North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee

December 13, 2022

Main Agriculture Building - Hall of Fame Room, 2 W. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601
Time 1:30pm -2:05pm

Conference Call Number: 984-204-1487, 435 446 434#

Attendees:
Committee members present:

- Weston McCorkle, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- Rick Long, Assistant Secretary, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Brian McRae, Executive Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Dr. Myron F. Floyd, Dean, College of Natural Resources, NCSU
- Chester Lowder, Sentinel Landscape Partnership Liaison

- **Other Attendees**: Joe Austin, Edward Davis, Evan Davis, Corey Hoilman, Veronica Jamison, Anita Kennedy, Chester Lowder, Janine McLawhorn, Allison Rodriguez, Nancy Richardson, Sabrina Shaffer, Scott Shoulars, David Smith, Sarah Weavil, Rodney Woolard, Christian Vose, Kelly Jackson, Mary Lou Addor, Chris Bailie, Rhonda Murray, Marty Korenek, Steve Woodson, John Shaw, Bob Bardon, Brian Loadholt, Stephen Caple, Carmen Lombardo, Will Robinson, Tom Potter, Brian Pierce, Denise Evans, Julius George, and Michelle Lovejoy.

- **Reading of Ethics Reminder** ETHICS REMINDER: Under the State Government Ethics Act, the chairman is required to remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest or appearances of conflicts of interest. If you have any conflict or appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda, please state this for the record and refrain from inappropriate participation on that item.

- Minutes from the September 7, 2022, meeting was approved unanimously. Rick Long made the motion, and Chester Lowder seconded.

- Evan Davis reported on current military contracts: G&H Properties and Armstrong Farm Phase 1 and 2 with USAF-SJAFB, and McCotter Farm Phase 1 with NAVY/MCIEAST. These easement total over 2,160.47 acres. He reviewed the MOU with North Carolina Military Affairs Commission (NCMAC) and the expenses used since November 2022. He acknowledged Kelly Jackson, Executive Director of the NCMAC, and expressed appreciation for their support of the department and partners in their efforts in the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape. He reviewed the new FY 2023 RCPP renewal proposal with NC Sentinel Landscapes High Priority Protect Program. This project was

awarded $7 million for easement acquisition and will have the same priority areas and parcel criteria as the first grant from 2018. He also introduced Anita Kennedy to the group as the new Farmland Preservation Specialist. He reported the division is now fully staffed.

- Rick Long reported for the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He introduced Kelly Jackson, Executive Director of the NC Military Affairs Commission.

- A report was sent to the committee for the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: Due to a scheduling conflict, Jeff Michael and Will Summer cannot be here today, but would like to share the following on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Land and Water Fund. Since the last meeting of this group, the NCLWF Board has awarded $70.4 million in grants for the 2022 cycle, including 27,157 acres protected. Most of those acres will provide public access for hiking, hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities, including over 10,000 acres to be added to NC Wildlife Resources Commission game lands, 5,000 acres to NC State Parks, and 7,000 acres in local parks and preserves. Over $5.5 million was awarded to projects directly connected to protecting the military mission near MCAS New River Air Station, MCAS Cherry Point, US Army Fort Bragg, USAF Seymour Johnson, and USMC Camp Lejeune. And over $12.3 million was awarded to 15 acquisition projects protecting 8,300 acres in ENCSL counties. Applications for the next grant cycle will be released on December 15.

- David Smith asked if the North Carolina Department of Agriculture could work with others in the group to get a combined map showing parcels protected by participating state agencies. Evan Davis said he would work with Chrisitan Vose in Emergency Programs to start that project.

- Brian McRae with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission reported on his upcoming protection of lands: 500 acres with active timber harvests and Bear Garden longleaf pine planting on over 500 acres. In Pender County, almost 300 acres will be added to the Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land, and 45 more in Scotland will be added to Sandhills Game Land.

- Dr. Myron Floyd, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, reported on their new website under development, Forest and Farms are Good for North Carolina. A number of agencies and organizations within North Carolina, including the military, work together to support North Carolina's vast network of diverse private land managers. The new website is designed to accelerate access to landowners interested in technical, fiscal, and/or peer support that can help them achieve their landowner objectives. Forests and Farms Are Good for North Carolina is dedicated to landowners who want to learn about the variety of land management practices or new land management practices that have become available and will provide outreach and evidence-based knowledge to landowners of eastern forests and farms in proximity to military

installations and ranges.

The site is supported by funding from the United States Marine Corps Installation East. It is still under development with expanded outreach to critical partners and to include additional and specific content while providing a more user-friendly presentation in terms of infographics and other visuals. To access the site, visit https://ncworkinglands.ces.ncsu.edu/about-ncworkinglandssite. For feedback and interest, contact Mary Lou Addor at mladdor@ncsu.edu

New positions of interest within their program include:

- **Extension Associate Prescribed Fire & Fire Science (Hired) – Elliot Nauert**
  Provides leadership for the development, delivery, and evaluation of educational programming and materials with an emphasis on prescribed fire and fire science.
- **Extension Specialist: Forest Management**
  Provides leadership for the development, delivery, and evaluation of educational programming and materials with an emphasis on multi-use forest management and silviculture for woodland owners.
- **Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist**
  Provides leadership in designing, implementing, and evaluating public educational programs related to cost-share programs, income, and property taxation; and programming related to land retention, including heirs' property, estate planning, and conservation easements, including programming of equitable access and participation.

- Chester Lowder invited Mary Lou Addor to present the Sentinel Landscape Partnership Report:

  - **National Sentinel Landscape Workshops**
    Attended workshop in Sierra Vista, Az with the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape. Representing NC was Mary Lou Addor (Eastern NC SL Coordinator), Chris Baillie (NC Resilience/Climate Adaptation Coordinator), and Julius George (NRCS in NC). Other attendees included the Sentinel Landscape Coordinators, members of the Federal Coordinating Committee, Arizona stakeholders, and other interested parties. The focus was on strategic efforts within the Fort Huachuca landscape, demonstrations, as well as short and long-term accomplishments. The next workshop will be at Camp Ripley in June 2023. If others are interested in this trip, they were asked to email Lou. They will need to cover expenses and currently have not heard what additional funding Sentinel Landscapes can provide.

  - **National Reporting Effort**
    The REPI Office is initiating a new reporting approach to be initiated by TAMU. Although the effort is expected to start in January 2023, Lou will secure information on the data parameters prior so that partners have a sense of pending requests. Once the parameters are known, an email will be distributed to the various partners from which this request will seek data. This request is typically limited to federal, state, and private partners though may be expanded.

- **FY23 REPI Challenge (awaiting formal announcement – January 2023)**
  Mary Lou said there will be a very short turnaround from FY22 REPI Challenge award, which was mid-June - September 12, 2022. The focus will continue to be the connections among military readiness, working lands, and nature-based infrastructure across the landscape extending to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. Partners include the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, Triangle Land Conservancy, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail. Other partners including NC Coastal Federation and NC State College of Natural Resources are providing support to the development of the FY23 REPI Challenge Proposal. The focus is on securing a mosaic of working lands and climate resilience parcels in the Upper Neuse region, particularly Johnston and Wayne counties. The rapid land use change in this area (and Wake County), from pervious to impervious surfaces has decreased the land's and rivers' ability to absorb rainwater and riverine runoff without overwhelming downriver communities, including Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

- Weston McCorkle appreciated everyone's hard work on the joint efforts in the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape. He asked if there were any public comments. He said the next meeting would be in early February 2023.

- Weston McCorkle asked for a motion to close the meeting. Rick Long made the motion, and Brian McRae seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.