



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 7/19/2022

Consent Agenda

Department: Ag and Land Resources **Presenter(s):** John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s): Jennifer Harrison, Ag and Land Resources Director
Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Manager

Subject: Establish a Conservation Easement Project

Brief Summary:

The Buncombe County Land Conservation Advisory Board recommends approval and requests transaction costs for one easement project. The project consists of the Sandy Mush Creek/Covington Family Farm in the Sandy Mush Community by Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. This property is directly adjacent to conserved lands and has 1.3 miles of streams and headwater tributaries.

- The Sandy Mush Creek/Covington Farm establishing a +/-139-acre easement costing \$43,000 in transaction costs.

This aligns with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal: "Preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts."

This aligns with the Commissioner's Land Conservation goal of "Buncombe County will help conserve 20% of the county's total acres by 2030." In order to meet this 20% goal, the county needs to protect an additional 6,036 acres. This project will conserve 139 acres, leaving 5,897 acres to meet the conservation goal.

No new funding is required to establish this easement project.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve budget amendment

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented