North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee

February 14, 2023

Main Agriculture Building - Hall of Fame Room, 2 W. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601
Time 1:30pm - 3:01pm

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
- Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
- Brian McRae, Deputy Director of Operations, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Dr. Robert Bardon, Associate Dean of Extension, 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, Jon Lanier, Janine McLawhorn, Allison Rodriguez, Nancy Richardson, Scott Shoulars, David Smith, Sarah Weavil, Rodney Woolard, Christian Vose, Kelly Jackson, Mary Lou Addor, Chris Baillie, Rhonda Murray, Marty Korenek, Steve Woodson, John Shaw, Tom Potter, Denise Evans, Michelle Lovejoy, Mikey Fulk, Hans Winkler, Jim Rupkalvis, Jason Rose, Ethan Brogden, Brian Williams, Brian Joyner, Amanda Sand, Dewitt Hardee, Neil Oakley, Will Best, Addie Thornton, and Emma Hughes.

- **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 December 13, 2022, meeting were approved unanimously. Jeff Michael made the motion, and Rick Long seconded.

- Evan Davis gave his report for NCDA&CS. He reviewed the following current contracts: G&H Properties with USAF-SJAFB in Hyde County; McCotter Farm Phase 1 with the US Navy and MCIEAST in Pamlico County; and Armstrong Farm Phases 1 & 2 with USAF-SJAFB in Hyde County. All easements are with Working Lands Trust, totaling 2,160.47 acres in the Sentinel Landscapes area.

- Evan Davis also reviewed all the acres conserved since the partnership began in 2016. He said that there are now 10,964.155 acres conserved across 19 recorded easements. He also reviewed the MOU with NC Military Affairs Commission, outlining the total funds that have been awarded to three projects and the expenses that have been incurred to date.

- Evan Davis reviewed the Integrated Mapping Resource that will display completed, ongoing and future easements between the entities involved with NC Sentinel Landscapes. This map will show all NCDA&CS/military partnership easements, along with protected lands from other partners such as the NC Wildlife Commission and the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. He listed Christian.Vose@ncagr.gov, Corey.Hoilman@ncagr.gov and evan.davis@ncagr.gov as department contacts for this ongoing project.

- Rick Long, the Installation Coordinator with the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, presented the report for his agency. He stated that NC DHHS had accepted Department of Defense CDC certification to assist military members and their families with childcare and to help support the cost of leave. He also provided updates for the upcoming project with MCCYN Plus, which had a projected March availability in NC as well as the MOTSU Concurrent Jurisdiction MOA. He also spoke on the MCOY NC Semifinalist Recognition Event and the NC Women Milvets Summit that was to be held on March 7 in Elizabeth City.

- David Smith discussed the National Guard taking over the old Ballentine Building off of Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. The newly-renovated area is going to hold artifacts from the National Guard.

- Jeff Michael gave his NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources update. He said there are no awards to report at this time. Michael discussed funding for projects and

application numbers – in 2022 they were given $12 million in appropriations, and he mentioned that they have 391 proposed projects to be reviewed. He is waiting on their board for approval.

- Brian McRae gave his NC Wildlife Resources Commission Report. He spoke on the upcoming and ongoing project with the Bear Garden tract, and that 386 additional acres had been preserved in partnership with 25 landowners and two government agencies since December 2022.

- Robert Bardon provided the College of Natural Resources and NCSU Report. He provided an updated breakdown of CNR Forest assets, ownership and acreage. He also mentioned that the College of Natural Resources had hired Dr. Kurt Smith as an assistant professor and extension specialist in forestry.

- Mary Lou Addor reviewed four publications of interest related to forest resources: Management by Objective: Successful Forest Planning; Protecting and Retaining Trees, A Guide for Municipalities and Counties in North Carolina; Managing Longleaf Pine Straw; and FloodWise Flood Mitigation and Reduction Practices Budget Tools. She also reviewed the Woodland Owners Notes. She discussed the Roanoke Electric Cooperative Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project that was to be held on March 14, 2023, and said there would also be one held in Halifax County on March 31 to help landowners with improving water quality, preventing soil erosion and reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

- Chester Lowder was asked to provide the update for the Sentinel Landscape Partnership. He said there are no projects going forward at this time. He stated that Mary Lou Addor was compiling data, and then turned the presentation over to her.

- Mary Lou Addor reported on the National Sentinel Landscape Partnership and the reporting process for 2022. She talked about the Partnership's participation in the Southeast Sentinel Landscapes Climate Resilience Summit hosted by the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS). One major outcome of the Summit was developing or expanding, where feasible, near-term smaller projects along with plans for landscape-scale efforts. The results of Summit were to be presented on February 21. Addor also reported on the 2023 Partnership Meetings and calls that had been completed to date.

- Will Best with the Department of Commerce discussed the Dare Bombing Range and the goals for the upcoming year, which would hopefully be a return to normal post-pandemic.

- Dewitt Hardee spoke on behalf of Working Lands Trust, and mentioned their struggles trying to get contracts closed with USAF and USDA and NCDA&CS.

- David Smith said the next Sentinel Meeting would possibly be held in mid-June.

- Weston McCorkle asked for a motion to close the meeting. Jeff Michael made the motion, and Mike Long seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.