Buncombe County Land Conservation Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for November 18, 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 November 18, 2026, Meeting – Nancy Edgerton, Chair
4. Approval of Minutes for October 21, 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. LCAB Evaluation Vote
8. Announcements & Adjournment

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, OCTOBER 21, 2026. VIRTUAL

Members present:	Non-members present:
Nancy Edgerton (Chair) Cameron Farlow Liesl Herb Patrick Hunter David Siripoonsup Bruce Schlesinger Lang Hornthal David Tuch Stagg Newman (quorum = 5/9)	Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Martha Ross– BCSWCD Jess Laggis – SAHC Tom Fanslow – CC Hannah Coats - Riverlink

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

Nancy Edgerton called the meeting to order at 8:01AM.

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

Patrick Hunter made a motion to approve October 21, 2026, agenda, seconded by Bruce Schlesinger, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Lang Hornthal made a motion to approve September 16, 2026, minutes, David Siripoonsup seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies and BC Agriculture & Land Resources

- Jess Laggis, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
    - The Lake Eden easement closed. This project was supported by the Buncombe County Open Space Bond and protected approximately 300 acres in the Black Mountain Area.
    - SAHC celebrated reaching the milestone of protecting over 100,000 acres of land.
    - The Pinnacle Knob Slopes conservation easement to close in December 2026. This project was approved by the Land Conservation Advisory Board and supported by the Buncombe County Open Space Bond.
- Hannah Coats, Riverlink
    - Riverlink acquired 4.5-acre parcel in Swannanoa that they are calling the Swannanoa Valley Preserve. They are working to do flood benching on site this winter. This work is being funded by the floodplain blueprint program. Once floodplain work is done, they plan to open the Preserve to the public for passive recreation.
    - They are almost finished permitting for the Gateway Park and the 3.5-acre Azalea Preserve near the Blue Ridge Parkway in East Asheville.
- Ariel Zijp, Buncombe County Farmland Preservation Program
    - The Agricultural Advisory Board approved the Sluder Branch Farm conservation easement – 60 acres in Leicester, adjacent to existing protected lands held in easement by SAHC.
    - Buncombe County is having a Friends of Ag Breakfast on November 10th from 8:00AM – 10:00AM at the Leicester Community Center. Topic will be the services offered by Buncombe County Ag and Land Resources Department (Soil & Water and NC State Cooperative Extension).
    - Jupiter Land Conservation Event will be held on November 12th from 5:30PM - 8:00PM at the Jupiter Fire Department. Speakers from multiple land conservation organizations will be present to present on different land conservation opportunities and options.

LCAB Evaluation Feedback & Discussion

- Discussion ensued regarding readjusting and clarifying the ranking points for evaluating forestland, biological values, and funding sources/leveraged funding. Board members discussed adding slightly more granularity to some of the rankings to better distinguish between different levels in the ranking, and to help Board members determine how to rank a project.
- See the attached form with comments on the current project evaluation form.

Announcements and Discussions

There were no announcements or additional discussions.

Adjournment

Patrick Hunter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cameron Farlow and the motion passed unanimously.

With no other announcements or discussions, the meeting adjourned at 9:00AM.