



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: June 6, 2023

Consent Agenda

Department: Agriculture & Land Resources

Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s): Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture 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) requests transaction costs for two new easement projects from the FY23 Conservation Easement project funds. The two new projects consist of South McDaires Ridge in Weaverville held by Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), and Sand Branch in Fairview, held by Conserving Carolina (CC).

- South McDaires Ridge, +/- 171 acres in Weaverville – SAHC - \$47,200
- Sand Branch, +/- 65 acres in Fairview - CC - \$45,000

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

This aligns with Buncombe County Board of Commissioner's Land Conservation Goal of *protecting 20% of Buncombe County lands by 2030* .

No new funding is required. Approving the budget amendment will exhaust the FY23 Conservation Easements allocation.

Buncombe County has funded projects that will bring the total acreage of land protected in the County up to 79,342. With these additional acres, Buncombe County will have 79,578 acres of protected land and will need 4,518 additional acres to achieve the 20% by 2030 conservation goal.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented