Buncombe County Land Conservation Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for June 17, 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 June 17, 2026, Meeting – Nancy Edgerton, Chair
4. Approval of Minutes for May 20, 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. New Grant Process Starts with Presentations – Ariel Zijp & Martha Ross, BCSWCD
8. Announcements & Adjournment

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, May 20, 2026. Virtual Meeting.

Members present:	Non-members present:
Nancy Edgerton, Chair Lang Hornthal, Vice-Chair Bruce Schlesinger David Siripoonsup David Tuch Liesel Erb Cameron Farlow Patrick Hunter (quorum = 8/9)	Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Martha Ross– BCSWCD Jess Laggis – SAHC Hannah Coats – RiverLink Tom Fanslow – Conserving Carolina 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 **8:02 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.*

No conflict of interest raised by the Board.

Approval of Agenda

- Liesel Erb made a motion to approve May 20, 2026, agenda, seconded by David Tuch, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Lang Hornthal made a motion to approve March 18, 2026, minutes, Cameron Farlow seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies and BC Agriculture & Land Resources

- Hannah Coats, Riverlink
    - Was approved for the DEQ Floodplain grant funding – this will be used in a property in Swannanoa

    - Finalizing design of Gatewood Park
- Tom Fanslow, Conserving Carolina
    - Also received funding from the DEQ Floodplain grant
    - Hoping to receive funding from the Land & Water Grant for Duck Branch
    - Not currently working on projects in Buncombe County
- Jess Laggis, SAHC
    - On March 19, 2026 Buncombe County closed on the Deaverview property with SAHC holding the easement.
    - SAHC accepted a donation of 5.6-acre parcel adjacent to Pisgah View State Park from a local landowner. The planned use of this property is for it to become housing for park rangers at Pisgah View State Park.
- Ariel Zijp, Buncombe Ag and Land Resources
    - Kestrel Herb Farm Conservation Easement closed
    - Farmland Preservation County Ordinance Updated

<u>Overview of New LCAB Grant Process:</u> Presented by Ariel Zijp & Martha Ross.

- Transaction costs: land trust covers the costs, then provides invoices and proof of payment to request reimbursement
- Easement purchase: funding is released to the closing attorney at the easement closing.
- FY27 Application Cycle Timeline
    - All applications will be presented together
    - Between the June and July board meeting, board members and landowners will schedule a site visit and will have a chance to ask the landowners specific questions
    - In August, the board will vote on projects
    - Should time-sensitive, super-special projects, pop-up mid-year, these projects will have the ability to still apply. Conversation ensued.
- Why timeline change: requests from the soil and water director, the commissioners, and the BC staff. This should streamline processes greatly. Conservation ensued.
- Conversation ensued on timeline and land trust agencies concerns and questions for the new timeline.

<u>Land Conservation Presentation Community Event Planning</u>

- Farmland Preservation Presentation scheduled for November 12th at the Jupiter Farmland Meeting at the Jupiter Fire Department
    - Soil and Water Conservation District willing to fund up to $1000 for dinner/refreshments
    - 5:30 food, presentations from 6 – 7, then mingling/networking until 8 PM.
        - Welcome by LCAB board member David Tuch, 2 presentations (Jess Laggis at SAHC & Ariel Zijp at BCSWCD), Terri Wells would be happy to be the Moderator.
- Is there another area in the county that is a fantastic area for conservation that is not getting enough attention? Potential for winter meeting as well. Conversation ensued on prioritization maps.

Announcements and Discussions

- Ariel sent out an invitation for volunteers for the bond – the commissioners are still deciding whether they are going forward with another bond
- Eco foresters is partnering with various groups to hold wildfire mitigation and invasive species control workshops – all open to public
    - Haw creek, May 30
    - Yancey County in June 27th – partnering with SAHC
    - Organizing another in Transylvania County, likely in August

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 9:06 am.