committee members recused themselves
2 from discussion and consideration of three projects.
3 The stated recusals were as follows. Chairman John
4 Wilson recused himself from Project 2024-807, the
5 planning committee, a planning grant. I recused myself
6 from consideration of Project 2024-401, and Jimmy
7 Broughton recused himself from consideration of Project
8 2024-429, Winston-Salem. Recusal procedures included
9 each committee member excusing themselves from the room
10 during staff presentation and discussion and then not
11 voting on the projects in question. So we have 10
12 motions between the different three funding categories
13 and the recusals. We will -- we'll just tic through
14 these 10 motions. And Chairman Wilson, you recused
15 yourself from the first one, so would our vice-
16 chairman want to --

17 Vice-Chair Walser: I will.

18 Chairman Wilson: Yeah, do you want to
19 do the same thing Amy did? Just read each of the
20 motions, and then pass it off to the board chair to do
21 it? But in this case, it'll be the vice-chair on
22 motion one.

23 Restoration Chair Browning: Okay, here's
24 the first motion, fund following at the requested
25 amount, Project 2024-807, Triangle Lands Conservancy -

1 Jordan Lake - Land Conservation Plan, unanimous vote
2 among those who voted.

3 Vice-Chair Walser: We have unanimous
4 recommendation from the committee. Do we have any
5 questions, any discussion about the -- those
6 recommendations? All right, I'll call the vote.
7 All those in favor, say aye?

8 All Board Members: Aye.

9 Vice-Chair Walser: Opposed; thank you.

10 Restoration Chair Browning: All right,
11 motion two, fund the remaining planning projects at the
12 requested amount. I'm not going to read the 2024
13 either. I'll just read the application number, 801 -
14 Blue Ridge Resources Conservation and Development
15 Council - South Toe River Watershed Plan, 803 - the
16 Town of Canton - Mill Site - Floodplain Plan, 806 -
17 Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Restoration Plan, 804 -
18 Cape Fear RC&D - Pages Creek Above Dunbar Street -
19 Restoration Plan; Project 809, the Yadkin-Pee Dee Water
20 Management Groups - Watershed Plan, 802 - Town of
21 Brevard - Norton Creek - Restoration Plan, 805 -
22 Coastal Carolina River Watch - Upper New River -
23 Restoration Plan, and 808 - the Town of Waxhaw - Twelve
24 Mile Creek - Restoration Plan.

25 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Ann, all

1 right; motion two has been read and is before you; any
2 discussion; all right, all in favor?

3 All Board Members: Aye.

4 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; all
5 right, motion two passes.

6 Restoration Chair Browning: Okay, motion
7 three is to fund the following five Innovative
8 Stormwater Projects at the requested amount. The first
9 one, 1001 is the A-B Technical Community College
10 Parking Lot Retrofit - Stormwater Pilots Project, 1005
11 - NC State's - Bioretention Amendments - Stormwater
12 Study, 1006 - NC State's - NutriFilter Floating
13 Biofilter - Stormwater Study, 1003 -- BRRCD's - West
14 Jefferson - Stormwater Pilot Project, and 1007 - NC
15 State's - SCM as PFAS Treatment - Stormwater Study.

16 Chairman Wilson: All right, thank
17 you, Ann; motion three read out and before you, any
18 discussion; all in favor, please say aye?

19 All Board Members: Aye.

20 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed;
21 motion three carries.

22 Restoration Chair Browning: Motion four is
23 for one project, 1004 - Fairmont - Old Field Swamp -
24 Sediment Control Pilot Project and we voted to fund the
25 design only for this project for a total of \$57,000.00.

1 Chairman Wilson: Okay, motion four,
2 any discussion; all in favor, say aye?

3 All Board Members: Aye.

4 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; all
5 right, that carries.

6 Restoration Chair Browning: Okay, the
7 following projects, these are all restoration projects
8 we are recommending the funding at the amount
9 requested. 404, is --

10 Chairman Wilson: Excuse me, Ann. I'm
11 sorry to interrupt you. It has been brought to my
12 attention that since the acquisition committee
13 recommendations included, you know, saying this project
14 would appear all the way down consecutively through
15 this project way down here, that that's what you're
16 saying, isn't it?

17 Executive Director Summer: Well, you can
18 read them all out. You could simply say 404, 410 or
19 you could say refer to motion five on the screen and
20 save your voice.

21 Restoration Chair Browning: Okay.

22 Executive Director Summer: It's your call.
23 Be as thorough as you like.

24 Restoration Chair Browning: Thank you for
25 that.

1 Executive Director Summer: But Marris has
2 told me all of those are acceptable.

3 Restoration Chair Browning: Good, make sure
4 -- I understand all of these acronyms. Yeah, so I
5 would like to make a motion that -- or the committee
6 make the motion that we fund the projects on the
7 screen, project 2024-404 through 2024-414. Is that
8 adequate for a motion?

9 Acquisition Program Manager Hartzler: As
10 shown on the screen.

11 Restoration Chair Browning: As shown on the
12 screen; thank you.

13 Chairman Wilson: All right, any
14 discussion; all in favor, please say aye?

15 All Board Members: Aye.

16 Chairman Wilson: Is anyone opposed?
17 It carries.

18 Restoration Chair Browning: Okay, motion
19 number six is to fund the following project at the
20 amount requested and approve use of up to \$800,000 in
21 DEQ Flood Resiliency Blueprint Funds, and that's
22 project 428 - Wilmington - Wisteria and Clearbrook -
23 Restoration.

24 Chairman Wilson: All right, any
25 discussion of motion six; all in favor?

1 All Board Members: Aye.

2 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; all
3 right, that carries.

4 Restoration Chair Browning: Motion seven,
5 I'm recusing myself.

6 Chairman Wilson: Okay, this is to
7 fund project 2024-401 - Blue Ridge RCD - Angler Park -
8 Restoration project. Any discussion; all in favor,
9 please say aye?

10 All Board Members: Aye.

11 Chairman Wilson: Is anyone opposed?
12 All right, and that passed with Ann recusing.

13 Restoration Chair Browning: Motion eight is
14 to place the following project on the provisional list
15 at the amount requested, and this would be the first
16 item on our provisional list. And that's project 424 -
17 Watkins Dam Removal Restoration Design.

18 Chairman Wilson: Okay, motion eight,
19 any discussion; all in favor, please say aye?

20 All Board Members: Aye.

21 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; all
22 right, that passes.

23 Restoration Chair Browning: Motion nine, we
24 have a recusal from committee member Broughton, and we
25 are making a recommendation that the following project

1 on the provisional list at the amount requested, and
2 that's 429 - Winston-Salem - Silas Creek UT at Baity
3 Street.

4 Chairman Wilson: All right, motion
5 nine, any discussion; all in favor, please say aye?

6 All Board Members: Aye.

7 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; that
8 carries.

9 Restoration Chair Browning: Okay, our last
10 motion is to place the following projects on the
11 provisional list at the amount requested in the order
12 indicated, and I'll just say 409, 402, 415, 422 as
13 presented on the screen.

14 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Ann; any
15 discussion of motion 10; all in favor, please say aye?

16 All Board Members: Aye.

17 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; that
18 carries. All 10 motions carry; anything else from the
19 committee?

20 Restoration Chair Browning: That will do
21 it, all in a good day's work.

22 Vice-Chairman Walser: Very good day's
23 work.

24 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, and we
25 saw the dinosaurs.

1 Restoration Chair Browning: Yes.

2 Chairman Wilson: All right, that concludes
3 the two committee reports. And now, Zoe, do you want
4 to tee this up for closed session?

5 Ms. Burnet: I do, yeah. If it would
6 please you, I'll just say a little about what we're
7 going to do.

8 Chairman Wilson: Absolutely.

9 Ms. Burnet: Okay, so procedurally,
10 what's going to happen is that we need a motion to go
11 into closed session, and then we will clear the rest of
12 the room and staff except for Will and one other. We
13 will use this room for our closed session. And then
14 once we come out of closed session, we'll invite the
15 public back in and the rest of staff back in. Does
16 that make sense? Okay, I know that I've given you
17 guys the language for the session, so I guess at this
18 point --

19 Vice-Chairman Walser: I'd love to make a
20 motion.

21 Ms. Burnet: Thank you.

22 Vice-Chairman Walser: I'd like to move
23 that we go into closed session pursuant to North
24 Carolina General Statute Section 100 -- or Chapter --
25 Section 143-318.11, Subsection A3, to consult with an

1 attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege
2 related to the open title insurance claim on Project
3 Number 2018-045, the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust,
4 Salters Creek Landing.

5 Chairman Wilson: Okay, that's a motion.

6 Mr. Rusher: Second.

7 Chairman Wilson: And a second from Mike,
8 any discussion on this; all right, trustees, how do you
9 vote, please? All in favor, please say aye?

10 All Board Members: Aye.

11 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed; all
12 right, then I am going to -- do you want me to wait
13 until we clear the room to say this, or do you want me
14 to say it now, Zoe?

15 Ms. Burnet: That's a great question.
16 It looks like that you say it now, so let's say you say
17 it now, and we'll clear the room.

18 Chairman Wilson: Okay, this meeting of the
19 North Carolina Land and Water Fund will be in closed
20 session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute
21 Section 143-318-11(a)(3), to consult with an attorney
22 and preserve the attorney-client privilege related to
23 the open title insurance claim on 2018-045, the North
24 Carolina Coastal Land Trust, Salters Creek Landing. We
25 would like to invite our members of the public and

1 everyone else to leave the room, please.

2 (Closed session began at 4:02 P.M.)

3 (Open session resumed at 4:15 P.M.)

4 Chairman Wilson: All right, okay, we
5 are now going to resume the open session of the North
6 Carolina Land and Water Fund. I will entertain a
7 motion from a trustee.

8 Vice-Chairman Walser: So moved.

9 Chairman Wilson: Wait. Hold on.
10 Thank you; I like the enthusiasm; thank you.

11 Vice-Chairman Walser: I move that we
12 accept the closing of the -- oh, wait, sorry. I'd like
13 to move that we accept the closing of the title
14 insurance claim on Project 2018-045, North Carolina
15 Coastal Land Trust, Salters Creek Landing, and delegate
16 authority to the North Carolina Land and Water Fund
17 Executive Director to finalize and sign any
18 documentation necessary to effectuate the closure.

19 Chairman Wilson: Thank you, Jason;
20 Jimmy, I'd like to give you the opportunity to second
21 that.

22 Mr. Broughton: Second.

23 Chairman Wilson: Okay, any discussion
24 on this before we vote; all right, all in favor, please
25 say aye?

1 All Board Members: Aye.

2 Chairman Wilson: Anyone opposed?

3 Mr. Williams: Do you want to make
4 a final motion?

5 Chairman Wilson: All right, that
6 carries and back to our regular agenda, and I believe
7 the only thing left is to adjourn.

8 Vice-Chairman Walser: Yes, sir.

9 Chairman Wilson: All right, a motion
10 to adjourn?

11 Vice-Chairman Walser: So moved, Jason.

12 Chairman Wilson: Jason.

13 Restoration Chair Browning: Second.

14 Chairman Wilson: Second from Ann;
15 before we adjourn, I know I speak for all the trustees
16 in thanking our staff, just amazing work especially
17 with all of our complicated recusals; thank you so much
18 for keeping us organized and the dinosaur tour. All
19 right, all in favor of adjourning, please say aye?

20 All Board Members: Aye.

21 Chairman Wilson: I'm not even going
22 to ask for who's opposed. We are adjourned.

23 (The proceedings were concluded at 4:16 P.M.)

24

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

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of December, 2024.

Dona E. Overby

Dona E. Overby
Notary Public
Certificate No.: 19971920107