

# **MINUTES**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK**

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022 - 10:00 am**

**Table Rock State Park**

**The Gaines Lodge**

**233 Table Rock State Park Rd.**

**Pickens, SC. 29671**

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 10:00 am at Table Rock State Park in Pickens, SC. 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; other members present included Keith Williamson, Vice-Chairman, Charles Lane, Thomas Lavender, Pamela S. Porter, Curtis Spencer, Richmond Wilhoit, Jr.; and Ex-Officio members Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR, and Justin Hancock for Duane Parrish, Director SCPRT. Board Members absent were Elliott Close, Geordy Johnson, Dr. Brent McLaurin, and Larry Yonce.

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

Chairman McShane called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance. He thanked Justin Hancock and for hosting meeting and introduced Terry Hurley, also of SCPRT.

### **2) ROLL CALL**

Chairman McShane called roll and a quorum was established with 7 Board Members and 3 Ex-Officio members in attendance. Chairman McShane stated that proper public notice had been given for the meeting.

### **3) CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Chairman McShane invited Terry Hurley of SCPRT to give a brief history of Table Rock State Park. Ms. Hurley spoke about the CCC initiative to build a "family of parks", highlighted some of the features of Table Rock, and informed those in attendance that the Gaines Lodge was named for retired SCPRT Director, Phil Gaines, who faithfully served as an ex-officio member of the Conservation Bank Board for many years. Next, Chairman McShane reminded the Board about the required Ethics filing for FY2023 and stated that Bank staff sent a link to all Board members to complete the filing. Board members were asked to contact Bank staff if they have any questions or need a new link emailed. Chairman McShane then updated Board members on the state appropriations budget for FY23 and informed board members about a Senate proviso to increase the DNR grant from \$3 million to \$4 million dollars per year. Chairman McShane will continue to keep the board updated as the budget moves through the legislative process.

### **4) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ross Nelson from Charleston spoke as a representative of the SC Mitigation Association (SCMA). SCMA formed in 2013 to bring companies together who are working on mitigation projects yet struggling through the regulatory process. The goal of SCMA is to become involved with conservation community, and SCMA offers Land trusts memberships at a lower price level to increase land trusts' involvement in aligning mitigation projects with conservation goals. Mr. Lane spoke on the Conservation Priorities map and mentioned that it might be appropriate for SCMA to be involved in this process. Chairman McShane also recognized Frank Halden and Brad Wyche, both of Naturaland Trust. Both gentlemen spoke about the importance of partnerships and thanked the Board for its continued involvement in conservation projects.

### **5) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Mr. McShane stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the March 30, 2022, 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. There being none, Mr. Spencer made a

motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. Next, the minutes of the April 20, 2022, Special Purpose Meeting were presented. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the meeting minutes. There being none, Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Williamson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

## 6) NEW BUSINESS

### a) Director's Updates

Director Raleigh West stated the importance of these "off grant cycle" meetings at locations around the state in allowing Board members and members of the public to see the conservation work accomplished throughout the state. He then informed the Board that Bank staff will increase from two to three staff members in July with the re-hiring of the third position which has been vacant since March of 2021.

### b) Project Updates

Director West informed the Board that several outstanding grants will not close by the end of fiscal year; this is not a concern as there is a Proviso in place which allows the Bank to carry grants past the fiscal year. Chairman McShane asked Bank staff to provide a monthly update of grant closing progress. Mr. Lavender asked about a particular grant, Blackwell Farm. Director West explained the delay and will continue to follow up with Chairman McShane.

### c) Financial Report

Director West discussed the financial report which was included in the Board meeting materials. Once all grants close, a small amount will carry forward into the next year.

### d) Black River State Park Presentation

Mariah Whitehead of OSI and Terry Hurley spoke about the new Black River initiative, which seeks to establish the first new state park in 20 years: a 70+ mile riverine project which allows for increased public access to the river, protects the area from flooding, brings additional visitors to the area, and in general builds healthier communities. Team of local stakeholders, DNR and State parks convened to work on community outreach to determine the direction of the planning process and the Conservation Bank has been a partner of many of the acquisitions along the river thus far.

### e) River Falls Presentation

Carlton Owen of Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust & Mac Stone of Naturaland Trust highlighted the River Falls Project.

## 8) BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Williamson presented a plaque from the Horry County Historic Preservation Commission honoring Chairman McShane and recognizing him for the work he did on behalf of the Bank in the protection of Ingram Dunes and River Oaks. Mr. Spencer stated that this was his first-time visiting Table Rock State Park, and he has enjoyed it immensely. Director West thanked SCPRT for use of cabins and Gaines Lodge for our meeting. Chairman McShane reminded Board members that the composition of the Grants Review Committee will change at beginning of fiscal year in accordance with state statute.

## 9) TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman stated that the next Board meeting will take place on Wednesday September 21, 2022, at 10:00am in Columbia, SC. In preparation for that, the GRC meeting will take place on August 31, 2022.

## 10) ADJOURN

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