

# **MINUTES**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK**

**Wednesday, June 2, 2021 - 11:00 am**  
**Belfast Plantation**

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 11:00 am at Belfast Plantation. 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, Charles Lane, Pamela Porter, Curtis Spencer, Richmond Wilhoit, Jr., Keith Williamson, and Larry Yonce; and Ex-Officio members Scott Phillips for Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; and Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR. Board members absent were Elliott Close, Geordy Johnson and Brent McLaurin; and Ex-Officio member Duane Parrish, Director for SCPRT.

### **1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **2) ROLL CALL**

Chairman McShane called roll and a quorum was established with eight 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 thanked Mr. Pulliam for hosting the meeting and asked Ms. Cope with SCDNR to introduce their staff and give a brief history of Belfast Plantation.

### **4) DIRECTOR'S UPDATES**

Director West also thanked everyone for their attendance and SCDNR for the tour after the meeting of Belfast Plantation and the White Plains tract. Director West reported that the online application was nearly complete and that there was no current plan to rehire the Administrative position with the Bank. Chairman McShane reminded everyone of the upcoming application deadline and mentioned that the Charleston County Greenbelt plans to change their timeline to closely resemble the Bank's procedures.

### **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**

#### **a) September 2, 2020 GRC teleconference meeting**

Chairman McShane stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the 09/02/2020 Grants Review Committee (GRC) Meeting minutes prior to the meeting for their review. Chairman McShane explained that the GRC usually approves their own minutes but since the members have recently changed, it made sense to forward to the full Board so that the former Committee members had a chance to review. Vice-Chairman Lavender (GRC Chairman) asked Mr. Lane, Mr. Spencer, and Mr. Williamson for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Chairman McShane asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as distributed. Mr. Lane made the motion, Mr. Spencer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **b) March 24, 2021 Board meeting**

Chairman McShane stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the 03/24/2021 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 asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as distributed. Mr. Spencer made the motion, Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 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 status of the Bank's budget request.

### b) Project Updates

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

## 8) NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANTS

Chairman McShane stated that the GRC met on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 to discuss the request for sponsorship of the McLeod-Smith Tracts in the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP). Ms. Larck updated the Board on a new NCWCGP policy that may change the structure of the project. Chairman McShane explained that the current plan was to submit two applications (one authored by TNC and the other by OSI) to the NCWCGP for \$1,000,000 each. Director West informed the Board about the McLeod-Smith tracts that together would purchase 4,300 acres nationally-declining forested wetlands, mixed upland-pine, and scenic Santee River frontage. Director West clarified that this sponsorship would not guarantee Bank funding and that the Bank should receive applications from OSI and TNC for funding in July. Director West stated that the plan for both properties was to be transferred to the SC Forestry Commission and included in SCDNR's WMA program. Mr. Phillips informed the Board that this project was a high priority for the Forestry Commission and would adjoin the Wee Tee State Forest and other protected lands. Vice-Chairman Lavender made a motion to authorize the Director to sponsor the application(s) leading to the acquisition of up to the 4300 acres. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. Mr. Spencer disclosed a relationship with the previous owners.

## 9) 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. Lane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 10) TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman stated that the next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 10am in Columbia, SC and the Grants Review Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 10am in Columbia, SC. Exact locations to be determined.

## 11) BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

During the Board member open discussion, several members expressed their gratitude to Board leadership and Bank staff.

## 12) ADJOURN

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