



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 2/15/2022

Consent Agenda

Department: Budget

Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget

Contact(s): Jennifer Harrison, Ag and Land Resources Director

Ariel Zipp, Farmland Preservation Manager

Subject: Establish Two Conservation Easement Projects

Brief Summary: The Buncombe County Land Conservation Advisory Board (LCAB) recommends approval and requests transaction costs for one easement project as well as the purchase price for one easement project, from FY22 Conservation Easement project funds.

The two new projects consist of Robinson Creek in Sandy Mush by Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, and Camp Woodson Phase 1 in Black Mountain by Conserving Carolina Land Trust.

- Robinson Creek, 82 acres in Sandy Mush - \$35,800
- Camp Woodson Phase 1, 234 acres in Black Mountain - \$120,000 (Easement Purchase)
 - This is a project allocation, funds won't be spent until easement closing which isn't expected until FY23 at the earliest.
 - Additional funding is needed to complete this project - \$135,000 request to LCAB is expected in FY23.

This aligns with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal: *preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts.*

No new funding is required to establish the two new easements projects. Approving the budget amendment will allocate \$155,800 of the \$750,000 FY22 Conservation Easement project funds, leaving a balance of \$210,747.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment establishing two conservation easement projects

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented