Buncombe County Land Conservation Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for August 19, 2026, at 8 am

Virtual Meeting

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1. Call Meeting to Order – Nancy Edgerton, Chair
2. Conflict of Interest – Nancy Edgerton, Chair

   In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interest and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board.
3. Approval of Agenda for August 19, 2026, Meeting – Nancy Edgerton, Chair
4. Approval of Minutes for July 15, 2026, Meeting – Nancy Edgerton, Chair
5. Public Comment
6. Update from Land Conservation Agencies
   a. Land Trust Updates
   b. BC Agriculture & Land Resources update
7. Project Decision – Camp Sequoyah
8. Announcements & Adjournment

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, JULY 15, 2026. IN PERSON

Members present:	Non-members present:
Nancy Edgerton, Chair Stagg Newman Cameron Farlow Bruce Schlessinger David Tuch Liesel Erb David Siripoonsup (quorum = 7/9)	Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Martha Ross– BCSWCD Jess Laggis – SAHC Michelle Pugliese – SAHC Tom Fanslow - CC Samantha Kirk – BC Staff Marika Lapham – BC Staff

There was a quorum, as there were at least 5 members present. The following discussion occurred between members present:

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 am.

- Nancy Edgerton called the meeting to order.

Conflict of Interest Statement: *In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interests and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board.*

David Tuch raised a potential conflict of interest in regard to the project discussion around Camp Sequoyah. Equniox Environmental has been informally contacted by SACH to possibly do a Phase 1 and possible ecological work on Camp Sequoyah. David Tuch recused himself from voting on the project. David Tuch remained in the meeting and could participate in the discussion today.

Approval of Agenda

- Stagg Newman made a motion to approve July 15, 2026, agenda, seconded by Cameron Farlow and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Liesel Erb made a motion to approve June 17, 2026, minutes, Bruce Schlesinger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies and BC Agriculture & Land Resources
Jess Laggis, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

- Yesterday, 7/14/2026, SAHC and BCSWCD closed on the Community Farm Expansion easement

- Camp Rock-Mount is proceeding with the project and expects there to be press released in the Citizen Times and WLOS
- North McDaris Ridge – This is the next project SAHC is working on. This property is in Weaverville and backs up to the South McDaris Ridge Easement

Tom Fanslow – Conserving Carolina

- Conserving Carolina has secured their funding for the Duck Branch project. Their application in March of 2025 was accepted by the NC Land and Water Fund.

Ariel Zijp – Buncombe County Soil & Water Conservation District

- Ag Advisory board approval process starts next week - 5 projects are being brought to the board.
- Evaluation Form for Camp Sequoyah to be filled out by the board - the discussion today, the notes from the property visit, and the submittal materials from Michelle at SAHC will all be available as resources to help complete the evaluation form.
- There are 2 application cycles being offered this year; one has since passed and the second will take place in January of 2027.
- Community Farm Expansion Easement was closed yesterday on 7/14/2026!
- Commissioners have not changed our budget, so we can continue to work with the original funding allotment of $750,000.
- A position has been opened for a stewardship position to bring easement monitoring back-in-house
- Conversation ensued on state funds.

<u>Project Discussion – Camp Sequoyah</u>

- The Board loved the property and the landowners – this is truly a special place and is exactly the type of land that this board wants to support/conserve.
    - Historical and conservation significance
- Conversation ensued with the viewshed piece, watershed quality. There are viewsheds of Woodfin Watershed, Reems Creek, and the Snowball Mountain Trail. There are also 2 headwater streams. Classifications of water quality is considered “trout waters”.
- Conversation ensued on its position, and the value of keeping a larger swath of area under conservation. So much historical significance as well.
- The private landowners are the perfect stewards for this land, and they seem like wonderful individuals to work with.
- Conversation ensued on the LCAB board member evaluation form and the point rankings as well.
- Future use of the strip in the Laurel Creek area (that divides the two conserved areas) – the owners intend to leave that to SAHC in their will, so at that point SAHC will own the entire property. SAHC will work with the Buncombe County so that SAHC does not both own and have the conservation easement in their name.

Announcements and Discussions

- Stagg Newman proposed a question: local landowner – how to conserve 50 acres close to the state parkland – verification that Kyle at SAHC is who to send all new and inquiries to.

Adjournment

- David Tuch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Liesel Erb, and the motion passed unanimously.

With no other announcements or discussions, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 am.