

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

FORT McCLELLAN, ALABAMA

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Taken before SAMANTHA E. NOBLE, a Court
Reporter and Commissioner for Alabama at Large, at
Building 141-A, Basement Conference Room, Fort
McClellan, Alabama, on the 18th day of August, 1997,
commencing at approximately 6:30 p.m.

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1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Y'all want to
2 come to order?

3 MR. THOMASSY: No.

4 MR. TURNER: Was that no? You miss
5 one meeting and the parliamentary procedures go to
6 hell.

7 MR. THOMASSY: See what happens? I
8 miss a meeting, you got to retrain me.

9 MR. TURNER: Good evening. We've
10 got some new members, so let me introduce myself. I'm
11 Charles Turner and I'm the outgoing chairman of the
12 restoration advisory board. This gentleman, Mr. Fern
13 Thomassy, is the incoming chair. So, after tonight,
14 I'll be just sitting out there. But tonight, we're
15 going to try and work through a rather long agenda.

16 First, let me welcome our new
17 members, Mr. Buford, Mr. Faust, and Mr. Johnson.

18 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Mr. Johnson
19 didn't make it in tonight.

20 MR. TURNER: Oh, okay. Well, in
21 any event, gentlemen, it's good to see you. And
22 thanks for coming.

23 Let me call role. I am here.

1 Mr. Levy is not. Mr. Anderson? Mr. Ike Brown?
2 MR. IKE BROWN: Here.
3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Conroy?
4 MR. PETE CONROY: Here.
5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Dr. Cox?
6 Mr. Cunningham? Mr. Elser? Ms. Harrington?
7 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: I'm here.
8 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Hood?
9 MR. HOOD: Here.
10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mayor
11 Kimbrough?
12 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: Here.
13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Ms.
14 Longstreth? Mr. Miller?
15 MR. JAMES MILLER: Here.
16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Faust?
17 MR. ALAN FAUST: Here.
18 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Parks?
19 MR. JIMMY PARKS: Here.
20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Thomassy?
21 MR. THOMASSY: Here.
22 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Johnson?
23 Mr. Buford?

1 MR. JAMES BUFORD: Here.

2 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Reedy?
3 Mr. Johnson? We aren't interested anymore whether
4 we've got a quorum or not, right?

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Are we still in
6 that suspended position?

7 MR. RONALD HOOD: No. That
8 expired. We only suspended them --

9 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I wasn't here
10 when we suspended.

11 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We've got
12 eleven.

13 MR. FERNH TOMASSY: We've got
14 eleven, but we don't have a super majority.

15 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We've got a
16 quorum, though, don't we?

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: What about
18 elections, though?

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I don't know.
20 Anybody got a copy of the bylaws?

21 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Yes, I've got a
22 copy here. I'll take a look.

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Fern, why

1 don't you look at that? And there are some minutes.
2 Has everybody had a chance to look over them? Any
3 comments, additions, or corrections? Is there a
4 motion to approve?

5 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: So moved.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Who is our
7 second?

8 MR. RONALD HOOD: Second.

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Any
10 discussion? All in favor, say I. Opposed? No.

11 The guest speaker, Pete. It is my
12 pleasure to introduce one of our own members,
13 Mr. Conroy, who is going to discuss a feasibility
14 study he did for the Fort McClellan Reuse and
15 Redevelopment Authority on siting a wildlife refuge
16 here. Pete, go ahead.

17 MR. PETE CONROY: Let me go up
18 front.

19 MR. FERN THOMASSY: While Pete is
20 going up there, we're okay, we can go ahead and do it.
21 It just takes a two-thirds majority.

22 MR. CHARLES TURNER: That's what I
23 thought.

1 MR. PETE CONROY: What I wanted to
2 do tonight is go over, in a rather rapid manner,
3 probably around fifteen minutes so we can keep on
4 schedule, what this wildlife refuge concept is all
5 about. And mainly want to spend a good bit of the
6 time having you all ask whatever questions that you
7 all might have.

8 But it goes back to the local reuse
9 authority, Charles and Rob Richardson, asking me to
10 look into the feasibility of establishing one of these
11 things. And the history behind that goes even
12 earlier. We're trying to find out the best use of the
13 approximately ten, twelve thousand acres that wrap
14 around the cantonment area, the developed portion of
15 Fort McClellan.

16 And as you know, these are steep
17 slopes. This is a wooded area. Lots of hardwood
18 trees. And one particular resource that folks get
19 excited about and that's this long leaf pine
20 ecosystem. And some of y'all have seen long leaf pine
21 trees before. Up on this particular mountain, some of
22 them are old, up to two hundred and fifty years old.
23 Some are reportedly three hundred years old.

1 It's not a forest of trees that
2 old, but there are groupings of trees that old. And
3 in terms of -- you've heard of long leaf pines out
4 around the coast, but this is the largest long leaf
5 pine ecosystem -- they call it a montane (phonetic) or
6 a mountain long leaf pine ecosystem -- anywhere in the
7 world. There is no other place in the world with this
8 many, this old long leaf pine trees growing together.

9 And where we have these trees,
10 there is all sort of other critters and plants that go
11 along with them. And that's why biologists get
12 excited about it. In fact, even months ago, several
13 months ago when Fort McClellan was -- after the news
14 had gone out that we were on the BRAC list, Fort
15 McClellan was going to close, national news, among
16 environmentalists and conservationists started, well,
17 what are we going to do about the long leaf pine
18 ecosystem.

19 Auburn scholars started coming up
20 here and studying what we had to offer.

21 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Yes.

22 MR. PETE CONROY: And we, at that
23 time, started looking at what federal agency might be

1 appropriate to take this land from the Department of
2 Defense when the time came. And the three federal
3 agencies we looked at were logically, Forest Service,
4 U.S. Forest Service. We already have Talladega
5 National Forest, which is about the largest national
6 forest in the Southeastern United States. So, it
7 makes sense to say, hey listen, you guys want to just
8 add to your existing national forest. So, I made
9 contact with folks in Washington along those lines.
10 And the reception was warm, but not hot.

11 The next group we talked to was the
12 National Park Service. We had just cut deals with
13 them to establish this new national park that we have
14 up here near Fort Payne, the Little River Canyon
15 National Preserve. So, we talked to them about having
16 this established as a national park. That reception
17 wasn't warm, at all.

18 So, we went to the other federal
19 agency that cares about large blocks of land and that
20 was the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. And they are
21 managed within the Department of Interior. And they
22 were really interested from the very beginning,
23 because it has been mandated that they care about

1 these long leaf pine ecosystems.

2 They don't want more land to worry
3 about. They don't really need another refuge. They
4 have plenty of refuges as it is. But their federal
5 mandate is to worry about endangered ecosystems. And
6 sure enough, this is one of them.

7 Now, when you think of wildlife
8 refuges, what do you think of? Probably not
9 mountains. You think of water, you think about ducks,
10 you think about geese. You think about places like we
11 have here in Alabama like the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge.
12 You think about the Eufala Wildlife Refuge.

13 Any of y'all been to any of these
14 places? They ring a bell? Okay.

15 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Wheeler.

16 MR. PETE CONROY: Wheeler? Well,
17 when we started to look at Wheeler and Eufala as
18 models, we have other -- I think we have actually five
19 national wildlife refuges in The State of Alabama,
20 including the nation's smallest national wildlife
21 refuge, which is like smaller than this -- I think
22 it's about four acres, the size of it. But
23 nevertheless. The bonzicore (phonetic) is another

1 one.

2 But the two of them that we looked
3 at were the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge and Eufala. And
4 both of those places are enjoying as many as seven
5 hundred and fifty thousand visitors a year. People
6 like the sound of vacationing at wildlife refuges.
7 And these wildlife refuges are considered terminal
8 vacation points. Meaning, it's not like they're
9 driving somewhere else and happen to drop by these
10 wildlife refuges, this is the terminus of their trip.
11 They seek out wildlife refuges and go there, spend
12 their money, watch wildlife, and then go home. And so
13 that sounded pretty good to us.

14 And we continued to look at the
15 feasibility of these wildlife refuges. And it was
16 about that time, I was -- Charles and Rob said, go
17 ahead and really look at this thing carefully. So, I
18 just finished pulling together this feasibility study,
19 which has about a couple of dozen chapters.

20 And along with that what are a
21 couple of appendices. One is the biological
22 appendices and the other one is the general appendix
23 that describes how this is taking place in other

1 places and gives lots of information about the natural
2 resources that we have out here at Fort McClellan.

3 The long leaf pine is certainly the
4 number one thing that excites biologists. But in terms
5 of tourists down the road, I would say the thing that
6 will -- I don't think if I was in Atlanta and I was
7 looking for a place to vacation, I'm not sure that the
8 long leaf pine in and of itself would be, hey, honey
9 let's load up the kids and let's go look at some
10 trees, even though they're big trees. They're
11 certainly some people that would be interested in
12 that.

13 The thing that I think will
14 interest folks is -- and I know this at first may not
15 be believable -- but the thing that will interest
16 people is bird watching. And we have -- look at some
17 statistics. And as a bird watcher, I wasn't too
18 surprised. But it's kind of fun to look at some of
19 these studies.

20 Over the last five years, various
21 recreational activities have been ranked in terms of
22 their overall popularity. And actually, I apologize.
23 You don't have this. It looks like you have this, but

1 this is something else that I don't know, somebody --

2 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What's in
3 there, Pete?

4 MR. PETE CONROY: That's another
5 three ring binder of propaganda.

6 MR. JAMES MILLER: We thought we
7 had some interesting stuff.

8 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Would we do
9 that to you?

10 MR. PETE CONROY: So, I looked at
11 these various areas and pulled together some
12 statistics. All right, I want to get your opinions.
13 Some of the areas are tennis, hunting, fishing,
14 bicycling, camping, golf, walking, skiing, hiking,
15 and, of course --

16 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Birdwatching.

17 MR. PETE CONROY: -- bird watching.
18 What's gone up? What's gone down in popularity?

19 MR. THOMASSY: Golf.

20 MR. PETE CONROY: Golf?

21 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Gone up.

22 MR. PETE CONROY: Golf indeed has
23 gone up about 30 percent over the last five years.

1 MR. FERN THOMASSY: True.

2 MR. PETE CONROY: Tennis?

3 MR. JIMMY PARKS: Up.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: Down 25 percent.

5 Walking? I mean, outdoor walking.

6 If you've driven past Lenlock Community Center and you
7 see the nuts out there at 5:30 in the morning.

8 Walking has gone up 40 percent. Skiing, 60 percent.

9 Hiking, has gone up 90 percent. And bird watching,
10 thank you, has gone up about 155 percent. We didn't
11 talk about hunting.

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Are those
13 numbers from the National Audubon Society?

14 MR. PETE CONROY: No, they're not.
15 This is something called the Economic Contributions of
16 Bird and Water Fowl Recreation in The United States.

17 And it's a contractor that's Southwick
18 Associates. And they live in New York City and they
19 don't probably even talk like we do.

20 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Bird and water
21 fowl?

22 MR. CHARLES PARKS: If you went
23 from one to three, that would be 150.

1 MR. PETE CONROY: What is not
2 calculated here is the volumes.

3 MR. JIMMY PARKS: Right.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: And that's
5 important to remember. But what's also interesting is
6 that hunting and fishing have gone down.

7 MR. ANDERSON: Well, you know,
8 they're from New York City, they just don't know any
9 better. And a lot of that, truthfully, is because
10 we're not as rural as we were.

11 MR. PETE CONROY: Right.
12 Nationally, we're not as rural. And we're all
13 looking for those rural, recreational opportunities.

14 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Pete --

15 MR. RONALD HOOD: Since you
16 mentioned bicycling, what did that do?

17 MR. PETE CONROY: Oh, yes,
18 bicycling went up about 5 percent.

19 MR. RONALD HOOD: Is that all?

20 MR. PETE CONROY: Which I was
21 surprised by. I would have assumed that it had gone
22 up more.

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Pete, with

1 that old growth, long leaf pine, isn't there a high
2 demand or isn't that very valuable for some kind of
3 building? Is it ship building or --

4 MR. PETE CONROY: Long leaf --

5 MR. GARY HARVEY: God, Charles
6 wants to cut them down.

7 MR. RONALD HOOD: Let the National
8 Forest Service have them.

9 MR. PETE CONROY: Long leaf
10 actually is not a bad wood for building.

11 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Because I read
12 about somebody that tries to bring sinkers up like out
13 of Mobile Bay.

14 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes.

15 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Because
16 they're still, even if they've been down there for a
17 hundred years, they're still worth a lot. What I'm
18 thinking is: Isn't there selective cutting that goes
19 on in the long leaf?

20 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes, there is.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is that
22 valuable? Who would get the revenue from it?

23 MR. PETE CONROY: Anyone who wanted

1 to do it could get revenue from it.

2 MR. CHARLES TURNER: No. I'm
3 talking about if this is a national wildlife refuge,
4 they're not going to let me go up there with a skidder
5 --

6 MR. PETE CONROY: Right.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: -- and clear
8 about fifty acres.

9 MR. PETE CONROY: So, we looked at
10 the timber interest very, very carefully. And as you
11 know, one of the state agencies that was very
12 interested in possibly obtaining this twelve thousand
13 acres was the Alabama Forestry Commission. And upon
14 further investigation, they dropped the concept like a
15 hot potato. And the reason was: All of these trees
16 are on thirty-five and forty-five degree slopes. It's
17 real steep out there.

18 So, to get a skidder in and take
19 out a tree, if you want to follow the NEPA process,
20 which is this whole process of watching the endangered
21 species act and causing erosion problems and that sort
22 of thing, if you go in there with a skidder and you
23 take out a tree, you are responsible for mitigating

1 all the erosion that you might cause. And they're
2 saying on thirty-five, forty-five degree slopes, it's
3 just not cost effective.

4 We immediately started looking at
5 something that was taking place here at Fort
6 McClellan. It's a borrow pit. And you're familiar
7 with -- any of y'all -- right here on base there is a
8 -- I didn't know the term --- but a borrow pit is
9 where you borrow gravel from one place and maybe then
10 spread it out over a new road somewhere else. You're
11 borrowing one thing and putting it somewhere else.
12 And they did that on some of the steep slopes. It was
13 probably a twenty-five, thirty-five degree slope area
14 where this was done.

15 And according to this office here,
16 they have spent somewhere between two hundred and two
17 hundred and fifty thousand dollars mitigating the
18 erosion problems that have been caused by that one
19 small borrow pit. So, that kind of thing --

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: But they do
21 selective cutting out here, now. Does long leaf pine
22 only grow on thirty-five or forty degree slopes?

23 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes. It does

1 not, no. Of course, it's coastal where it's just
2 completely coastal plane. But the long leaf pines
3 that remain at this point are the ones that are up on
4 the ridges.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Oh.

6 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: So, they
8 haven't ever been cut and they won't ever be cut is
9 what you're suggesting?

10 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes. And in
11 fact, when you look at conservation nationwide, the
12 resources that are left weren't there because our
13 forefathers were environmentalists. It was because it
14 was just hard to get to stuff early on.

15 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Right.

16 MR. GARY HARVEY: I mean, isn't
17 there another contributing factor, the fact that we
18 burn our ranges regularly and it helps it grow?

19 MR. PETE CONROY: Thank you.
20 That's absolutely one of the keys to this entire
21 wildlife refuge issue; that is, because artillery has
22 been lobbed into the mountains for so many years,
23 there has been a very regular fire regimen.

1 And Smokey the Bear probably was
2 wrong. Stopping forest fires are not good for all
3 ecosystems. And in fact, when Smokey the Bear has
4 come into some areas, you've had the extinction of
5 certain species.

6 And by having a regular fire regime
7 here up on the mountains, you have burned out that
8 under story, the sub-story and allowed for these long
9 leaf pines to flourish. In fact, to grow a long leaf
10 pine tree, you need a good fire in order to let the
11 seed germinate. Fern?

12 MR. FERN THOMASSY: This area
13 you're talking about then is in the UXO area. And
14 probably all of the hiking and all of the walking
15 would have to be very well controlled and cleared and
16 everything else. And the likelihood of going in there
17 and cutting, even disregarding what you've said, which
18 certainly is a primary factor, is slim or none, unless
19 they clear the whole area.

20 MR. PETE CONROY: Right. When you
21 look at the unexploded ordnance -- the tan area is
22 essentially the area we're talking about. And both
23 that twelve thousand acre tan area probably arguably

1 six to seven thousand acres of that may be
2 contaminated with unexploded ordnance.

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Pete, I didn't
4 remember it coming that far south. I thought the line
5 went pretty much due east.

6 MR. PETE CONROY: Maybe so. I have
7 the map right here. I think that is probably far more
8 that what we're talking about. And --

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And not all of
10 that is hilly. What I'm getting at is: The base cuts
11 on timber out here, now.

12 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes.

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And turns over
14 part of the local -- the revenue to local government.

15 MR. PETE CONROY: Right.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What's going
17 to happen after it becomes a national wildlife refuge?
18 Will --

19 MR. PETE CONROY: Only the
20 mountainous areas would be a part of the national
21 wildlife refuge. So, I may have --

22 MR. CHARLES TURNER: So, I mean, it
23 would start at the bottom of the hill?

1 MR. PETE CONROY: Basically so,
2 yes.

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Okay.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: And in fact, I'm
5 looking at this map right here. And we did use that
6 as what we're describing here as a maximum boundary of
7 suitable land.

8 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, here is
9 your topo.

10 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes. And you'll
11 see fairly steep mountains throughout that whole area
12 right there. But certainly --

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: It gets real
14 steep back over in here.

15 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes, exactly.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: This is
17 flatter and this is flatter right here and this is
18 flat.

19 MR. PETE CONROY: The unexploded
20 ordnance issue is key in all of this. Certainly, a
21 lot of that ridge might have been a good place to
22 build beautiful, you know, quarter million, hundred
23 million -- hundred thousand dollar homes, million

1 dollar homes. But because of the unexploded ordnance
2 issues, anything that's described as subsurface
3 activity would not be wise. In fact, it would not be
4 allowed without the excavation of this unexploded
5 ordnance.

6 And we have learned that it's
7 almost impossible. And in fact at this stage, it is
8 impossible to dig these artillery rounds out from
9 underground, without causing the same erosion problems
10 that we were just describing as it related to pulling
11 in a skidder or something like that.

12 The other thing is identifying
13 where this -- where the -- what -- if you're taking
14 your magnetometer, which is the only technology we
15 really have right now for finding an artillery round,
16 and you detect metal, well you're pretty much
17 obligated to go down there and find out what kind of
18 metal that is.

19 Well, the problem with that is that
20 these mountains are filled with naturally occurring
21 ferrous material. I mean, Anniston was founded by
22 virtue of the fact that we had all these great, rich
23 iron deposits. And so, it would be tricky. You run

1 your magnetometer up there and say, hey, there is
2 metal down there. You dig down and it's another large
3 module of naturally occurring iron.

4 And when I talked to the experts at
5 this UXO conference that a number of us went to, they
6 really don't have any gadgets to determine the
7 difference between a rock and a round. And so, it
8 would be very, very tricky to pull this -- the
9 artillery out of the ground without causing huge
10 environmental problems. In fact, we joke about it and
11 say, if you were to pull the unexploded ordnance out
12 of Choccolocco Mountain, after the first good rain,
13 most of Choccolocco Mountain would kind of float right
14 down the Coosa River. And I could understand why that
15 may be the case, especially after looking at that
16 borrow pit situation.

17 In terms of unexploded ordnance,
18 what they've done on other military installations,
19 yes, you may have dangerous artillery under the soil.
20 It can be embedded as deeply as thirty or forty feet,
21 arguably forty feet, some people say.

22 Nevertheless, what they've
23 determined to be safe is that on a surface hiking area

1 -- and of course hiking, hunting is all considered
2 surface activity -- what they're -- what the Army has
3 determined as being safe is if you can clear the
4 trail, itself, to a one foot depth, that's adequate.

5 If you have a enormous amount of
6 very clean signage saying, there may be dangerous
7 artillery in the woods, stay on the trails, the Army
8 has determined in other instances, that's good enough.
9 And probably -- if you could put on the bottom of
10 signs, you'll blow up if you don't pay attention, I
11 think that probably people would pay attention.

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Don't you
13 think that would have a chilling effect on the ingress
14 of tourist stops?

15 MR. PETE CONROY: That was the
16 specific question that I asked during the UXO
17 conference. And of the four installations that have
18 had this exact scenario I said -- you must have left
19 the room -- but I asked -- well, that panel, remember
20 the four folks at the panel, I said --

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Which panel?

22 MR. PETE CONROY: It was the U.S.
23 Fish & Wildlife Service and Forest Service were two of

1 the folks represented. Fort Ord was up on the stage
2 and Dolly Sods Wilderness were up on stage.

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think I came
4 in late. Go ahead.

5 MR. PETE CONROY: And I asked those
6 guys, I said, what impact has the presence of
7 unexploded ordnance had on tourists' perception of
8 this facility as being safe. And they said, virtually
9 none.

10 They do surveys on a regular basis.
11 And I was really surprised to hear that very few of
12 the surveys brought in any concern about they're bombs
13 on those trails. Which may be good, may be bad. But
14 nevertheless, it was interesting to me that that was
15 not a deterrent as it relates to tourist attractions.

16 MR. MARK ANDERSON: These were all
17 government agencies that were telling you that,
18 though, right?

19 MR. PETE CONROY: Government
20 agencies. And I've had to back up by the Audobon
21 Society type (inaudible) surrounding there. But, yes,
22 it has been --

23 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Just checking.

1 MR. PETE CONROY: But, yes, it has
2 been. And you think they would stay nervous about
3 that kind of thing. And if they're not, they probably
4 should.

5 MR. MARK ANDERSON: If I could make
6 a point about what you just hit on. Fern got the
7 DERTF to comment on this during their meeting.

8 MR. PETE CONROY: Right.

9 MR. MARK ANDERSON: The only great
10 concern that we have with the unexploded ordnance is
11 that once we tell DoD that this is what we find to be
12 acceptable, we'll never -- we will never be able to
13 get it cleaned beyond that, with the exception of if
14 they find something when they're doing some type of
15 excavation, there are provisions for them to do
16 emergency permitting and cleanup and like that. So,
17 whatever fate ultimately the reuse authority decides
18 on and we -- you know, we coax the base cleanup team
19 into launching out on, that's what we'll have to live
20 with with that area forever.

21 MR. PETE CONROY: It's a crap
22 shoot. And the crap shoot is that will there be a
23 technology in the future that would allow us to pull

1 this stuff out of the mountains. And frankly, the
2 experts that we talked to said they just can't imagine
3 that there would be.

4 MR. CHARLES TURNER: It's a moot
5 point, anyway, isn't it, because the wildlife folks
6 aren't interested unless they get -- the government
7 keeps a fee simple interest in the property.

8 MR. PETE CONROY: That's right.

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: So, we don't
10 have anything to say about future use or initial use,
11 because --

12 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes, unless it's
13 determined that you don't want -- you would rather
14 hold out for that chance of there being a technology
15 some day in the future. And when you look at some of
16 these numbers in terms of the amount of money that can
17 be brought into a community, tourism, the number two
18 industry in Alabama, the third largest retail sales
19 industry in the United States, with over four hundred
20 and twenty-four billion dollars in sales, eco-tourism
21 is profound in terms of its ability to bring in
22 dollars.

