

# MINUTES

## SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 - 11:00 am  
Kershaw - Cornwallis House  
222 Broad Street, Camden, SC 29020

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 11:00 am at 222 Broad Street, Camden, SC 29020. 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 S. Porter, Curtis Spencer, Richmond Wilhoit, Jr., Keith Williamson, Larry Yonce; and Ex-Officio members Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; and Justin Hancock for Duane Parrish, Director SCPRT. Board Members absent were Elliott Close, Geordy Johnson, Dr. Brent McLaurin and Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR.

### 1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McShane called the meeting to order, welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance. Chairman McShane expressed his appreciation to the Historic Camden Foundation for hosting and asked former Senator Sheheen to speak to the Board. Former Senator Sheheen welcomed the Board to Kershaw County and thanked the members for their willingness to serve the state.

### 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 asked Ms. Virginia Zemp, Executive Director of the Historic Camden Foundation, to introduce herself. Ms. Zemp gave the Board information regarding the meeting location and thanked them for their partnership to protect historic properties in the area.

### 4) PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

### 5) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mr. McShane stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the September 22, 2021 Quarterly Meeting minutes prior to the meeting for their review and that copies were within the Board Member meeting materials. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the meeting minutes. Mr. Lane made a motion to amend the minutes to show Mr. Lavender's vote against the Oakville/Burden Creek project. Mr. Lavender seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

### 6) NEW BUSINESS

#### a) Board Member Elections

Chairman McShane informed the Board that the two-year terms for Chairman and Vice-Chairman were up and needed to be reelected. The Board proposed reelecting Mr. McShane for Chairman and Mr. Williamson for Vice-Chairman with the condition that Mr. Lavender continue to serve as the Grants Review Committee Chairman for the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. McShane and Mr. Williamson stepped out of the room to allow the Board to discuss the proposal. All members spoke in favor of the proposal and Mr. McShane and Mr. Williamson were invited back into the room. Mr. Lavender called for a motion to accept the slate of officers to include Mr. McShane as Chairman and Mr. Williamson as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Lane made the

motion, Mr. Spencer seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. Mr. McShane and Mr. Williamson did not participate in the vote.

**b) Financial Report**

Director Raleigh West reported that the Bank currently has roughly \$3.3 million to spend on grants in the upcoming January application cycle. Chairman McShane asked for an update on a few reimbursable grants. Director West asked representatives of SCDNR and SCPRT to give an update on two projects with upcoming reimbursements. Chairman McShane asked SCDNR and SCPRT to report back to Bank staff prior to the next Grants Review Committee meeting.

**c) Director's Update**

Director West introduced the Bank's new GIS analyst, Megan James, who would substantially increase mapping capabilities that would coincide with the online application which is in its final stages. Director West informed the Board of a recent lack of discipline from the applicants regarding their due diligence packages and has asked the Board to support sending a letter to the South Carolina Land Trust Network demanding higher quality work. Mr. Lavender asked what templates are currently in place and suggested implementing further checklists. Chairman McShane recommended Director West send the letter discussed and have the Grants Review Committee discuss applying additional templates/checklists for these items. Director West stated that the online application will provide additional support for these requirements.

**i) Project Closings**

Director West informed the Board of the progress of the grants approved at the September 22, 2021 Board meeting and any projects carried over from Fiscal Year 2021. A chart listing all projects and their statuses was included within the Board meeting handouts.

**d) Graham Family Tract**

At the September 22, 2021 Board Meeting, the Graham Family Tract was approved at \$242,000 with the condition to reimburse the Bank for any right of way granted through the Chinquapin Tract which will be calculated by a ratio of acreage consumed by the right of way relative to the total acres of the original project applied to the original grant amount. The motion included the authority for Director West to bring the management plan that will show the size and location of said right of way back to the Grants Review Committee. Director West presented said management plan to the Board which included all the required information. Vice-Chairman Lavender asked the Grants Review Committee if they had any comments. There being none, Mr. Lavender made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the conceptual plan and accept it with the authorization for the Director to release the grant funds. Mr. Spencer seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

**7) BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION**

Chairman McShane handed out a spreadsheet that listed all grants that have closed since reauthorization and showed 75% of funding went to fee simple projects with full public access. Mr. McShane recently met with Representative G. Murrell Smith, Jr., Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and presented this information to him. Mr. McShane and Mr. West were invited to present to the entire Ways and Means staff on this topic. Chairman McShane asked for the Board's support to be bold with the budget requests including non-recurring and recurring funding requests. Chairman McShane also gave a brief overview of the Carolina Conservation Enhancement Act, also known as The Conservation and Antiquities Act.

Chairman McShane opened the floor for Board Member discussion. All Board members applauded Board leadership and staff on their work.

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

The Chairman stated that the next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 10am in Columbia, SC. Exact location to be announced at a later date. Mr. McShane stated that the Grants Review Committee would be held a few weeks prior to that meeting at the call of the GRC Chairman.

**9) ADJOURN**

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