

SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK
Grants Review Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - 10:00 am
First Floor Conference Room
2711 Middleburg Drive
Columbia, SC 29204

1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Grants Review Committee (GRC) was called to order by Committee Chairman Keith Williamson at 10:00 am on March 8, 2023. Chairman Williamson stated that a notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2) ROLL CALL

Committee members present included Chairman Keith Williamson, Charles Lane, Tommy Lavender, Curtis Spencer, Russell Hubright for Walter McPhail, and ex-officio member Michael McShane. Member absent was Brent McLaurin.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Williamson opened the floor to anyone interested in making public comments. There being no one, the Committee moved to the next agenda item.

4) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman Williamson stated the GRC was given a draft copy of the 08/31/2022 GRC meeting minutes to review. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Chairman Williamson asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as distributed. Mr. Lane made the motion, Mr. Lavender seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5) EXECUTIVE SESSION (*PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL MATTERS*)

The Chairman called for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing proposed contractual matters in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act *Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)*. Mr. Lane made the motion with the request for any committee members to recuse themselves as appropriate, Mr. Lavender seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Mr. Lane made the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Spencer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Once in open session, Mr. Lane made a motion to approve the recommendations of Bank staff and subject to the availability of funding by the Board with the following exceptions:

Item 1 (James Island CP- Bradham Road Addition): Decrease scores as follows: Conservation Corridors, Ecological Conservation Priorities, and Sustainable Forestry & Agriculture scores to 0, Partnership to 2, Historical and Cultural Resources and Unique Opportunity, change staff recommendation to \$500,000, and remove reimbursement expectation;

Item 2 (North Island): Decrease scores as follows: Conservation Corridor and Ecological Conservation Priorities to 0, Threat of Conversion and Unique Opportunity to 2; no funding recommendation at this time;

Item 3 (Black River SP – RMS North): Increase scores as follows: Ecological Conservation Priorities to 5, Sustainable Forestry & Agriculture to 4.5, Water Resources to 4, Vista, Trails, Equitable Access, Military to 2, Unique Opportunity to 5, and remove reimbursement expectation;

Item 4 (Cotton Hall): Increase scores as follows: Ecological Conservation Priorities to 5, Water Resources to 4, Proximity of Urban Interface to 3, Vista, Trails, Equitable Access, Military to 5; change funding amount to \$3,000,000, and remove reimbursement expectation;

Item 7 (Hazelwood Farm 2): Increase Proximity to Urban Interface score to 3;

Item 9 (Dalzell Bay): Mr. Spencer disclosed a former ownership interest in subject property;

Item 10 (Savannah River and Uplands (Pauline Place) Lowlands): Increase scores as follows: Ecological Priorities to 5, Water Resources to 4, Unique Opportunity to 5;

Item 12 (Twin Ponds): Increase scores as follows: Proximity of Urban Interface to 3.5, Historical and Cultural Resources to 4;

Item 13 (Lee St Park (KDR/OSI)): Mr. Spencer recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest;

Item 15: (Four Leaf Farm): Increase scores as follows: Conservation Corridors to 2, Proximity to Urban Interface to 3;

Item 16 (Daus- Knights Hill): Increase scores as follows: Proximity of Urban Interface to 1. Threat of Conversion to 3;

Item 17 (Santee Delta Plantation): Reduce funding amount to \$75,000;

Item 18 (Gilstrap Mountain Amendment): Recommend increasing total grant amount to \$500,000 by increasing the grant amount by \$262,500 (reimbursable);

Item 19 (Saluda Bluffs): GRC endorses the project, recognizes the value, and encourages the land trust to continue pursuing it.

Mr. Lavender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Williamson stated that the Grants Review Committee will make these recommendations to the full Board at the next scheduled Board meeting.

8) ADJOURN

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Spencer made the motion, Mr. McShane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.