23 MR. MARK ANDERSON: What's

1 profound?

2 MR. PETE CONROY: The monies that
3 come with people recreating.

4 MR. MARK ANDERSON: What's
5 profound? Does your study have a projection on the
6 revenues for --

7 MR. PETE CONROY: We haven't gone
8 that far. That's probably the next step. And that's
9 what we've been asked to do by the LRA is to go beyond
10 the feasibility study and to go into an actual
11 development phase. And at that time, what I was going
12 to do is ask the folks at Jacksonville State
13 University to do one of their economic potential
14 studies, like they did for the Anniston Museum of
15 Natural History, based on the six to seven million
16 visitors per year they determined -- I'm sorry. Based
17 on the hundred thousand visitors the museum has every
18 year, it was determined that the museum has a -- using
19 the multiplier factor, the triplicate factor, the
20 museum has a six to seven million dollar impact on the
21 community. So, those same sorts of studies need to be
22 done specifically here.

23 MR. GARY HARVEY: One of the things

1 that might make things a little bit better is once Ron
2 and Huntsville starts pinpointing and doing some
3 sampling out there and get our analysis, you may find
4 that a small part can just be walking only and other
5 parts be camping. So, you know, the verdict is not
6 in. Everybody is going, you know, the big hand wave
7 we do at headquarters, you know, UXO. But Ron's
8 analysis ought to be able to take some areas out of
9 it.

10 MR. PETE CONROY: Exactly.

11 MR. GARY HARVEY: And it might all
12 end up being a wildlife refuge, but you only have
13 signs on this part where the default only goes to --

14 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes. When you
15 actually look at the archival study, which I know
16 you've done a million times, the impact areas overlaid
17 on this right here doesn't have a huge --

18 MR. GARY HARVEY: See, that's
19 suspected.

20 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes. That's
21 nothing more than people's best guesses.

22 MR. GARY HARVEY: And the analysis
23 will start right out and say, hey, this area is a real

1 high risk and this isn't. And that's the part that
2 Ron is going to maybe go into.

3 And then the other part, another
4 path we're going on between TRADOC and DA, Huntsville
5 is talking a contract to bring the -- and they
6 (inaudible) and you saw that at the UXO conference, a
7 lot of new technology out there. And they're looking
8 to bring some of that down here. And while you still
9 can (inaudible), you know, without ruining the slopes,
10 we'll be able to find out better what our problem is
11 --

12 MR. PETE CONROY: Right.

13 MR. GARY HARVEY: -- when we
14 quantify it. So, we may be able to quantify it
15 better.

16 MR. PETE CONROY: One of the
17 questions the LRA brought up during the presentation
18 of this report was that -- and this was a question,
19 not to me but to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
20 Representatives. The question was: Would the U.S.
21 Fish & Wildlife Service be amenable to some sort of an
22 MOA with Department of Defense in experimenting as it
23 relates to pulling unexploded ordnance out of the

1 ground. Like, could you designate certain bad areas
2 for unexploded ordnance removal research. And they
3 said, yes, sure, that kind of thing would be
4 acceptable.

5 MR. GARY HARVEY: But that stuff
6 will start before we're ready for turnover, too,
7 because Huntsville is committed to -- and so is DoD by
8 the traffic I've been reading, to bring some of this
9 technology down here to look.

10 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Is your concept
11 then to take that area that would be designated as a
12 wildlife refuge and have it, for instance, taken over
13 by the Fish and Wildlife -- what is it, an agency?

14 MR. PETE CONROY: Fish and Wildlife
15 Service.

16 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Service. And
17 they then would develop it into whatever would be a
18 park, would be attraction to people to come in here.
19 And then around it, you would have the private
20 development that would actually be the economic engine
21 for the utilization of that.

22 MR. PETE CONROY: Perfect example
23 would be having a KOA facility on the outside of the

1 boundary.

2 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Right. And the
3 trails that would hook in.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes.

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: And you would
6 have all the maps and all the activities generated
7 within that area by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

8 MR. GARY HARVEY: And that's --

9 MR. PETE CONROY: Here was a study
10 that was done right here.

11 MR. GARY HARVEY: That's why
12 (inaudible) is working at it for the LRA as part of
13 the overall reuse plan.

14 MR. PETE CONROY: Exactly. One of
15 the --

16 MR. JIMMY PARKS: Is there a fee
17 charge for using the wildlife refuge?

18 MR. PETE CONROY: No fee, at all.

19 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Well, you know,
20 that's evolved. It's just like fees are starting to
21 come up out in Yellowstone and other places. There
22 very well could be, I think, in the future, because
23 the government just can't sustain itself without

1 charging fees. Plus, it's a way of limiting the
2 number of people that show up after awhile.

3 MR. RONALD HOOD: Yes, those parks
4 out there are primarily just to control the amount of
5 people.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think you're
7 right. Well, they're eventually going to go to a lot
8 --

9 MR. PETE CONROY: I can say there's
10 not a wildlife refuge anywhere in the country right
11 now that has that. It's not unforeseeable, though,
12 like the U.S. -- the Park Service is looking at that
13 kind of thing right now.

14 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Right.

15 MR. PETE CONROY: Alabama state
16 parks is now -- you know, they're going from fifty
17 cents to a dollar in some of their parks. So, it may
18 happen. But now, at this stage, it does not happen.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: So, it sounds
20 like that if this one is successful and the way that
21 others in Alabama have been, would be that the local
22 community be the ultimate beneficiary, as far as
23 economic development.

1 MR. PETE CONROY: And then another
2 thing you look at that I think is exciting and that
3 is, when you look at this map right here, which is a
4 map of the refuges throughout the United States, when
5 you look at little old Alabama right here, you can see
6 a lot of these little, you know, duck symbols all over
7 the place.

8 But when you look right here in
9 Alabama, there is a nice, big, old void. And what I'm
10 getting at here, we would have the refuge closest to
11 that little town called Atlanta with three million
12 people looking for a place to recreate. And as soon
13 as it is designated as a wildlife refuge, the Rand
14 McNally people, so I have been told, instantly puts
15 one of those nice, little duck signs on all the road
16 maps. And so --

17 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I was looking
18 to see if Fern had put a lame duck sign on --

19 MR. PETE CONROY: Very good, very
20 good.

21 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Put your feet
22 up on the table.

23 MR. PETE CONROY: There are very

1 few national wildlife refuges near Atlanta, so that
2 would be a place for people to come recreate.

3 You were asking specifically about
4 some numbers.

5 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Actually, back
6 on that last piece, I think, too, Triple AAA will put
7 wildlife refuges on the flip side of all their little
8 trip things.

9 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes, the trip
10 tips?

11 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Yes. So, we
12 could probably count on that.

13 MR. PETE CONROY: This is one thing
14 that I found of interest. Some guy did a study. And
15 he looked at two vectors, one was the total amount of
16 money spent by visitors; two, national wildlife
17 refuges; and the other one was overall economic impact
18 of visitors on the communities surrounding wildlife
19 refuges.

20 He said it was done with simple
21 arithmetic models without economic multipliers,
22 without economic multipliers, which I think that's
23 exaggerated and he would choose to exaggerate.

1 The total expenditures to eight
2 national wildlife refuges -- and they picked eight
3 that were a variety from little ones to big ones. But
4 it says, the total expenditures of visitors to the
5 eight national wildlife refuges during their entire
6 trips added up to over one hundred million dollars.
7 And that included air fair, car rental, gas, lodging,
8 meals, and other travel expenditures. It says, the
9 actual economic impact of visitors on the community
10 surrounding each of the refuges varied from just under
11 a million dollars at Quivira -- which is Q-U-I-V-I-R-A
12 -- National Wildlife Refuge, to about fourteen million
13 at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. And it was
14 determined that the average eco-tourist was worth
15 between twelve and a hundred and forty-five dollars
16 per visit to the local community's economy. And that
17 is -- that is consistent with what we saw at the
18 Anniston Museum of Natural History.

19 So, a lot of different issues to
20 look at. And there are also some really good models
21 to look at. And what I did here is looked at a number
22 of bases that have done this very similar thing.

23 I'll read them quickly. And I

1 apologize. The Wood Bridge Refuge, Midway Atole
2 (phonetic), Fort Ord, Loring Air Force Base, Alameta
3 (phonetic) Naval Station, Scaggs Island (phonetic),
4 Mare (phonetic) Island, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Joliet
5 (phonetic) Arsenal, Sudberry Training Annex
6 (phonetic), Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, Jefferson
7 Proving Ground, Metagora Island (phonetic) -- fast --
8 and another one is Fort -- Northport Fort Devans. All
9 of those installations have been involved, to some
10 degree, of trans -- or reusing their military bases
11 that had unexploded ordnance problems or military use
12 into wildlife refuges or national forests.

13 So, this is certainly not the first
14 time this has been done. It's been done many other
15 times. This one called Jefferson Proving Ground is
16 probably one of the better models. And like you had
17 said earlier, even though that was -- they have far
18 more unexploded ordnance than we have, what they've
19 done there is the Army realized the Army really didn't
20 want to hang on to that base and be a steward to that
21 base forever. And they thought cleaning it up would
22 be terribly expensive. One of the projections was
23 sixteen billion dollars to clean it up. Which is all

1 hypothetical and probably crazy to even consider. But
2 it would have been really expensive to clean that one
3 up.

4 The military said, well, clearly,
5 what we would rather do is give money to the U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife Service to run it as a refuge. So right
7 now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is being given
8 a quarter of a million dollars a year for the next
9 three years to get it started as a national wildlife
10 refuge.

11 So, that's exactly the kind of
12 thing that we think might work here, is to get the
13 Department of Defense to give money to the U. S. Fish
14 and Wildlife Service to get this thing started as a
15 refuge --

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Can you go
17 ahead and authorize that tonight, Lisa?

18 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Sure. It's
19 done.

20 MR. PETE CONROY: 250,000 --

21 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Yes, 0000.

22 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Pete, this
23 doesn't detract from what you were proposing, but it's

1 just a point of clarification for me. You had said
2 clearance to one foot depth. Yet, when we had a
3 briefing recently on UXOs, I heard a four foot depth,
4 I thought.

5 MR. GARY HARVEY: There's three
6 default -- they're default limits, one, four, and ten.

7 MR. MARK ANDERSON: And ten, yes.

8 MR. FERN THOMASSY: And I don't
9 understand the difference between them, I believe.
10 That's what's generating my question.

11 MR. PETE CONROY: For example, in a
12 camping area, where there may be people putting tent
13 stakes in the ground, it immediately goes to four
14 foot.

15 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Right. One is
16 surface, four is where you're going to actually have
17 anything, and then ten is construction with sub-bases.

18 MR. PETE CONROY: Exactly.

19 MR. MARK ANDERSON: So, if we build
20 a building to sell tickets to the -- to the
21 attractions and give out maps to the facilities and so
22 on, that's got to go to a ten foot level. If we
23 establish primitive camp sites, those have to go to

1 four foot level. And the trails have to be cleared to
2 a one foot level.

3 MR. PETE CONROY: Precisely. And
4 one of the things that I think is interesting, too,
5 you've seen a fire break, you know, where the fire --
6 where the people who worry about forest fires, they
7 take these small bulldozers through the woods and
8 essentially dig ruts in the woods so a fire won't go
9 from one side -- theoretically, from one side to the
10 other side. There is a network of fire breaks up here
11 on this mountain that is just amazing.

12 Do you have that map by any chance?

13 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Do you --

14 MR. PETE CONROY: No. I have it
15 right here. Don't worry. Let me pass this around.

16 And every little dark line on this
17 map right here, like see, these, these are all fire
18 breaks. So, let me just pass this around. But one
19 may argue that the existing fire break system could be
20 the trail system for Fort McClellan. Seeing how when
21 they dig those things, it is pretty near twelve inches
22 in the ground when they're digging. Gary, what do you
23 think?

1 MR. GARY HARVEY: And they've done
2 it for years.

3 MR. PETE CONROY: And they've done
4 it for years. And they probably got started by this
5 --

6 MR. GARY HARVEY: In fact, you
7 would be amazed -- on all this UXO stuff, you would be
8 amazed that when they dig those how much UXO they
9 don't find.

10 MR. PETE CONROY: Has anyone ever
11 been hurt doing that?

12 MR. GARY HARVEY: No.

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is there one
14 of those in the eastern bypass corridor?

15 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: One what?

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Fire break.

17 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: The map's
18 coming around. I don't know. I have to look.
19 They're all over the installation. I'm sure there
20 were several --

21 MR. PETE CONROY: These are
22 beautiful looped trails in the prettiest places, too.
23 So, that really could be an extensive recreational

1 system right there with all those --

2 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: Pete, all of this
3 is outside of the area that they have identified for
4 developing.

5 MR. PETE CONROY: Absolutely.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: In fact, it's
7 been identified pretty definitively as being
8 impossible to develop for anything other than its
9 existing use, which is wildlife refuge, essentially.

10 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: One thing that
11 keeps running through my mind -- and I'm worrying,
12 putting another hat on -- but, the schools, for
13 instance, have lost from impact aid over a million
14 dollars. I mean, that's gone, virtually right now.

15 And one thing that we were looking
16 at, as we looked at this was: Ad valorem taxes went
17 away were the only ways -- well, sales, some of the
18 sales taxes (inaudible) income tax. But like with the
19 Calhoun County schools, which they have no local
20 effort, then ad valorem tax is only one way that they
21 can recover some of that money.

22 And I was just wondering -- and
23 with forestry, we know that you pay about four cents

1 an acre or something like that, so it might not hurt.
2 But if Anniston is going to be successful in annexing
3 all of the bulk there, then all that money is going to
4 Anniston. And it's going to leave then the rest of
5 the property, I assume, will be non-taxable, if it's
6 taken over by the federal government.

7 MR. PETE CONROY: Correct.

8 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: So, my question
9 is: How is that going to affect schools, in that
10 they're going to be losing students because of the
11 loss of military plus employees. And they're losing a
12 billion dollars in impact aid funds. So, is there
13 some way that there could be some look at that as far
14 as revenues for the schools?

15 MR. PETE CONROY: I think that's a
16 good point. And when you're talking about national
17 forest lands, those dollars really matter. But again,
18 we have to remember that the areas that we're looking
19 at are -- there is no harvestable timber.

20 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: I understand
21 that. And you might not get anything off of it. It's
22 just like all the farm land, you know, it's appraised
23 at such a low value that you don't know --

1 MR. PETE CONROY: That's a good
2 time to talk about schools, though. And that is that
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has an aggressive
4 program, wherever there is a refuge, they aggressively
5 go out into the local school systems with educators
6 and provide free educational materials promoting the
7 local resource, use of the local resource. And then
8 you would like to hope that there would be kind of a
9 weird -- I don't know where to put it -- a synergistic
10 effect as it relates to all of the other natural
11 attractions in our area.

12 All right, we already have Little
13 River Canyon National Park. That's a national park.
14 We already have the largest national forest service.
15 That's the Talladega National. We have the
16 wilderness, the Cheaha Wilderness. We're developing
17 right now the Dugger (phonetic) Mountain Wilderness
18 area. The Rails to Trails Project is of national
19 scope. The Appalachia Trail turning into the Pinhotie
20 (phonetic) is of national scale.

21 This wildlife refuge would be like
22 the feather in the cap of this northeast Alabama
23 outdoor recreational complex. And if we could market

1 ourselves as such -- and already Southern Living said
2 that they want to do this, and a number of other
3 publications are interested in really promoting, not
4 just one of those things that I just mentioned, but
5 all of those things together. This really could be
6 the place where Chattanooga and Atlanta and Birmingham
7 goes for the weekend. And the tax base -- I mean,
8 this is what would happen to the tax base in all of
9 our communities may mitigate for those lost dollars
10 that we couldn't have gotten, anyway, because we can't
11 cut the trees down. You see what I mean?

12 MR. GARY HARVEY: But, you know,
13 there is a couple of important parts of his point is
14 real good. Here is land that you're going to take off
15 the tax roles, but also don't forget for the LRA in
16 negotiating, we're negotiating economic development
17 and say, hey, this ain't, you know, a thousand dollar
18 an acre land here.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, we don't
20 want -- what we want -- I don't think the LRA would
21 take title to this property. I think it would go
22 straight from DoD to --

23 MR. PETE CONROY: Exactly.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: -- game and
2 wildlife or whatever it's called.

3 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes, Fish and
4 Wildlife Service. And that's kind of the thing --

5 MR. GARY HARVEY: I understand
6 that. What I'm saying is: Don't forget all of this
7 land here that you might decide that, hey, you can't
8 use it because what DoD did, as part of your
9 negotiating, when we negotiate the terms for an
10 economic development conveyance.

11 MR. PETE CONROY: Another thing to
12 keep in mind is that one of the things that's
13 attractive about this concept is that the land is
14 transferred from one federal agency to another federal
15 agency. In which case, the original federal agency,
16 the Department of Defense, historically, has
17 maintained liability, which is key.

18 MR. GARY HARVEY: Yes, they have
19 to.

20 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes. And that's
21 what U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they're real
22 ancey (phonetic) about that. They say, we don't want
23 it, if we're -- if the liability comes with this land,

1 no thank you.

2 And so, in all of these other cases
3 we've looked at, DoD maintains the liability. There
4 is a lateral transfer from one federal agency to the
5 other and everybody seems to be happy.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What gets me
7 is this dividing up the federal government into
8 separate legal entities. It's all the same tax money.

9 MR. PETE CONROY: Uh-huh.

10 MR. GARY HARVEY: But it's
11 different budgets.

12 MR. PETE CONROY: Different
13 budgets.

14 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Yes. Well, I
15 --

16 MR. THOMASSY: We're talking about
17 taxes in two different forms. And you're talking
18 about tax money that goes into the federal government
19 and the mayor was talking about tax money that the
20 land would generate.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What I'm
22 talking about is the liability on the UXO. What
23 they're saying is: It makes a difference to Fish and

1 Wildlife whether it stays with DoD or not. And what
2 the liability does, well, I mean, it's all the same
3 tax money.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes, it's funny
5 how that --

6 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: I'm not opposed
7 to it. I'm saying, if in your studies, if you could
8 look to see on your projections that you've done,
9 which is the next step, you know, do a comparison and
10 show, you might get a lots more money in, you know,
11 designated for your school by developing it that way
12 by using, you know, your sales tax and your other. Of
13 course, that would probably all be in Anniston, which
14 --

15 MR. PETE CONROY: That would be
16 real --

17 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: -- that's great,
18 because I work there. But for my children out in my
19 community, you know, what effect would that have on
20 me? And that's -- that could be included in your
21 study, Pete.

22 MR. PETE CONROY: That's a good
23 point.

1 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: I think there
2 would be -- you could (inaudible) a little bit more,
3 because that issue might come up.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: Let's look at
5 alternatives.

6 MR. JAMES MILLER: Yes. You gave
7 us the up side of this. Is there any down side to it?

8 MR. PETE CONROY: That's the
9 question that a whole lot of folks have asked. And
10 the question is: What is the down side to doing this?
11 And the down side is that there will be no
12 development, there is no timber harvest. And you
13 can't develop anyway, and you can't develop -- you
14 can't cut timber, anyway.

15 And so, from my point of view, it's
16 pretty hard to find a down side. So far, that's what
17 this has been about is to try to find the, what's the
18 catch sort of thing.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And neither
20 has the LRA.

21 MR. PETE CONROY: And neither has
22 the LRA.

23 And everybody is saying, okay, this

1 looks good. Let's look towards moving forward with
2 this. But there's nothing that's a done deal.

3 By the way, I hate that I didn't
4 mention that there was an important player in all of
5 this and that still is the state. The Alabama
6 Forestry Commission, they had a proposal, but it was
7 withdrawn. They decided, can't cut trees up there, so
8 don't worry about it.

9 The Alabama Department of
10 Conservation, Game and Fish Division, the folks that
11 permit hunting in The State of Alabama, they do have a
12 strong interest in this. And they decided the best
13 thing they could do is if they wanted to allow hunting
14 for Alabamians up there on the mountain, the best way
15 for them to do that is to work with this federal
16 agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, because
17 again, they don't have to worry about the liability
18 issue, but they would work as a partner, allowing for
19 Alabamians to hunt up there, you know, during the
20 regular seasons, in a regulated manner.

21 So they would be -- U. S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Service has said they won't even consider
23 this if the state isn't a partner in that respect.

1 And likewise, the state has said the same thing, they
2 want that partnership.

3 There is possibly even a third
4 partnership, and that might be The City of Anniston
5 and possibly the Anniston Museum of Natural History
6 could serve as the welcome center to the -- or even
7 Berman could serve as the welcome center to the
8 refuge. But that's looking way on down the road. And
9 I don't know if that would really work.

10 MR. IKE BROWN: Pete, I don't know
11 this, but is it possible that this refuge could
12 discourage any other business or any other entity
13 coming here?

14 MR. PETE CONROY: The studies that
15 we've seen -- and I wish you had talked to the Mayor
16 of Decatur like I did and also the director of their
17 chamber of commerce, both of them said that the
18 wildlife refuge is the hub for economic activity in
19 their community.

20 MR. IKE BROWN: It encourages?

21 MR. PETE CONROY: Exactly. And
22 it's also, no matter what your business is, it just
23 don't hurt to have a pretty background. You know what

1 I mean?

2 And there is other folks who have
3 said with other activities that are taking place in
4 Alabama, Alabama having been ranked as being fiftieth
5 in the nation, in terms of environmental stewardship,
6 we need a -- which I think is a bogus statistic. But
7 nevertheless, we get the press.

8 This is good press. You know, this
9 is environmental stewardship. And it's probably not a
10 bad idea to have this sort of a, you know, spin on
11 what we do here in Alabama.

12 MR. JAMES MILLER: On a scale of
13 one to five, with the five making it happen, where do
14 you think we stand?

15 MR. PETE CONROY: When I first
16 started, I would have said about a one and a half.
17 Did you hear the question? I'm saying we're probably
18 at a four right now.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I was going to
20 say four and a half is where Pete's barometer is on
21 this.

22 MR. JAMES MILLER: Sounds good to
23 me. I like it.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, it's the
2 only -- I mean, it's codifying existing use, which is
3 -- I mean, you can't really go wrong. It's
4 maintaining the status quo and making money with it at
5 the same time.

6 MR. FERN THOMASSY: The question I
7 have is: What is holding the LRA back from making a
8 decision on --

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, not
10 enough details.

11 MR. THOMASSY: In --

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: For instance,
13 tonight was the first I had heard that there wasn't
14 any flat land at issue. I can't believe that. I
15 can't believe they aren't going to have some buffer
16 zone that they would permit a Wal-Mart to be built
17 right up against, you know, the fence. And so, I
18 suspect there will be a buffer zone of sorts.

19 MR. PETE CONROY: Not necessarily.
20 But I mean, all of that kind of thing is up for
21 negotiation.

22 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And the terms
23 under which the hunting will be conducted is, I think,

1 venturous to the LRA. All I ever hear is there is not
2 nearly enough -- we've got the best deer hunting in
3 the world in Alabama, but practically no public
4 hunting lands.

5 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Fern, do you
6 remember, is it twenty meters? Isn't that a buffer
7 zone, the minimum buffer zone from a fence line?
8 Seems like --

9 MR. FERN THOMASSY: For whom?

10 MR. PETE CONROY: For military.

11 MR. MARK ANDERSON: For military
12 installations.

13 MR. FERN THOMASSY: No. I don't
14 remember. I wouldn't know that figure, anyhow.

15 MR. PETE CONROY: This is -- I was
16 on the Mercedes task force way back when, when the
17 Mercedes deal was going on. And this is not unlike
18 that. I don't -- I mean, this is not like -- this is
19 not as sexy as a Mercedes, there is no doubt about it.
20 But to get the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to play
21 in our neighborhood, then we will have to show the U.
22 S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we want them.

23 And so, they're like kids right

1 now. This big federal agency based out of Washington
2 and their regional office in Atlanta, they're kind of
3 waiting for our community to say, boy, we sure want
4 you guys to come and play with us. And they're real
5 -- so, they've seen a couple of letters to the editor.
6 They were real excited about what Charles did the
7 other day with his motion to move forward. But at
8 this stage, the more we can do to show this agency
9 that we want them in this community --

10 MR. THOMASSY: Well, who is
11 contacting them? Who is the official point of
12 contact? Is there anybody working with them right
13 now?

14 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Oh, yes, we're
15 working with them and working through Pete. Pete is
16 the point man on this project.

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Okay.

18 MR. PETE CONROY: Of course, I'm
19 just one mouth. And they think I'm probably biased,
20 anyway. So, the more mouths that we can have --

21 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That's okay.

22 MR. MARK ANDERSON: (Inaudible).

23 MR. PETE CONROY: And so really,

1 because I'm under contract, I can't act as an
2 advocate. I have to be --

3 (WHEREUPON, there were several
4 conversations going on throughout the room,
5 simultaneously).

6 MR. GARY HARVEY: (Inaudible.) And
7 I think it's evolved towards that way, the way the
8 technology is and finding out what they can do in the
9 long leaf, so I think it's evolving back --

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I wouldn't
11 worry too much about the reuse plan.

12 MR. GARY HARVEY: And the LRA has
13 put in -- but it needs to be part of the reuse plan.

14 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I wouldn't
15 worry about the reuse plan.

16 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I think to some
17 extent, this board is going to have to take a position
18 on it pretty soon, because that's going to support
19 what the LRA is doing or not doing with the Fish and
20 Wildlife Service.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Make a motion.
22 I mean, I think we've got some support.

23 MR. THOMASSY: You know, I'm not

1 recommending we make a decision right now, but we
2 ought to keep talking about it so that we can
3 eventually take a position on it. And if it's right
4 to support it --

5 MR. PETE CONROY: Lisa, you got
6 money in the budget for me to make fifteen more copies
7 of this to pass around here?

8 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: If you give me
9 a copy of it, I can have some made.

10 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: Charles, aren't
11 the LRA changes at the end of this month; is that
12 correct? We have to reappoint a new --

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: At the end of
14 September.

15 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: September.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: You make new
17 appointments -- I don't know, at some point, you're
18 going to need to make your appointments known to your
19 appointees, anyway. But on October the 1st is when
20 the new LRA comes on line.

21 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: And they were the
22 ones that actually have the authority to convey the
23 property --

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: They'll be the
2 ones that will be applying for title under an economic
3 development conveyance.

4 Now, this would be outside of a
5 economic development conveyance. And probably isn't
6 -- I think the general idea is to bad mouth the
7 property, not show that it's going to generate
8 zillions of dollars. So, I don't know what the status
9 of the reuse plan will be. But I think that the LRA
10 is as excited as Pete is about the prospect. But just
11 moving carefully.

12 We're talking about what, eight to
13 ten thousand acres. So, we want to, I think, just
14 move it carefully. Plus, the current reuse authority
15 doesn't have any authority really to agree to
16 anything. It's a lame duck, too.

17 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: Something I just
18 thought, too. How would this play in the by-pass?

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: From lines
20 I've seen, it wouldn't have an effect, at all, because
21 it doesn't go that far south.

22 MR. PETE CONROY: Frankly, you're
23 right. That's a good point, Mayor. And that's why

1 you were right from the very beginning, because the
2 by-pass pretty much takes that clock right there and
3 goes straight down to 6:30, if you can imagine --

4 MR. CHARLES TURNER: But it would
5 be a -- I'm sure the feds wouldn't object, I mean,
6 even if it went -- took up all of UXO country, the
7 feds wouldn't object to a highway going through it,
8 right?

9 MR. PETE CONROY: Actually, I think
10 they probably would. They would probably say, where
11 the highway goes through, then the whole refuge would
12 not be a part, because fire management is so important
13 to this ecosystem. You put a fire in the middle of it
14 -- I mean, if you put a road in the middle of it, you
15 can't burn across the road.

16 MR. RONALD HOOD: Well, you've
17 already got a road --

18 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Wasn't one of
19 the original discussions, though, that --

20 MR. PETE CONROY: The dirt road you
21 mean?

22 MR. RONALD HOOD: No. I'm talking
23 about Bains Gap --

1 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Bains Gap Road.

2 MR. RONALD HOOD: -- which is a
3 paved, two lane road.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: For some reason,
5 that hasn't come up in discussion. But that's a real
6 good point.

7 MR. RONALD HOOD: But you had
8 mentioned the road and there is one existing right
9 there.

10 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That's right.

11 MR. PETE CONROY: You're right. I
12 should know that, because I drive it nearly every day.

13 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Weren't also
14 some of the original discussions that the by-pass
15 would potentially have a -- not a spur, but an exit
16 that would give you access to the facility? Was that
17 not part of the consideration of it?

18 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Yes. The
19 by-pass terminates somewhere along --

20 MR. GARY HARVEY: Summerall.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: -- Summerall
22 Gate Road. And there is a new access highway, kind
23 of, that you see on a map.

1 MR. FERN THOMASSY: But weren't
2 they also thinking -- I think he was talking about the
3 exit into the retirement community.

4 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Yes. And I was
5 thinking -- I was talking specifically about an exit
6 around Yahoo Lake. That was on the original drawing.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: They talked
8 about that at first and then they removed that exit
9 because of money. I think the highway department
10 moved it now. Well, we could build it with local
11 money. But, yes, we're going to need -- we're going
12 to need other exits, other than just where it
13 terminates.

14 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Terminates.

15 MR. PETE CONROY: And you could
16 envision an exit that would say, you know, Berman
17 Museum, National Wildlife Headquarters, Anniston
18 Museum of --

19 MR. MARK ANDERSON: That's exactly
20 what I was thinking was to have something that
21 terminates a little bit farther to the south where it
22 gives you access to the museum of the --

23 MR. PETE CONROY: Cultural,

1 educational component of our community.

2 MR. CHARLES TURNER: You know,
3 that's what -- there is a debate going on now between
4 the base cleanup team and the highway department about
5 whose tax money is going to be spent in dealing with
6 the UXO. The highway department says DoD clean up
7 this corridor right through a range. The base cleanup
8 team is saying, we want to know how much it's going to
9 cost you to move it to the south. And so, they're
10 kind of staring at each other, waiting for the other
11 side to blink.

12 Would be -- anybody that's got a
13 different opinion of that relationship, let me know.
14 But that was what I thought I had heard.

15 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Well,
16 Huntsville did a site visit to look at how much it
17 would cost us to clean up UXO on the by-pass the way
18 it is now, versus cleaning up the UXO on an alternate
19 route. And they said that there is not going to be
20 any difference. That the contamination that's on the
21 archive search report is bigger than what we think it
22 is.

23 So, if you move it, you still got

1 UXO contamination. You got it here. It's going to
2 cost about the same to clean it up either way.

3 MR. PETE CONROY: Yes.

4 MR. CHARLES TURNER: So, that
5 impediment is gone then?

6 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Right.

7 (Inaudible)

8 MR. MARK ANDERSON: We're only
9 talking about -- as I understood it on the original
10 by-pass route, according to the state DOT, we're
11 talking about seventy acres that ran through the UXO
12 area. At ten thousand bucks an acre, we're talking
13 seven hundred thousand dollars to clean up the route.
14 Isn't that what I understood from Huntsville at the
15 DERTF meeting?

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I --

17 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: They walked
18 the route. And I just got this information, when was
19 it, Friday, Friday morning. And they haven't sent --
20 they haven't put the report together or anything. So,
21 this has all been verbal on the phone. But right now,
22 they said an estimate is an estimate, approximate is
23 approximate. But to clean up that route right now

1 would be about two and a half million.

2 MR. PETE CONROY: Okay.

3 MR. JIMMY PARKS: I know you
4 covered this. But would Fish and Wildlife have a
5 presence here? Would they have an area office and
6 employees and all in this --

7 MR. PETE CONROY: I've been told
8 that basically they're Volkswagens and they're
9 Cadillacs or Mercedes in Alabama, but it depends.

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What does that
11 mean?

12 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Stop. Wait a
13 second. Is that to clean up the road or is that to --

14 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: That's to
15 clean it up.

16 MR. MARK ANDERSON: -- prep it, as
17 well?

18 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: To clean it
19 up.

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think we had
21 moved on to Mr. Parks' question.

22 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Sorry.

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And the

1 question was, how much of a presence will Fish and
2 Wildlife -- is that what --

3 MR. PETE CONROY: U. S. Fish and
4 Wildlife, what kind of presence. What I would like to
5 see, frankly, is a presence. I would like to see as
6 much presence as possible, and with uniformed
7 officers, educators, and law enforcement people on
8 hand.

9 There are refuges that simply allow
10 for the federal government to be a pass-through to the
11 state. And our discussions really have been taking a
12 healthy turn recently and looking at this not as a
13 pass-through to the state, but instead, U. S. Fish and
14 Wildlife Service would have a presence, somewhere
15 along the lines, not of twenty-five employees, but
16 somewhere around six to ten employees, something like
17 that. With, yes, the regional office. And that's
18 where some of these new discussions are coming in.
19 Instead of building a brand new building, you know, or
20 trying to jump in the game with LRA trying to find a
21 building, why not use an existing facility. And
22 that's when the discussion came up, well why don't the
23 museum of natural history -- don't those folks already

1 do that -- use one of those walls, put in three walls,
2 and then put -- allow for that new wing of the museum
3 to act as the welcome center. And that way, all of
4 the visitors that come to the welcome center will then
5 also have to pay a few extra bucks to see the museum.
6 And there you get that -- the synergistic effect.

7 MR. RONALD HOOD: If that's what
8 you're planning, you better tell the highway
9 department to give you an underpass through there to
10 get to it from the --

11 MR. PETE CONROY: Not a bad detail.

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: You're right.
13 I think that's a good point.

14 MR. RONALD HOOD: If you don't ask
15 for it ahead of time, you won't get it.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And I think
17 that's critical to your study, too. Probably just two
18 paragraphs saying what Mr. Hood just said, would
19 access from that proposed eastern by-pass is essential
20 to the existing cultural resources.

21 MR. RONALD HOOD: That's not the
22 question I was waiting to ask, though.

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Now, Mark was

1 next. Mark had a follow-up question.

2 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: He got it.

3 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Actually, I
4 think I got it answered. It was to -- as I
5 understood, it was to clean -- 2.5 million to clean up
6 the road. For some reason, I was going with
7 Huntsville's original estimates. I mean, we
8 specifically asked, how many acres is it, what's it
9 cost per acre to clean it up. Okay. That's seven
10 hundred K we can -- you know, I mean, that's, you know
11 --

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I bet those
13 numbers went up after they walked over it.

14 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Either that.
15 Or my question was: Does this include anything that
16 we could consider prep of the road? And if that's no,
17 that's fine, too. But it probably would -- I mean, if
18 they're going to come in and clear down ten feet, I'd
19 say that's probably prepping the road.

