North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee

September 2, 2021

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Phone Conference ID. 547 104 924#

I. Call to order

Commissioner Steve Troxler called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee on September 2nd, 2021. The meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams. A recording of the meeting can be seen online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH4GS2jtsRU

II. Roll call

Sabrina Shaffer conducted a roll call. The following committee members were present: Commissioner Steve Troxler, Chester Lowder, Cameron Ingram, Ariel Aponte, Jeff Michael, Dr. Myron Floyd, and Jeff Michael. Others present were: Evan Davis, Sabrina Shaffer, Coleman Simpson, Jonathan Lanier, Janine McLawhorn, Bryan Joyner, David Smith, Joe Austin, Mitch Peele, Will Best, Dr. Mary Lou Addor.

Commissioner Steve Troxler read the 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.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Sabrina Shaffer presented the minutes from the June 16th, 2021 meeting. A video of the meeting is available at www.youtube.com. Chester Lowder moved to approve the minutes, and Jeff Michael seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Committee Member Reports Pertaining to NC Sentinel Landscape Activities

a) Dewitt Hardee (NCDA&CS report) spoke on the 2021 REPI Challenge Application and the $1 million awards that NCDA&CS will be getting to work with all installations of the military in NC. Dewitt spoke on the easement closings in the Sentinel area and the upcoming closings within the next 90 days.

Commissioner Troxler asked about the match for the new upcoming military projects. Dewitt said that funding will be split 25 percent with NCDA&CS, 25 percent military, and 50 percent USDA. Projects without USDA will be a 50/50 match with NCDA&CS and military.

Chester Lowder asked how many acres total will be preserved. Dewitt Hardee said over 5,000 acres .

b) Ariel Aponte (NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs) reported on the upcoming MOTSU and Camp Butner calibrations and the proposed letters of support.

c) Jeff Michael (NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) reported on the summary of last year's totals for the Land and Water Fund and the National Heritage. There are 11 projects totaling over $6.8 million.

d) Shannon Deaton (NC Wildlife Resources Commission) reported that June through August on Recovery and Sustainment Program (RASP), over 830 acres of longleaf pine and native understory planted. Restoration timber harvests continue on Bear Garden and Stones Creek. She also spoke on the limitation of in-person meetings with Covid 19. As an alternative with our Green Growth Toolbox webinars, WRC has been conducting online Q&A sessions after the meetings. She also spoke on offering technical guidance and outreach to private landowners within NC Sentinel Landscape with limited interest expressed. So far there are only 2 landowners in Pender County and 3 in Moore County at this time participating in our Wildlife Conservation Lands Program. This program can help landowners receive property tax benefits for wildlife conservation on their lands.

e) Dr. Myron Floyd (College of Natural Resources NCSU) reported on the spaces between the bases project with Extension faculty and geospatial analytics faculty to investigate the sensitivity of landscapes to support military readiness and conservation practices under alternative urbanization scenarios. New initiative on campus hosted by the Provost called the Coastal Resilience and Sustainability Initiative. There may be opportunities to focus on the miliary within this initiative. List of up-coming events will be provided in the next Sentinel meeting. Also new MOU between NC State, Shaw University, and US Army Special Operations Command to explore opportunities using industrial hemp for special operations activities. This is very new, and updates will be provided. For NCSU's involvement with Sentinel Landscape Partnership, NCSU helped coordinate 15 meetings for development of 2021 REPI Challenge that secured the $1 million. Contributed to package to include Camp Butner and MOTSU in Sentinel Landscape. 2022 event to celebrate NC Sentinel Landscape; invite media and highlight work being done.

f) Chester Lowder (Sentinel Landscape Partnership) reported on the Partnership

and groups. Covid 19 has prevented in-person meetings, so Partnership has been working on virtual education events for landowners. Flood mitigation in eastern NC will continue to be an effort.

g) Update on the MOTSU and Camp Butner Consideration as part of the ENCSL was given by Ariel Aponte and Dr. Mary Lou Addor.

h) Review of the 2021 NC Sentinel Landscape Committee Report was given by Evan Davis.

i) Steve Troxler asked if there were any additional Committee Business Items at this time.

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Steve Troxler adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Veronica Jamison

Minutes approved by: