## MINUTES SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK SCDNR BOARD ROOM, 1000 ASSEMBLY STREET, ROOM 335 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003, 10:00 A.M.

The second meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Conservation Bank was held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 14, 2003, at 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media. Chairman Charles Lane presided at the meeting.

Board Members present included Elliott Close, Tom DeLoach, Ken Hill, Ben Keys, Charles Lane, Mike McShane, Tommy Miller, Chad Prosser and Hugh Weathers. Marvin Davant (Executive Director).

Mike McShane, newly appointed Chairman of the SCDNR Board, John Frampton, Director of SCDNR, and staff members of SCDNR were present at the meeting as were various guests.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lane called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Meditation

Chairman Lane asked for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Thanks to SCDNR

Chairman Lane thanked John Frampton and Rita Pardue for their support and help with the SC Conservation Bank.

Minutes
Page 2
August 14, 2003

IV. Freedom of Information Rules and Requirements Have Been Met Chairman Lane advised that the Freedom of Information Rules and Requirements have been met.

#### V. Adoption of Minutes

Chairman Lane stated that the minutes of the last meeting have been mailed to the members of the Board and asked if there were any comments on the minutes. Mr. Close made a motion that the minutes of the March 4, 2003, meeting be approved. Mr. DeLoach seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### VI. Discussion of Old Business

Chairman Lane advised the Board that since the last meeting criteria had been developed for a grant application. The Board was mailed copies of the original and modified application for consideration. He would like to leave the meeting today with an agreement on the application process. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC) application was used as a guide.

#### VII. New Business

A. Discussion of the Bank Application and Grant Process Marvin Davant, Executive Director, gave an overview of how the application was processed. He reviewed the applications of several states and tried to combine them with our statutory requirements. A focus group was organized of approximately 25 people (organizations, business groups, conservation groups, etc.) and met to discuss this application. After this group met, Mr. Davant added the changes discussed to this application. He then chose six people from the focus group to discuss the revised application along with conservation easements.

Minutes Page 3 August 14, 2003

B. Recognize Technical Review Team

Mr. Davant recognized the Technical Review Team and thanked them for their help and input to this process. They were Mark Robertson, The Nature Conservancy; Ann Jennings, Congaree Land Trust; Barry Beasley, SCDNR; Harry Lesesne, The Conservation Fund; Edwin Cooper, Ducks Unlimited and Otis Rawl, the state Chamber of Commerce. Their main concern was that there was too much information for the landowner to deal with. This team was of a great help in the final application as presented to the Board.

C. Discussion of Criteria and the Priority Process
Chairman Lane stated that discussion was needed as to the important issues in evaluating proposals. He believes that the Board has an obligation to have geographic diversity (to cover all areas of the state). Along with geographic diversity, historical diversity and architectural diversity are to be considered.

Mr. Davant proceeded to discuss the application section by section.

Section I, General Information is general information that lets Mr. Davant and the Board know whom they are working with, description and location of the property. Tommy Miller asked under Section I, Acquisition Type, if this included all types of applications. He suggested that "Others" be added as an Option.

General Information, Section 2, the property information is to be completed by the landowner. The down-zoned issue was a big one in the General Assembly. Hugh Weathers questioned the zoning status and the fact that in some counties you would get a "Not Applicable" answer. After discussion, it was determined that it could be noted, "Not Applicable". If the Board determines that it needs to go look at a piece of property, the landowner would be asked for approval.

Minutes Page 4 August 14, 2003

General Information, Section 3, is to be completed by the Applicant. Mr. Davant commented that most of the questions asked on the application are required by statute. Mr. Davant believes that Item 12 will be of more use to the Board than anything else requested. The narrative requested will give to the Board exactly what the landowner is looking for and information that the Board will need to make a decision. Tommy Miller questioned if the Board is under time constraints to process the application. Also, who will do the environmental research. Mr. Davant responded that an Environmental Hazard Assessment is requested. No disbursement of funds will be made until the land meets all state and federal environmental laws and regulations. Hugh Weathers suggested that the "Total Transaction Value" be added to the application.

Section Four, Conservation Criteria, was lengthy but required by statute. The Conservation Criteria represents most user groups. It will not apply to all pieces of property. Elliott Close suggested that "Other" be added as another category since the conservation criteria will not apply to all applicants.

Section Five, Financial Criteria, all are statutory requirements. They may or may not be involved in the proposals.

Section Six, Public Access, the question is how much public access is the Board going to get and there is not a good definition of Public Access in this section. Ten percent of all the Board's funding has to be spent on property with public access.

Final Requirements that must be Fulfilled Before Closing or Any Distribution of Funds

Title Insurance is required on any property that the Board funds. It may be easier to have a subcontract with the owner of the property. Mark Robertson made comments with reference to the

Minutes
Page 5
August 14, 2003

Title Insurance required. He interpreted it to mean it was needed by the landowner and not the Board.

Ben Keys commented that Sections I, II, and III are named as General Information and should be more specific. Also, the pages need to be numbered after the application is finalized and put Sections I, II, and III at the bottom.

Mr. Davant discussed the Criteria Scoring. There are 12 Conservation Criteria and 5 Financial Criteria. The leverage of Conservation Criteria is 51%, and the leverage of Financial Criteria is 30%. There was further discussion by Board members as to which criteria should have the most leverage.

Mr. Davant stressed that the Board can make any changes that they want. The application as presented is a guideline. If further changes need to be made, they can be made at any time along the way. Mr. Davant wants to put the application on the Internet. A statement will be included that the Board reserves the right to make changes as it goes forward. Chairman Lane stated that as soon as the corrections are made and a legal review is made that the application can be put on the Internet.

Vice Chairman DeLoach made the motion to approve the application and criteria subject to change. Mr. Weathers seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. The SCCB Budget Cycle, Board Meeting Dates and Deadlines Mr. Davant asked for the Board's discussion as to the different dates and deadlines so that the Applicant will know that the Board is interested in their property and so that the Applicant's time frame can be met in a sufficient manner. Chairman Lane asked Director John Frampton the dates that were met by the

Minutes Page 6 August 14, 2003

NAWCC. Director Frampton reported that NAWCC reviewed applications twice a year, and he made comments with reference to the process used by NAWCC. Chairman Lane recommended that Mr. Davant review the guidelines of NAWCC and Forest Legacy and any other groups and meet with his Technical Review Team and make a draft that can be presented to the Board for their consideration.

Vice Chairman DeLoach asked Mr. Davant about the budget cycle. Mr. Miller suggested that the Board let DNR advise it on the budget questions.

E. MAP Commission and the SCCB Mr. Davant appeared before the MAP Commission and included information in the Board's packet.

#### F. SCCB State Audit

The state audit was completed for the six months period ending June 30, 2003. A fifteen page narrative has to be completed that deals with management and analysis.

Chairman Lane welcomed Mike McShane, the new Chairman of the DNR Board, who is a member of the Bank Board.

G. Discussion of the Environmental Group Meeting August 13 Mr. Davant was asked to speak to this group and bring them up to date on the Conservation Bank. He reported that this was a very supportive meeting of the Conservation Bank. Environmental groups have usually been a great source of support in the past to different groups. Support for the legislative funding for the Bank was discussed at this meeting. It was determined that other groups may be able to help the Bank as to what is ahead of it in dealing with the legislature. Thirteen people were there and ten organizations represented.

Minutes Page 7 August 14, 2003

#### H. Legislative Status

Chairman Lane thanked the conservation groups for their support of the Bank. He talked with the Governor and he said funding was planned for the Bank but he did not know what would become of it. Chairman Lane would like for Elliott Close, Vice Chairman DeLoach and Tommy Miller to find out from the Legislature where we stand politically and the chances for funding and report back to the Board. Mr. Davant is to continue to build support. Ben Keyes reported that he spoke with the Speaker and he did not get a lot of encouragement from him.

#### I. Status of SCCB License Tag

Mr. Davant advised that he talked with DOT and the cost of a license tag is cost prohibitive. In order to have a license tag, the cost is \$4,000.00 or 400 applicants that will buy one. Chad Prosser stated that it was a money loser. Chairman Lane suggested a motion to defer. Vice Chairman DeLoach made a motion to defer the license tag. Chad Prosser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### VIII. Public Comments

The Board was thanked for their service and given their support by Mark Robertson, The Nature Conservancy, Ann Jennings, Congaree Land Trust, and Harry Lesesne, The Conservation Fund. Mr. Lesesne also thanked Marvin Davant for the job he is doing as Executive Director and stated that The Conservation Fund is committed to funding the Conservation Bank until July 1, 2004. Stuart Greeter, DNR Heritage Trust Staff, offered his Minutes
Page 8
August 14, 2003

Section's support to the SC Conservation Bank.

Ben Keys asked about the article in The Greenville News concerning the sale of state property. He wanted to know if this was an opportunity to ask the State not to sell and to look at conservation easements. Mr. Davant stated that he would be in favor of this alternative. Comments were made by John Frampton, Chad Prosser, and Ken Hill that the State was trying to raise funds, cut expenses and to make more efficient use of resources.

IX. Date and Place for Next Meeting Chairman Lane suggested that Mr. Davant work towards having the items requested ready by the next meeting, which would probably be in November. He believes Columbia is the best location for the meeting.

#### X. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned.



#### **Board of Directors**

Charles Lane Chairman

From DeLoach /ice-Chairman

hc .s W. Miller lecretary/Treasurer

Veston Adams, III Iliott Close en Geer Keys enry Tisdale, PhD. ugh Weathers

#### <-Officio Members

ab Lesesne nad Prosser in Hill

#### SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK Post Office Box 167 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Marvin N. Davant Executive Director 803-734-3986

July 23,2003

Melissa Carter State Optional Retirement Program P.O.Box 11960 Columbia, S.C. 29211-1960

Dear Melissa,

Please find enclosed four copies of the MAP Survey and the responses from the South Carolina Conservation Bank. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this information and I look forward to meeting with the MAP Commission. If you any questions or if I need to provide any additional information please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Marvin N. Davant

#### GOVERNORS COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE.

#### AGENCY SURVEY

AGENCY NAME: THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

NAME OF CONTACT: MARVIN N. DAVANT

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 803-734-3986

FAX NUMBER: 803-734-9809

E-MAIL:MARVIND@SCDNR.STATE.SC.US

NAME OF SURVEY RESPONDENT: MARVIN N. DAVANT

- 1.C urrent organizational chart. Please see attached.
- 2. Please identify your major programs.

The South Carolina Conservation Bank major program was established for the purpose of making grants and loans to public or private entities to acquire interests in real property worthy of conservation, to provide those entities eligible to receive Bank grants, to establish the South Carolina Conservation Bank Trust Fund to receive revenues and to provide the criteria which the Bank must use in judging applications for grants

- a.Program Name/Title The South Carolina Conservation Bank
- b.Enabling Legislation—The South Carolina Conservation Bank Act. Act.#200.Ratified and Approved in April 2002.
- c.Authorized FTEs—The Act authorizes one position but gives the Bank Board authority to hire staff if necessary. The Conservation Bank currently has only one FTE.
- d.Operating budget— The current operating budget is solely from private donated dedicated funds. It does not have any state or federal funding at this time. See attached Comptrollers form.
- e.Purpose—To act as a funding mechanism for private and public land conservation.
- f.Explanation of Services provided—To develop grant criteria in accordance with the statute ,to identify qualified entities as grant recipients, to establish conservation priorities, and to fund worthy conservation in acquiring interests in real property.

g. Operational Objectives—To prepare the Bank to be immediately active when funding becomes available by establishing Bank policies, criteria, applications, and the systematic processes under which the Bank operates. To increase public awareness of the existence of the bank and its mission to its stakeholders and end users.

h.Client services—To inform stakeholders of the grant process; to help them prepare grant proposals and to identify qualified recipients, education through public speaking, research on heir's property, to aid the Board in the decision making process and to provide accountability to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and to the General Assembly.

i.Location of offices or Points Of Service Delivery—Office is Room #314 in the Dennis Building. Other Points Of Service Delivery will be on site of interests in lands being considered by the Bank for grants.

- 3. What other agencies, boards or commissions have direct interface and/or contact with the same clients or customers that you serve?---- While it is conceivable that SCDNR or PRT or Forestry Commission might have a few of the same customers it would not be for the same reasons Those agencies would be mostly for conservation and management objectives, etc. The Conservation Bank is the funding partner for the conservation of the ownership of the land itself. No other state agency is operating or designed to operate in the same manner or for the same objectives. These agencies would be customers of the Conservation Bank.
- 4. The South Carolina Conservation Bank was created by the General Assembly in 2002. It has not had any management studies or reccommendations of action changes. It has, however, researched a number of other states to ascertain their failures and successes and has incorporated their changes into the SCCBank policies and systems.
- 5.Do you have a strategic plan or business plan? -Yes-See attached.
- 6. What changes in statutory mandates would improve your efficiency and effectiveness?—While the Bank Act is very technical there does not yet exist enough information to indicate that any statutory change is necessary.
- 7.Is there any thing else you would like to include in the MAP Commission report. Yes—Please see attached. Since the Conservation Bank is so new I believe that the data included under this section might be useful to the Commission.

# SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK **Organization Chart**

July 22, 2003

# SC Conservation Bank Board

Weston Adams, III, Elliott Close, Tom DeLoach,, Ben Geer Keys, Thomas W. Miller, Charles Lane, Chairman,

Henry Tisdale, PhD., Hugh Weathers, ex officio: Joab Lesesne, Chad Prosser, Ken Hill

Executive Director Marvin N. Davant 803-734-3986

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AGENCY NAME= S. C. CONSERVATION BANK

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|    | 96,728<br>(1.00) | 31,728                                  | 31,728                          | 65,000<br>(1.00)                | (1.00)<br>65,000                   |                                                                                                       | SENATE BILL TOTAL ST: FUNDS FU         |
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# APPROPRIATIONS BALANCE SHEET

AGENCY NAME= s. C. CONSERVATION BANK

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#### Attachment for item #5 MAP Survey

### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

To enter into agreement with and receive such grants, gifts, and assistance as may be available from Federal, State, or other government agencies, and from private persons or corporations for the purpose of which the Bank is formed.

- 1. To promote conservation of significant lands and habitats in the State of South Carolina
- 2. To support the education of the public to the importance of the conservation of natural resources and the role the Bank plays.
- 3. To make determinations as to the distribution, division or allottments of funds towards the accomplishment of the purpose of the Bank and to receive requests from and grant awards to qualified entities to assist in accomplishing the aim of the Bank.
- 4. To use income accumulated from the funding and investments to carry out the objectives of the Bank.
- 5. The activities of the Conservation Bank shall be in accord with the objectives as stated in the statute.

#### Attachment for Item #5 MAP Survey

#### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

#### **BUSINESS PLAN**

Goal 1. Sustainable amounts of diverse habitat reflecting the values of South Carolina Citizens.

Objectives: Within the next five years improve the abundance and distribution of conserved properties.

Goal 2. Enhanced use and enjoyment of conserved habitats consistent with the mission of the Conservation Bank Act.

Objective: A. To increase the distribution, number, and types of opportunities for use of conserved habitats.

B. To develop and maintain an inventory of conserved properties.

Goal 3. An informed and supportive public that has ownership in conservation benefits and practices.

Objective: To improve public awareness and understanding of resource management issues and increased opportunities to participate in the process.

Goal 4. Develop and maintain effective and supportive partnerships that enable the Conservation Bank and its partners to reach mutual goals in conservation.

Objectives: A. to increase the number and kinds of partnerships.

B. To increase successful projects and programs that involve collaborative partnerships.

- Goal 5. Develop and maintain effective support and planning systems that enable the Conservation Bank to fulfil its objectives.
- Objectives: 1. Develop and maintain an inventory of conservation proposals.
- 2.Develop and implement an effective criteria award priority system for conservation proposals.
  - 3. Establish and maintain web site.
- 4. Develop strategy for an integrated business and budget planning process to guide the agency in allocating services and resources.
  - 5. Develop tracking system on heirs property.
  - 6. Prepare necessary reports for the General Assembly.
- 7. Establish a quarterly update system on accomplishments for Board and other stakeholders.
- 8. Establish ad hoc working committee to advise board on issues and provide stakeholder input.

#### Attachment For Item #5 MAP Survey

#### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

#### MISSION STATEMENT

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SOUTH CAROLINA THROUGH THE CONSERVATION OF SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS, WETLANDS, HISTORICAL LANDS, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES.

Attachment for item #5 MAP Survey

#### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

A SOUTH CAROLINA THAT HAS SUSTAINABLE LEVELS OF OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE, HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES ,AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THAT ENHANCES THE BUSINESS CLIMATE AND RESPECTS PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND THUS IMPROVES THE OUALITY OF LIFE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

#### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Act was passed into reality by Act 200 of the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor in April of 2002. The law stipulates the need to fund the preservation and conservation of wildlife habitats, outstanding natural natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, hiostorical sites. forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, urban parklands, and open space as an essential element in the orderly development of the State. The protection of these resources by acquisition of interests in real property is essential to ensure that the state continues to enjoy these benefits, to maintain the state's position as an attractive location for visitors and new business, and for future generations. The legislation points out the critical need to encourage cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and other non-profit organizations which must work together to attain these objectives. The South Carolina Conservation Bank Act was created to carry out these purposes by creating an ongoing funding source to acquire interests in land from willing sellers that meet these objectives and to ensure the orderly development of the State. The Act creates a separate SCC Bank Trust Fund in the State Treasurer's office and is funded by placing twenty five cents out of every one dollar thirty five cents of the state deed recording fee in this trust. This funding does not take place until July 2004.

#### MANAGEMENT

Management of the Agency consists of a twelve member Board to set

policy. Three members are appointed by the House, three by the Senate, three by the Governor and three agency heads(DNR,PRT,SCForestry) are ex-officio. Because of the importance of this Act, although there is yet no state appropriated money, the Board has hired an executive director to run its day to day operations and to fulfil its administrative duties and responsibilities. The director answers to the board and its chairman. The Bank has adopted a mission statement, goals and objectives, and a strategic plan and has embarked on fulfilling this plan. The Bank has entered into a Memorandum Of Understanding with The Conseravtion Fund to provide funding for the Bank until state money begins in 2004. The Conservation Fund is currently doing so. Aditionally, the Bank entered a MOU with the Dept. of Natural Resources to provide vacant office space, limited clerical assistance, telephone service (excluding long distance) and computer usage at no charge to the Bank. The director files quarterly progress reports and communicates with the Chairman weekly or more often as needed. Additionally, the Bank has elected a Vice-Chairman and a Treasurer. All financial records, accounting ,and financial dealings are handled by SCDNR under its regular state accounting system and procedures.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

The Bank is set up for and has two treasurer's accounts. One is for operations and the other is a trust account for the purchase of interests in land The operations account houses the current donated monies and there is no money in the trust account at this time. The funding comes from the Conservation Fund and is delivered to the Treasurer's office by the SCDNR. The funds are then placed in the state treasurer's account for SCCB operations. The director has access to the operations account for info only but has no change authority. All transactions concerning trust fund monies will be made by the Board. The Conservation Bank is subject to an annual audit by statute. This audit is made by an outside entity to ensure independent review of control processes. The Bank is also required to prepare an annual report to the General Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor on its progress towards accomplishing its mission of land conservation. It also is required to report on the plight of heirs property. Additionally, the board has adopted a policy of quarterly

review of its own accomplishments and focus areas to determine successes and where additional effort needs to be made.

#### **PERFORMANCE**

- 1. Quarterly reviews are attached.
- 2. Web site data on line http://SCCBank.sc.gov
- 3. Public education: Since January the director has made 15 public talks to both private and governmental groups about the Bank and its functions. A web site is now on line informing the public about the Bank. To date it has had over 600 inquiries. A standardized mail out has been established for written inquiries. The project application will be ready to put on line for public use within a month. A logo has been designed and accepted by the Board for public recognition. The director has been in contact with a number of private corporations seeking their support as well as communication efforts with management about cooperation in land conservation and the availability of the Bank to help. The director has daily inquiries from interested parties. Mail outs are sent to all enquirers and a log is kept for future reference when funding becomes available.
- 4.Partnerships: The Bank has formed partnerships with a number of private and governmental entities. They are: SCDNR,SCDOR,The Conservation Fund,The Land Trust Alliance,The Nature Conservancy,Ducks Unlimited, The State Chamber Of Commerce, and USC.
- 5. Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, and Goals And Objectives have been adopted by the Board. Quarterly reviews of the business plan are made.
- 6.Project and Proposal Application: The director has researched a number of other states' programs which have similar agencies to ascertain their successes and failures. The application and review process will ultimately determine the success of the Bank and its acceptance by the public and its stakeholders. The Conservation Bank

Act is a detailed and complex statute. Many of its requirements are statutory. In order to ensure that the Proposal Application And Selection Criteria met all the requirements the director has compiled a composite of the Statutory requirements, and the best parts of other states' programs in an application form. He then formed a focus group of 25 private conservation groups, business groups, and governmental entities to seek their ideas and input on how best to make the system efficient and user friendly and still accomplish the statutory needs. This group met extensively. The results were compiled and sent out to the participants seeking their priorities. He then formed a technical review group of the same entities to fine tune the suggestions. This group also met extensively. The results are now in draft form to present to the Board within a month. The end result is a document that has been designed and accepted by the end users and insitutes ownership in the process. It is significant to note that it has taken many other states years to design a process that is considered fair and acceptable to those involved. As soon as this document is officially accepted by the Board it will be placed on line and entities affected by this Act and the general public may begin to submit proposals to the Board for consideration pending funding. The SCCBank is charged with filing reports on the plight of heirs property. The director has attended two conferences on this issue and has established information channels that should enable the Bank to fulfill this responsibility.

7.Leveraging. The Conservation Bank currently has its operations totally funded by donations. The funding for human resources, travel, and office expenditures has been obtained by an MOU with conservation organizations and the office space, telephone and limited clerical support is being furnished by the SCDNR.

In an era of budget cuts and down sizing of government, why should there be a separate entity to deal with land conservation?

The South Carolina Conservation Bank was established by the General Assembly" to acquire land interests in wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, open space and urban parklands as essential to the orderly development of the State." While there may be agencies dealing with one or more of these areas this Act created a very large and broad spectrum of land interests that is not dealt with any where else. The size of this mission is not specifically a specific area of concern but a much bigger quality of life issue. It deals with all open space of significance. The Act recognizes that the great prepondarance of lands in this state is privately owned and also recognizes that most of it should be. However, it recognizes that in order to conserve this important resource there must be incentives to encourage and compensate our landowners to continue to conserve it in a way that benefits all South Carolininians. It recognizes that while there are some state agencies that buy and manage specific lands for public access and use that there is great benefit in the landowner willingly conserving lands through easements and purchase of development rights just to preserve them for posterity and to preserve South Carolina's heritages. This private ownership allows the landowner to continue to own his property and absolves the State from the liability of ownership and management. It also has little or no effect on property taxes. While there are a few agencies who currently hold conservation easements they are small in number and are not generally sought after due to the control and liability issue of owning them. The Bank on the other hand was created just for that purpose. It is a funding mechanism for conservation proposals from the private sector as well as a small number of qualified government agencies. The Bank can not own these easements but must place them in the hands of private qualified trusts who are then responsible for them. An existing agency would seek funds to buy a parcel for a specific management such as a park, etc. There are three state agencies that deal in large areas of land in South Carolina. They are The Dept. Of Natural Resources; PRT; and the Forestry Commission. Under the Act they are the only qualified state agencies that can apply to the Conservation Bank for project funding. To place the funding resource under a qualified

recipient agency would unduly politicize the funding process and would be a conflict of interest to that agency. While a number of other states have very large conservation bank programs with up to 100 employees, the South Carolina Conservation Bank has but one employee. That is a director who is currently performing the administrative as well as the clerical duties of the position. To combine that one position elsewhere would not accomplish any sayings and indeed because most of the current expenditures are not additional costs to the state may cost more. The level of expertise necessary to perform this function may not exist elsewhere. The learning curve for this function is difficult and time consuming. The window of opportunity to conserve lands is at its best chance now. Every state that has been researched that has a conservation effort of this type has a stand alone entity for the same reasons discussed herein. The General Assembly was certainly aware that other agencies deal in limited or specific land transactions in South Carolina and that the Conservation Bank was designed for a much larger or broader mission than exists in those agencies. The Conservation Bank is meant to be a funding source and mechanism to fund land interest conservation. It is clear from the legislation that the General Assembly meant for the Conservation Bank to be an independent entity capable of making independent decisions on land interests based on a broad spectrum of lands and land types with both private and government entities independent of the existing programs.

#### Conservation Bank Activity Update

- 1. Met with Bob Stein with SC Budget and Control Board. Filed preliminary budgets for fiscal years 2003 and 2004. They are filling out budgets and will set up spending plan.
- 2. Requested from Treasurer's office and Comptroller General's office that a subfund be set up for the Conservation Bank
- 3. Met with Vice-Chairman Lane to discuss and make changes to the MOU with SCDNR to temporarily house the Bank's operations.
- 4. Reviewed MOU changes with Cary Chamblee and legal staff of DNR.
- 5. Met with Harry Lesesne of the Conservation Fund to get rolling on funding.
- 6. Made a Conservation Bank power point presentation to the Land Trusts Network. It was well attended. Harry Lesesne was present and was successful in getting the Land Trusts to issue a written resolution that they supported the mission of the Consrvation Bank and that they were supportive of the Conservation Fund raising funds for the partnership.
- 7. I am scheduled to make presentations to several Conservation Districts on Dec.2,3,4 in Greenville, Columbia, Orangeburg, and Charleston. I believe these meetings are educational and will help us to get our message out to potential landowners and supporters of this legislation. We will have to call on these folks from time to time for their involvement.
- 8. The MOU between the Conservation
  Bank and SCDNR was approved at the
  Nov. 15 DNR Board meeting. It has now
  been approved by the Conservation Bank
  Board and has been signed by Paul
  Sandifer and Vice-Chairman Lane.

#### Conservation Bank Activity report Second in series

- i.Met with Rich Gilbert State Auditors to go over bid process for audit of Conservation Bank. RFP issued to private audit firm.
- 2.Met with Less Boles to prepare appropriations act and to preserve account from legislative use. Budget has passed House and Senate so far.
- 3.Met with Bob Stein to set up budget request from State. Budgetis finalized for this fiscal year.
- 4.Met with Ray Williamson and Gary Bailey of audit firm to prepare audit process and needs.
- 5. Met with Larry Selzer, President of The Conservation Fund and Harry Lesesne and John Frampton in Charleston.
- 6. Met with Floyd Staton to prepare web site for SCCB. Updated web data.
- 7.Met with Freddie Vang, Hank Stallworth, Barry Beasley to discuss how SCDNR GIS and GAP analysis can help SCCB. Next meeting scheduled for May 8.
- 8. Made presentations to SCLTN twice; with Palmetto State Land Trust; with Cheraw Farm Ass'n., with Edisto Land Trust; with Pee Dee Land Trust.
- 9. Held Board meeting to establish Policies and guidelines.
- 10. Prepared packets of information to go out to landowners who request info on SCCB.
- 11. Met with Chairman Lane to discuss weighted criteria.
- 12. Met with Charles Rowe (editor) and the Charleston News and Courier editorial Board to discuss background data for article they will write.
- 13. Met with USC to go over background they will use to publish a number of artic les that will appear in their literature as well as a story to be printed in the SCDNR magazine about SCCB.
- 14. Prepared and held first focus group meeting.

- 15. Got approval of stationary and business cards. Actually have them printed.
- 16. Talked personally with four landowners about conservation easements (midlands and upstate) and plans they had for conservation.
- 17. Sent out 15 packets of info to interested landowners on conservation and the SCCB.
- 18. Met with Burnie Maybank, director of revenue, to discuss advisory board and content for new "Advantages of Conservation" booklet he will publish statewide through the Dept.
- 19. Continued work on writing up criteria evaluation for funding. Using resarch on NAWCA; Forest Legacy, and info from Florida, Alabama, and Colorado programs to come up with a draft.
- 20. Begun process of designing and a marketing plan for SCCB license tag.