20 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I heard two
21 numbers, too. At one time we were talking a hundred
22 meters or so either side, and then I heard four
23 hundred. And that increases the acreage quite a bit.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Substantially.

2 MR. FERN THOMASSY: And which did
3 they decide upon?

4 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: I don't know.
5 But they've been working with DOT.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I don't know
7 about the size of the right-of-way, but Mr. Hood had a
8 question.

9 MR. MARK ANDERSON: What they told
10 me was a hundred and ten feet, okay, by umpty ump
11 (phonetic) miles. And the whole thing came down to
12 it's approximately seventy acres.

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think I
14 heard seventy-two. So -- now, Mr. Hood had a
15 question. I'm about to call a break.

16 MR. PETE CONROY: I'm sorry. Yes,
17 sir.

18 MR. RONALD HOOD: Yes. I've been
19 waiting a long time. I like your idea and I think
20 it's about the best thing we can do with that property
21 that's in a UXO position.

22 But the other thing that bothers
23 me, they're talking about doing a very similar thing

1 over here on Coldwater Mountain.

2 MR. PETE CONROY: Okay. I can try
3 to explain the difference.

4 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Why don't you
5 do that after we take a break?

6 MR. RONALD HOOD: But how is one
7 going to impact the other? Are we going to end up
8 with too much of this good thing here?

9 MR. PETE CONROY: I would say not.
10 The Coldwater project, in a sentence, would be a state
11 preserve with no tourist -- with no real tourist
12 potential. We're not talking about visitor centers.

13 MR. RONALD HOOD: We're talking
14 about just some land that's there and nobody can use.

15 MR. PETE CONROY: No. It wouldn't
16 be --

17 MR. RONALD HOOD: Even to walk on.

18 MR. PETE CONROY: No, it wouldn't
19 be (inaudible) for walking, hiking, education. But
20 essentially that would just be set aside as a
21 preserve. This would be an active tourist facility.
22 That may not happen, either.

23 MR. RONALD HOOD: Okay.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Why don't we
2 take a break?

3 MR. PETE CONROY: I would love to
4 say one last thing; that is, if this body was in a
5 position to take -- make a motion tonight, I would
6 have to abstain from that motion, but if anyone would
7 be interested in that, it would be a wonderful thing
8 that Fish and Wildlife Service would jump up and down.

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I find that
10 I'll be a lot -- be able to concentrate a lot better
11 after we take a break, Pete.

12 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Well, that
13 settles that.

14 (WHEREUPON, there was a brief recess.)

15 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We're going to
16 lose our quorum in about twenty minutes. Mary has to
17 leave. So, let's get back to it. We do have some
18 action items. Pete is going to be -- help us generate
19 a motion.

20 Why don't we move on to the report
21 of committees. Charter and membership, again welcome
22 to our new members. I got a call this week from
23 Rodney Owens with the Anniston Water Works and Sewer

1 Board. And they have extensive experience with this
2 waste water treatment plant that just killed a bunch
3 of fish in Cane Creek. And again in that kind -- I
4 suspect that issue will be discussed more. But it
5 might be helpful to have him made an ex officio member
6 to this board. I told him that I thought -- saw one
7 principle objection to making him a regular member;
8 that is, because we already have a James Miller and it
9 would be entirely too confusing to have two. The
10 fellow they want to put on from the water works and
11 sewer board is James Miller, as well.

12 But anyway, I would like to make a
13 motion that we ask James Miller or the Anniston Water
14 Works and Sewer Board designee to be an ex officio
15 member of this organization.

16 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Second.

17 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is there any
18 discussion of it? Yes, sir?

19 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Let's get a
20 briefing from him.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I've asked for
22 that next month, assuming that Fern -- it will be up
23 to Fern. But I thought -- I've gone ahead and invited

1 him.

2 MR. THOMASSY: Oh, sure.

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: You can
4 uninvite him, if that's what you want to do.

5 Let's see, there was something else
6 charter and membership needed to -- oh, bylaws.
7 Charter and membership came out of -- I mean, bylaws
8 came out of charter and membership originally.

9 What do y'all think? I think we're
10 getting along fine just kind of along the way we are.
11 And we can just have, you know, essentially, election
12 of officers once a year, and a quorum is more than
13 half the minimum number, more than half, and let that
14 be that.

15 But I've noticed that since we
16 abandoned the bylaws for that period, interest has
17 been up and the meetings have been more productive.
18 Certainly, we can -- I'm interested in anybody's
19 discussion of it. But we haven't had a problem
20 maintaining order. What we have had some trouble
21 doing is keeping folks interested. And I think this
22 is a way of doing it.

23 I'm getting a lot of blank stares.

1 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Yes, what is it
2 you think --

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think we
4 ought to get rid of the bylaws except for --

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Except the
6 election of officers.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: That when we
8 vote, we've got to have a quorum here. And a quorum
9 is just the minimum number -- a majority, plus one,
10 half, plus one.

11 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That's for the
12 election of officers.

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, just in
14 general. If we're going to vote on anything, it needs
15 to be at least -- there needs to be at least half of
16 us here. But we can have meetings without having a
17 quorum.

18 Do you follow me? The only time
19 you need a quorum is when we take official action, and
20 that is when we vote on something. But we can have
21 guest presentations and all of that without a quorum.

22 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I think the
23 issue came about in the approval of minutes and things

1 like that. And we suspended -- I wasn't here when you
2 did it -- but you suspended the rules in order to get
3 the minutes passed.

4 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Yes.

5 MR. THOMASSY: Was essentially what
6 you did.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: It was -- I
8 think I was the impetus behind the adopting the bylaws
9 and setting them aside before, just because I thought
10 they were too rigid and chilled conversation.

11 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Is that your
12 purpose here?

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Yes, now, is
14 to perpetuate that. Make this a much less formal
15 atmosphere, which I think we've accomplished. I've
16 done my part by dressing like I was going to a luau.

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: But I think
18 your point is: We can have a meeting, regardless of
19 whether or not a quorum shows up.

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: That's right.
21 And if we've got a quorum, we can vote on --

22 MR. FERN THOMASSY: We need to do
23 that, because that will require people to be here if

1 they want to be part of it.

2 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Yes.

3 MR. THOMASSY: And if they don't,
4 we can still function. And that's important. So, I
5 agree with what Charles is pushing.

6 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: To be recognized,
7 we have to have bylaws.

8 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We would have
9 a very simple set of bylaws, just very simple. We've
10 got an elaborate thing now that's too rigid and too
11 structured. It doesn't resemble the organization or
12 what the organization, I think, has evolved into.

13 And that's another thing, I think
14 that some of us felt like we were -- that the RAB --
15 there was something wrong with the RAB that we didn't
16 know exactly what it was but people were frustrated
17 that we felt like we ought to be doing something. And
18 I felt that way. Well, after the DERTF was here and
19 we had a meeting in front of them, every member of the

20 DERTF came up and said, this is the best informed,
21 best functioning, most alert RAB I've ever seen. And
22 they've seen a bunch of them. So, we're doing a good
23 job.

1 I think we -- that being advisory
2 only kind of confused us. Most of us are used to
3 trying to get things done. But it's working. And so,
4 I think full speed ahead.

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Uh-huh.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, what do
7 y'all think about just a very simple set of bylaws?
8 Election of officers every year in September by
9 majority vote or at the first meeting thereafter when
10 we have a quorum?

11 MR. THOMASSY: I think also we need
12 to define the membership in those bylaws, because the
13 process that we went through in order to bring new
14 members in and maintain the board at some level needs
15 to be stated somewhere so that we all agree on it.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Okay. Well,
17 do y'all want to leave the current bylaws until we get
18 some replacements?

19 MR. RONALD HOOD: That's a good
20 idea.

21 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: That would be
22 the best.

23 MR. MARK ANDERSON: But again,

1 continue to suspend the parts -- the nasty parts that
2 we don't like until we get a --

3 MR. RONALD HOOD: Well, honestly,
4 there is not that much in the bylaws that stops what
5 we've been doing. I think the only problem was in
6 there is saying we had to have so many people to vote
7 on anything, which is easily changed.

8 MR. MARY HARRINGTON: And you can
9 make those changes through a revision, regardless of
10 what you have ever so often when you --

11 MR. RONALD HOOD: Instead of
12 spinning our wheels for a long time to get new bylaws
13 in --

14 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I can write
15 some new bylaws up right now. I mean, on this piece
16 of paper, I can write up some new bylaws. It wouldn't
17 take long. But let's -- I'll try and get something a
18 little more relaxed than the last version done and
19 just present it for your consideration at a future
20 meeting.

21 Community relations --

22 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Before we
23 finish that, there were a couple of good points here.

1 Why invent the wheel again? Why not just cut the
2 things out that we're talking about?

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think that's
4 what we are talking about.

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: So, what we'll
6 do is keep what we have and just revise by --

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Cutting. For
8 instance, having bylaws ordain committees. I mean, it
9 wasn't natural. It was kind of imposing on the group
10 and a structured idea of how we ought to act.

11 Well, we haven't really functioned
12 that way. The committees haven't met frequently and
13 haven't done much when they have. I mean, Mark has
14 done essentially all the work of the public relations.

15 MR. FERN THOMASSY: On the
16 community side.

17 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And there
18 hasn't been much work from charter and membership. So
19 --

20 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Well, there was
21 at the beginning. You put the bylaws together.

22 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Yes, boy, that
23 was some accomplishment.

1 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Was that a
2 circle?

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well then,
4 I'll work on a revision to show y'all at a future
5 meeting.

6 MR. THOMASSY: Okay.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Community
8 relations, we have a web page that Lisa is going to
9 tell us about.

10 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: If y'all will
11 look in your packets, you got a bunch of papers paper
12 clipped together. During our last meeting, Colonel
13 Truding, Ron's boss, was sitting in on the meeting and
14 he suggested to Ron that we set up a RAB home page on
15 the Internet.

16 I -- this is my first shot at
17 setting up a home page. And I wanted to throw it at
18 y'all. It's very, very draft. I wanted to let y'all
19 take a look at it and see what you think. Let me know
20 if you want something added to it. You can take it --
21 that's it -- take it home with you, read it, and maybe
22 at the next meeting, let's discuss it.

23 But you'll see on the first -- on

1 the first page of that package, under introduction
2 where it says, Restoration Advisory Board and it has
3 it underlined, if you'll flip to the next page where
4 it's paper clipped, it has a list of all the
5 restoration advisory board members, their addresses,
6 their work phone. And what I would like for you to do
7 sometime between now and the next meeting, let me know

8 if you want your address and your phone number in
9 there, if you don't want it, if you want to put a
10 different phone number in there, let me know and I can
11 just put your name there and leave the address and
12 phone numbers out.

13 MR. RONALD HOOD: Mine is wrong.

14 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Yours is
15 wrong? Or if there is any corrections.

16 And then under what is a RAB, it's
17 got the base cleanup teams is underlined. And then
18 your next paper clip or your next stapled set of
19 papers has the base cleanup team members and a
20 biography for each one of them.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Can I ask a
22 question, Lisa?

23 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Uh-huh.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Why are we
2 putting biographies of people that aren't members on
3 our home page and not putting biographies of people
4 that are members?

5 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Well, if y'all
6 -- that's why -- I don't have biographies on each one
7 of you. And if that's what y'all want on your RAB
8 home page, that's why I'm throwing it out to you, now.

9 MR. HARRY THOMAS: Some of the RABs
10 around the country on their home pages have put in the
11 biographies, short biographies of each member of the
12 RAB.

13 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: And that would
14 be great. If y'all decide that you want to do it,
15 I'll need a write up from each one of you, a short
16 little paragraph.

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: What's the
18 purpose in doing that? What does that do for us,
19 putting biographies in there?

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think I was
21 moving toward that -- sorry, Sam -- but I was moving
22 toward the idea of why are we putting biographies of
23 the --

1 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: The base
2 cleanup team?

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Or anybody on
4 there?

5 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: I had them
6 and I thought, well, I'll just -- you click base
7 cleanup team, you can find out about our base cleanup
8 team.

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think the
10 answer to that question is where do you think we ought
11 to put that, Mr. Smarty Pants?

12 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: There you go.

13 MR. HARRY THOMAS: Those few people
14 who are checking on the RAB who happen across the home
15 page, an idea of the qualifications of people that are
16 on the RAB or on the base cleanup team.

17 MR. THOMASSY: My next question is:
18 Why do we need to sell anybody through a home page?
19 I'm even reluctant to put addresses and phone numbers
20 on the Internet. I just don't like getting in there
21 --

22 MR. MILLER: I agree.

23 MR. THOMASSY: -- in that open area

1 with our addresses and phone numbers. I'm against it,
2 personally.

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I don't want
4 my information like that on the --

5 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Okay. I --

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I mean, I
7 already get junk mail. I don't know where it comes
8 from.

9 MR. RONALD HOOD: I do.

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Now, Mr. Hood,
11 I want you to stop that.

12 MR. HARRY THOMAS: And that has
13 varied across the different home pages that I have
14 checked out, too. Some of them have had the names and
15 addresses of all the RAB members and some of them
16 haven't. If not, they can address all their
17 information, anything they want to send to the RAB.

18 MR. THOMASSY: Right here. That's
19 right.

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What I think
21 would be kind of more interesting would be for us to
22 do what we did with the DERTF and come up with issues
23 that we each think are significant that we pose on the

1 Internet. And maybe through traffic -- you know, get
2 insight into it. Start exchanging ideas, talking
3 about the kind of problems we're confronted with at
4 Fort McClellan as opposed to say Jefferson Proving
5 Ground or Fort Ord.

6 MR. MARK ANDERSON: You know,
7 actually what might work well there is if we put not
8 an FAQ, but actually the questions that we submitted
9 to the DERTF. If we put those up on the Internet,
10 along with what we understood to be the answers from
11 the DERTF to the questions, you know, those --
12 something like that might be a very functional --

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think that's
14 a good idea. Just put the transcript -- Sam, let's go
15 off the record so you can answer a question.

16 MS. SAMANTHA NOBLE: Sure.

17 (WHEREUPON, there was discussion off the record.)

18 MR. HARRY THOMAS: The concept that
19 we were working with was not the transcript, but the
20 minutes that Lisa does.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What I'm
22 talking about is the transcript from the question and
23 answer period of the DERTF.

1 MR. MARK ANDERSON: We definitely
2 didn't document all the questions, all the answers.

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: No, I'm just
4 talking about that portion of it that -- I think a lot
5 of it is local issues. But I think those -- but
6 that's the kind of thing I'm talking about, of having
7 issues that we're concerned about and are looking for
8 information from other people on and things that we
9 can share our experiences on.

10 MR. MARK ANDERSON: In fact, that
11 -- to kind of go along with our earlier evening
12 briefing, you know, discussion of potential economic
13 benefits from different cleanup things.

14 MR. CHARLES TURNER: The executive
15 summary of the feasibility study.

16 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Yes, now that's
17 a good idea.

18 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Can you get
19 that to me on a disk?

20 MR. PETE CONROY: Sure. How soon?

21 MR. RONALD HOOD: Well, something I
22 would like to see on your page --

23 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Within the

1 month?

2 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Just E-mail it
3 to her.

4 MR. RONALD HOOD: Something I would
5 like to see on your page -- and I've mentioned that
6 from the very first -- is maybe one or two of these
7 maps that you can see on the computer and say, this is
8 the UXO area we're talking about.

9 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: What I would
10 like to do is get the environmental base line survey.

11 (WHEREUPON, there were several
12 conversations going on throughout the room,
13 simultaneously).

14 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: On the second
15 page here, if you'll look, it's got fact sheets, news
16 letters, and well -- I could underline technical
17 documents in that last thing where they could double
18 click and get the environmental baseline survey --

19 MR. RONALD HOOD: Well, they might
20 not want all of that. But just look at that map and
21 say, this is the UXO area that we've been talking
22 about.

23 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Yes.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: The map from
2 the archive search report.

3 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Yes.

4 MR. RONALD HOOD: Anything like
5 that. That tells a lot more than --

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is the Army
7 going to impose a limit on the size of the web page
8 and the amount of traffic it takes?

9 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: I don't --

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think the
11 general rule is if you put a bunch of data on the
12 Internet, you get a bunch of hits from search engines.

13 MR. MARK ANDERSON: But they've got
14 -- as I understand it, there's a server solely
15 dedicated to this. So, whatever this gets posted to,
16 the number of hits is probably irrelevant. I've gone
17 in and searched it for hours on end, specifically look
18 at each of the different RABs and so on.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And they all
20 have the same thing. They got their bylaws. You
21 know, they talk about -- maybe put the minutes from
22 the last meeting on. And I think, you know, what
23 we're finding is emulation isn't what's making this

1 organization work better. It's us working together
2 and talking and that kind of thing, actually having
3 substance rather than form.

4 MR. HARRY THOMAS: Right now, we
5 don't have a limit on how big we can make this page,
6 how far we can go off of it, you know, to reach other
7 pages.

8 Also, this would not be a dead
9 document. You don't put something on there and it
10 doesn't stay the way it is.

11 If it shows up and you go hit on it
12 next week and you don't like what's on there, at the
13 next meeting, you could come in and we could revise
14 it. It's just a matter of taking a disk from here up
15 to do over and sending them an E-mail message over to
16 the other side of the post.

17 So, we can make changes and updates
18 --

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Word '97 will
20 automatically convert a word document into an HTML
21 document, I mean automatically.

22 MR. RONALD HOOD: Yes. There's a
23 few others that do the same thing, but, yes.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: So, it's going
2 to be easy to get stuff on the web page.

3 MR. FERN THOMASSY: We need to do
4 it intelligently. Somebody -- for instance, we put
5 maps on, we're going to want to use HTML to allow
6 people to get to the legends and get to different
7 parts of it to understand in more detail what it
8 means.

9 That's going to require some real
10 -- some capable people putting it together and then
11 maintaining it. Who is going to do that?

12 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: (Raises hand.)

13 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Oh, man, I tell
14 you, that's a big job.

15 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: That's why I
16 started simply --

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That's what I
18 was worried about with the maps.

19 MR. RONALD HOOD: I'll give you a
20 hand on it.

21 MR. THOMASSY: You know how to do
22 it?

23 MR. RONALD HOOD: Yes, I've done

1 some of it.

2 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Good for you.

3 We need people that know how to do that. And then the
4 maintenance of it is going to be tough.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, it's a
6 piece of cake, now, is what I'm saying.

7 MR. RONALD HOOD: You can get the
8 original files, digitized files, you've got to have
9 that to start with.

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I mean, if you
11 can generate the documents you want on your computer,
12 you can put it on the web page. HTML offering has
13 gotten that easy where all the code has gone out of
14 it, now. It's just a matter of laying it out and
15 providing the substance.

16 Let's move on. Mary is getting
17 ancey (phonetic) and she's going to have to go.
18 Election of vice-chairperson. Actually, I think that
19 should be the vice-chairman ought to ascend. And I
20 would move that we vote to have Fern Thomassy ascend
21 to the chairmanship of this organization.

22 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Second.

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is there any

1 discussion on it? All in favor, please, say. Any
2 opposition? Congratulations, Fern.

3 Now, we've got the election of
4 vice-chairperson.

5 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Excuse me.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Yes, sir?

7 MR. MARK ANDERSON: I believe, are
8 you now still the chairman? Should he move --

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We talked
10 about it earlier, Mark, and we're just going to let
11 him take over at the next meeting.

12 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Okay. I just
13 wanted to see if you were --

14 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Don't have to
15 switch chairs tonight.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Can we go
17 ahead and elect a sergeant at arms to cut down on this
18 kind of disruption?

19 Let me go ahead and open -- will
20 somebody, please, move that the nominations be opened?

21 MR. FERN THOMASSY: So moved.

22 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Second?

23 MR. MILLER: Second.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Let's open the
2 nominations.

3 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I'm making a
4 nomination.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: All right.

6 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I would
7 nominate Don Cunningham for the next vice-chairman.

8 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Don is not
9 here.

10 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That's right.

11 MR. CHARLES TURNER: An election in
12 absentia, it has kind of a scheming sound to it. The
13 name of Don Cunningham has been nominated. Any other
14 nomination?

15 MR. JAMES MILLER: I would like to
16 nominate Jimmy Parks.

17 MR. JIMMY PARKS: I would rather
18 decline. I'm not fit for that kind of stuff up there.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: You turning
20 into a politician talking like that.

21 MR. JIMMY PARKS: I would rather
22 decline. I'm not --

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Nomination has

1 been rejected or asked -- the nominee has asked --

2 MR. GARY HARVEY: Respectfully
3 decline, Jim.

4 MR. JIMMY PARKS: Okay,
5 respectfully decline.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Are there any
7 other nominations?

8 MR. JIMMY PARKS: I'll nominate
9 Mayor Kimbrough.

10 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: I --

11 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Respectfully
12 decline. Also --

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Y'all are
14 setting a bad example for our new members.

15 MR. GARY HARVEY: Y'all are making
16 Don Cunningham feel real good.

17 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Don may get it
18 by default, just because nobody --

19 MR. MARK ANDERSON: I would like --

20 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: I move that the
21 nominations be closed.

22 MR. MARK ANDERSON: I would like to
23 nominate Pete Conroy.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: All right.

2 There was a motion for the nominations to be closed.

3 Before we can take up your nomination, we have to see
4 whether there is a second to that nomination.

5 MR. JAMES BUFORD: Second, I second
6 the nomination.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Second that
8 the nomination be closed or are you seconding Pete's
9 --

10 MR. JAMES BUFORD: Closed.

11 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Okay, close.
12 Well then, let's vote on the -- let's vote on it. All
13 in favor of Don Cunningham becoming the vice-chairman
14 of this organization, please, say I.

15 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: No, no, no.
16 We got to vote to close --

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: We have to vote
18 whether or not we're going to close the --

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Oh, I'm sorry,
20 that's right. I got you.

21 Is there any discussion on the
22 pending motion to close the nominations?

23 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I think we have

1 a larger group of people here and I think we ought to
2 leave that open a little longer to see if we have more
3 nominations rather than just close it off while
4 another person was still talking.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: So, are you
6 making a motion to table the current motion?

7 MR. FERN THOMASSY: This is
8 discussion, at this point.

9 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: Discussion,
10 which is correct.

11 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Who thinks we
12 ought to open them back up?

13 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Motion to
14 table.

15 MR. CHARLES TURNER: There is a
16 motion to table the current motion. Is there a second
17 on that motion?

18 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Second.

19 MR. RONALD HOOD: Third.

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We are voting
21 on whether to table the motion that the nominations be
22 closed. All in favor, please, say I. Is there any
23 opposition? The motion to table the prior motion to

1 close the nominations carries.

2 The nominations are then still
3 open. Mr. Anderson, do you have a nomination?

4 MR. MARK ANDERSON: I have a
5 nomination, Mr. Pete Conroy.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Mr. Conroy has
7 been nominated. So far we have Mr. Conroy and
8 Mr. Cunningham as nominees.

9 MR. PETE CONROY: If I were to
10 respectfully decline, I feel like there may be
11 physical violence. I'll remain on the list.

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Okay. Are
13 there any other nominations? Is there a motion to
14 close the nominations?

15 MR. MARK ANDERSON: So moved.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is there a
17 second?

18 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: Second.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Are you ready
20 for the motion?

