Buncombe County Land Conservation Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for September 16, 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 September 16, 2026, Meeting – Nancy Edgerton, Chair
4. Approval of Minutes for August 19, 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. Open Space Bond Presentation – Rachael Sawyer, BC Strategic Partnerships Director
8. Announcements & Adjournment

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, AUGUST 19, 2026. IN PERSON

Members present:	Non-members present:
Nancy Edgerton, Chair Patrick Hunter Bruce Schlessinger Stagg Newman David Tuch Lang Hornthal David Siripoonsup (quorum = 7/9)	Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Martha Ross– BCSWCD Jess Laggis – SAHC Michelle Pugliese - SAHC Tom Fanslow – Conserving Carolina Sam 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 a.m.

- 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.*

Approval of Agenda

- Stagg Newman made a motion to approve August 29, 2026, agenda, seconded by Nancy Edgerton and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- David Tuch made a motion to approve July 15, 2026, minutes, Bruce Schlesinger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies and BC Agriculture & Land Resources

Land Trust Updates

- Jess Laggis, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
  - Camp Rockmont closed August 5th
    - 336 acres, supported by LCAB and the BC Commissioners
  - Pinnacle Knob Slopes will hopefully be closing in October
  - Also working to help support the Open Space Bond hopefully coming in November 2026.
- Tom Fanslow, Conserving Carolina

- Phoenix Project- Project that is funded by Bezos Foundation and the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation to provide support for critically endangered species.
  - Federally endangered and threatened species affected in NC by the project are: (1) Hickory Gorge Green Salamander; (2) Southern Bog Turtle; (3) Appalachian Elk Tail (mussel in the French broad and upper TN valley drainage)
- Duck Branch – funding was provided by the NC Land and Water Fund

BC Agriculture & Land Resources Updates: Presented by Ariel Zijp.

- Currently working on four new conservation easements that total over 170 acres in the Newfound area of Leicester
  - These projects were approved at the August Agriculture Advisory board meeting with plans to present them at the Board of Commissioners on transactions costs,
  - Projects are funded by AGZ funding with matched bond funds.
- Submitted the planned AGZ request for a $2 million dollar match
- Buncombe County is celebrating Soil and Water 75th Anniversary Celebration on October 1st, 2026 at the Weaverville Community Center

Project Discussion - Camp Sequoyah

(David Tuch recused himself from the vote and discussion of the Camp Sequoyah project).

- Michelle Pugliese, SAHC
  - Received a score of 91.75, the highest LCAB ranking amongst projects completed here in Buncombe County
  - Funding requests – BC LCAB $288,000 + $63,500

➢ Stagg Newman made a motion to approve the Camp Sequoyah project with the above proposed budget. Lang Hornthal seconded and the motion passed on the vote.

Discussion amongst board on the timing of project presentations. Conversation ensued.

Announcements and Discussions

- Conservation Farmland Presentation/Event in the Jupiter area
  - The contact at the Appalachian Sustainably Agricultural Project will help with spreading the word on the event if the flyer is complete. Discussion ensued on the flyer and its agenda.

Adjournment

➢ Patrick Hunter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lang Hornthal and the motion passed unanimously.

With no other announcements or discussions, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 a.m.