

# MINUTES

## SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 - 11:00 am

Via Webex

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 11:00 am via Webex. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Michael McShane presided at the meeting and members present included Thomas Lavender, Vice-Chairman, Elliott Close, Geordy Johnson, Charles Lane, Pamela Porter, Curtis Spencer, Richmond Wilhoit, Jr., and Keith Williamson; and Ex-Officio members Russell Hubright for Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; and Justin Hancock for Duane Parrish, Director for SCPRT. Board members absent were Larry Yonce and Brent McLaurin; and Ex-Officio member Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR.

### 1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McShane called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance.

### 2) ROLL CALL

Chairman McShane called roll and a quorum was established with nine Board Members and two Ex-Officio members in attendance. Chairman McShane stated that proper public notice had been given for the meeting.

### 3) CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman McShane congratulated the Board on its success through the challenging year and shared that the USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program awarded South Carolina five \$1 million grants between the Bank and SCDNR. Chairman McShane applauded Bank staff on the Annual Report and thanked Ms. Pennebaker and wished her success as she left the Bank for a new position. Chairman McShane reported to the Board that he and Director West recently presented the Bank's budget request to Senate Finance subcommittee and all members were supportive of the Bank and its request.

### 4) DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Director West also thanked Ms. Pennebaker and wished her well in her future endeavors. Director West informed the Board that staff is following the Governor's order to return to normal operations. Director West emphasized that the \$5.5 million awarded earlier this year will protect \$40 million worth of property.

### 5) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McShane opened the floor to anyone who would like to address to the Board. There being no public comments, the Chairman called for the next agenda item.

### 6) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman McShane stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the 12/09/2020 Quarterly Meeting minutes prior to the meeting for their review. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Chairman McShane adopted the minutes as distributed.

### 7) OLD BUSINESS

#### a) Financial Report

Chairman McShane presented the financial report, a copy of which was provided in the Board meeting handouts. Chairman McShane updated the Board on the current status of the Bank's budget request.

#### b) Project Updates

Chairman McShane updated the Board with the status of previously approved projects; a chart listing these projects was included in the Board meeting handouts.

Chairman McShane informed the Board of two projects (Morrow Creek Timbers and Gill Creek Preserve) in Abbeville County submitted by Upstate Forever that were previously approved at the September 30, 2020 Board meeting but deferred due to budgetary constraints. Now that the Bank has the funding available, the Chairman asked the Board to consider granting the awards for Morrow Creek Timbers at \$150,000 and Gill Creek Preserve at \$82,500. Mr. Lavender made the motion to fund these projects now that the Bank has adequate funds. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**8) BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION**

During the Board member open discussion, several members expressed their gratitude to Bank staff and their excitement to return to in-person meetings.

**9) TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman stated that the next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Time and place to be announced at a later date. Chairman McShane also announced that the Grants Review Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 with time and place to be determined.

**10) EXECUTIVE SESSION (*Personnel Matter*)**

Chairman McShane called for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the Agency Head Performance Review survey and process in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act *Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)*. Mr. Lavender made the motion, Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lavender made the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Spencer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**11) ADJOURN**

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