21 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: All you had
22 to do was call for a motion three times and close it.
23 We would have to vote.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well, when
2 they elect you chairman, you can --

3 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: I'm never
4 going to be elected chairman.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We're going to
6 conclude right now. I guess by raising your hand, all
7 in favor of making Pete the next vice-chairman,
8 please, raise your hand. All opposed?

9 Well, all for Don Cunningham?

10 Congratulations, Mr. Conroy, you
11 are the new vice-chair.

12 MR. FERN THOMASSY:
13 Congratulations, Pete.

14 MR. PETE CONROY: What a way to
15 start a partnership, the only one who voted against
16 me.

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: The only one
18 who voted against you.

19 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Your partner.

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: After that
21 masterful moment of parliamentarianism, is there
22 anything else that we need -- somebody would like --
23 oh, Pete's motion. The Fort McClellan RAB endorses

1 the concept of establishing and operating the
2 mountainous undeveloped region of Fort McClellan as a
3 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, national wildlife
4 refuge.

5 This refuge would be operated for
6 the sole --

7 MR. PETE CONROY: Sake.

8 MR. CHARLES TURNER: -- sake of
9 resource protection, recreation and tourism, in
10 partnership with the Alabama Department of
11 Conservation of Natural Resources, Game and Fish
12 Division, Fort McClellan Development Commission, and
13 the local governments of the surrounding region. I so
14 move.

15 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: I second the
16 motion.

17 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is there any
18 discussion on the motion? All in favor, please, say
19 I. Is there any opposition? Motion carries.

20 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Way to go,
21 Pete.

22 MR. PETE CONROY: Thank you.

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Let me give

1 that to Sam so she can put it in with the -- is there
2 anything else we need to vote on before --

3 MR. RONALD HOOD: You got this --

4 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Old business,
5 movement of meeting locations.

6 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Does anybody
7 have a problem with that?

8 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: I have a
9 suggestion, maybe.

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Okay.

11 MAYOR KIMBROUGH: Notice Saks isn't
12 on there. But instead of putting Weaver, Alexandria,
13 and Saks, I was wondering if you could join those
14 three and have a central location and not knock out
15 three with one and shorten the time table for reaching
16 all those people. That's just a suggestion.

17 MR. MARK ANDERSON: In fact, if I
18 may, let me explain this list and then maybe it will
19 make some sense. If you notice, it says, potential
20 locations for RAB meetings.

21 The only three that we were -- that
22 we agreed or directed the group to put together was a
23 site for Anniston, Jacksonville, and Weaver, because

1 those are the three communities that immediately
2 surround the Fort. But we also have other communities
3 that I have been informed tonight are not on the list,
4 such as Choccolocco on the far side of the post and so
5 on.

6 So, this is not a final listing by
7 any stretch of the imagination. And since I'm looking
8 for input to add, subtract, multiply, divide, whatever
9 you want to do.

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Let me be more
11 specific. It's been suggested that we have our next
12 meeting in the JSU library. Has anybody got a problem
13 with that? Then I move that we have our next meeting
14 at the JSU library on the 11th floor.

15 MR. RONALD HOOD: Second.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is there any
17 discussion? All in favor, please, say I. Opposed,
18 no? Motion carries.

19 Anybody else got anything they want
20 to bring up before our quorum leaves? Mary, it's been
21 a pleasure seeing you again.

22 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Is that
23 September 15th?

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: That's --

2 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Is it? I'll
3 be sending out letters again, but I think it's the
4 15th.

5 MS. MARY HARRINGTON: It is the
6 15th. That's the third Monday.

7 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Your chairman
8 won't be here.

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Pete steps up
10 early.

11 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Pete, you step
12 up early right at home. I'll be gone, unfortunately,
13 on the 15th.

14 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We've got one
15 other issue and that is, Lisa wanted to know if there
16 was anybody interested in meeting less frequently than
17 once a month.

18 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Blame it on
19 me.

20 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What was I
21 supposed to do, lie?

22 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: You said you
23 were.

1 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I think we
2 ought to have some discussion on that.

3 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We can't vote
4 on it formally tonight, but it's something to think
5 about over the next month. These meetings, nothing
6 really shortens these meetings.

7 I mean, they're going to go two
8 hours and maybe three. And we can -- I suspect that
9 would still be true even if we did it just once a
10 quarter or once every other month.

11 MR. FERN THOMASSY: And what I was
12 going to say -- and people can go home and think on it
13 -- we have so much information to get passed out and
14 to absorb. And especially for the new members, at
15 this time, I think talking about cutting us back from
16 once a month is really premature. Think about it. I
17 know we can't vote on it tonight. But that's one of
18 the opinions I have, at this point.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Is that we
20 still got a lot of work to do. And certainly, the
21 chairman is entitled to a good bit of leeway on that
22 issue. So, I'll leave it at your discretion whether
23 it even appears on the agenda.

1 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I think it
2 should, since it's been brought up. And, Pete, you
3 wrestle with it next time. But I think it should stay
4 on the agenda.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: The only other
6 thing Lisa asked me to mention to you is, there is a
7 site investigation work plan in these binders, the
8 seventeen sites that have previously been identified,
9 right?

10 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Right.

11 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And this is
12 being done by the same contractor that did the
13 environmental baseline survey. A final draft of which
14 is still --

15 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Well, no, this
16 is just the work plan. They haven't been out in the
17 --

18 MR. CHARLES TURNER: No. What I'm
19 talking about is --

20 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Oh, this
21 draft work plan.

22 MR. CHARLES TURNER: This is a
23 draft work plan.

1 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Right.

2 MR. CHARLES TURNER: But we still
3 don't have a final on the EBS, either.

4 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: No.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: How come?

6 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Because,
7 remember Ron explained that DA put a freeze on the
8 BRAC dollars.

9 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Huh-uh, I
10 didn't hear that.

11 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: You weren't
12 here last meeting. DA put a freeze on the BRAC
13 dollars. We're trying to get some funding to the
14 contractors to finish it up, but right now they're on
15 stop work.

16 MR. JIMMY PARKS: That slid the
17 base cleanup plan, too, right?

18 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Yes, both of
19 them.

20 MR. GARY HARVEY: I think the
21 freeze lifted this month.

22 MR. MARK ANDERSON: He told me last
23 month that freeze was lifted.

1 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: It was, but
2 somehow or another they gave us back our pot of money
3 we could spend it, but there was nothing in the pot.
4 I don't understand, but we --

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Sounds like a
6 shell game to me.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We don't have
8 any money is the bottom line.

9 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Yes, they took
10 our money away.

11 MR. FERN THOMASSY: You know,
12 seriously, that's what we're here for. I mean, we
13 ought to really raise cane about that. That is
14 unconscionable. They're playing a shell game with us.

15 MR. MARK ANDERSON: How much did
16 they take back?

17 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Two,
18 approximately, a little over two million. I can get
19 the details if you give me a call. I can give you an
20 exact if you give me a call.

21 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That stopped
22 the EBS, as well.

23 MR. MARK ANDERSON: I'll be by to

1 see you in the morning.

2 (UNIDENTIFIED MALE): Lisa, you had
3 two and a half million dollars allocated for the
4 fourth quarter and you got zero.

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That's
6 terrible.

7 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Got zero.

8 (UNIDENTIFIED MALE): We were told
9 that --

10 MR. FERN THOMASSY: That's DoD, DA.

11 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: DA. DA used
12 those BRAC dollars to move --

13 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think we
14 need to start rattling that cage.

15 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Yes, I do, too.

16 MR. MARK ANDERSON: I'll have that
17 one taken care of in two days.

18 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Good.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Good. Get it
20 done.

21 MR. JIMMY PARKS: Did they have a
22 target for when the base cleanup plan will be done,
23 any day?

1 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: When we get
2 the money.

3 MR. JIMMY PARKS: Show me the
4 money.

5 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Show me the
6 money.

7 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Mr. Walker, the
8 Under-Secretary for Installations will be here
9 Wednesday. The Congressman is --

10 MR. CHARLES TURNER: That's Butch
11 Straw.

12 MR. MARK ANDERSON: That's the DOJ
13 guy. I understand --

14 MR. GARY HARVEY: Walker is not
15 coming until the 12th of September.

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Right.

17 MR. MARK ANDERSON: Thanks, Ron.

18 MR. FERN THOMASSY: You know we
19 forgot to vote on suspending those requirements for a
20 quorum before Mary left.

21 MR. CHARLES TURNER: It doesn't
22 really matter.

23 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Yes, it does.

1 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I mean, we
2 were going to leave the quorum requirement in place,
3 anyway, for action, so that you and I can't get
4 together and pass some sure enough resolutions.

5 MR. FERN THOMASSY: For regular
6 meetings, though, is what we're talking about.

7 MR. CHARLES TURNER: What I'm
8 saying is: That the only thing that -- the only real
9 issue is --

10 MR. FERN THOMASSY: For the
11 minutes.

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Right. Okay.

13 MR. IKE BROWN: How are we
14 responding now to say civic groups that are wanting
15 somebody to speak to them?

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: I think
17 essentially the same way and that is that start with
18 Lisa, if you've got a request for somebody to come and
19 talk --

20 MR. IKE BROWN: One of the Rotary
21 clubs is wanting someone from the group to speak to
22 them.

23 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Well,

1 certainly let's do it. Fern, you ready to start
2 making some speeches?

3 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I think we
4 ought to start using some people here. I'm willing to
5 do it, as well as some of the others.

6 MR. IKE BROWN: Well, I have a
7 contact person, the person that made the request, is
8 anxious to hear from somebody. They would like to
9 schedule it.

10 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Have them get a
11 hold of me.

12 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Route it
13 through Lisa.

14 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Yes, I think it
15 would be better if you --

16 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And just let
17 the chair and the community and DoD co-chairs --

18 MR. FERN THOMASSY: I'm willing to
19 do the first one. I think if I do the first speech,
20 what we ought to do is get word out to people ahead of
21 time so that they have the opportunity to come listen
22 and answer questions as part of the board, while I
23 represent the board from the speaker stand. And I'll

1 go ahead and put together a briefing and I'll use as
2 my basic outline what Mark first put together that we
3 agreed to look pretty good. I will not follow it,
4 completely.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: We're talking
6 ten, fifteen minute presentation, right?

7 MR. IKE BROWN: I would assume so.
8 He didn't --

9 MR. PETE CONROY: Actually the
10 afternoon --

11 MR. IKE BROWN: It's probably a
12 lunch time Rotary group, so --

13 MR. PETE CONROY: That's about
14 thirty minutes.

15 MR. IKE BROWN: -- about
16 twenty-five at the most.

17 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Yes, that's all
18 they want is about fifteen, twenty minutes.

19 MR. CHARLES TURNER: And don't they
20 ask questions, too? I think I've been -- I went and
21 talked at one. So --

22 MR. FERN THOMASSY: Okay.

23 MS. LISA KINGSBURY: Have them call

1 me and I'll set it up.

2 MR. IKE BROWN: Okay. You'll hear
3 from them tomorrow.

4 MR. PETE CONROY: Move to adjourn.

5 MR. CHARLES TURNER: Move to
6 adjourn. Any opposition? Adios.

7 (WHEREUPON, the meeting was concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ALABAMA)
CALHOUN COUNTY)

I, SAMANTHA E. NOBLE, a Court
Reporter and Notary Public in and for The State of
Alabama at Large, duly commissioned and qualified,
HEREBY CERTIFY that this proceeding was taken before
me, then was by me reduced to shorthand, afterwards
transcribed upon a computer, and that the foregoing is
a true and correct transcript of the proceeding to the
best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY this proceeding
was taken at the time and place and was concluded
without adjournment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto

1 set my hand and affixed my seal at Anniston, Alabama,
2 on this the 38th day of August, 1997.

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SAMANTHA E. NOBLE

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Notary Public in and for

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Alabama at Large

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MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 11-14-97.

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