#### Narrative

A lot of my time to this point has been spent on the administration of setting up this act. The technical aspects of creating a new State Agency are complicated. Also, I believe the many contacts made through speaking engagements will help educate the public about conservation and help to stave off attempts to reduce or postpone the State budget allocations. A considerable amount of interest and good will currently exists and we need to keep this interest level up. So far, there has been no serious attacks from legislators, although several were made, that have not been turned back and at this point I believe we are in pretty good shape—at least for this year. The SCCB budget (on paper) has made it through the House and Senate with no changes. Things look o.k. for next year although we will have to be alert when the time comes to protect this legislation. While I have a number of administrative tasks to finish including applications, criteria, legal review, web site, et.al it is my plan to begin to put together the applicable GIS data and GAP analysis that is available. At that point because there is no staffing level it will require my going to the court houses on site to determine ownership.

#### Conservation Bank Activity Report

#### Third in Series

- 1. Met with large end user focus group to discuss proposal application and criteria.
- 2. Compiled data and sent out to entire group. Received input back and compiled draft.
- 3. Formed technical review team and met to discuss putting application data and criteria in usable format.
- 4. Made corrections on draft and sent out to review team. Received comments.
- 5. Placed WEB site on line. 532 inquiries in first two weeks.
- 6.Met with chairman and Charleston News and Courier to discuss SCCB and article to appear in paper.
- 7.Met with Jeff Beacham of USC to compile additional data and set out format for article in USC publications and S.C. Wildlife Magazine.
- 8.Met with SCDNR Director, Conservation Fund Vice President and International Paper Vice president to work on land conservation.
- 9.Met with same group on two occasions to discuss land conservation, funding, and availability of lands.
- 10. Made preparations for next Board meeting.
- 11. Went over proposal application and criteria draft final time with Land Trust Alliance group.
- 12.Met with focus group to discuss budget and funding cycles that would best suit users needs.
- 13. Made talks to 4 Ducks Unlimited Chapters, and attended Farm Bureau meetings in three counties.
- 14. Met with Soil Conservation District commissioners in 4 counties.
- 15. Prepared data for independent audit.
- 16. Prepared data and report for Governor's Commission On Management, Accountability, and Performance.

#### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK BOARD MEETING AGENDA AUGUST 14,2003

- 1. Call Meeting To Order.
- 2. Moment Of Silence
- 3. Announcement That FOI Rules And Requirements Have Been Met
- 4. Adoption Of Minutes
- 5. Discussion Of Old Business
- 6. New Business
  - a.Recognize Technical Review Team
  - b.Discussion Of The Bank Application And Grant Process
  - c.Discussion Of Criteria And The Priority Process
  - d.The SCCB Budget Cycle, Board Meeting Dates, And Deadlines
  - e.MAP Commission and the SCCB
  - f.SCCB State Audit
  - g.Discussion Of The Environmental Group Meeting From Aug.13
  - h.Legislative Status
  - i.Status Of SCCB License Tag
- 7. Public Comments any.
- 8.Date And Place For Next Meeting
- 9.Adjourn



#### **Board of Directors**

Charles Lane Chairman

Tom DeLoach Vice-Chairman

7 was W. Miller Secretary/Treasurer

Weston Adams, III Elliott Close Ben Geer Keys Henry Tisdale, PhD. Hugh Weathers

#### **Ex-Officio Members**

Joab Lesesne Chad Prosser Ken Hill

#### SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK Post Office Box 167 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Marvin N. Davant Executive Director 803-734-3986

Dear Conservationist,

Please find enclosed an application package from the South Carolina Conservation Bank. This application will allow you to apply for funding for your proposal and will also give the Bank the required information to make a decision as to whether your proposal is acceptable. Please note that the application is in several sections. You should fill them out as completely as possible.

Many of the requirements of this application are statutory in nature. The Code Sections applicable to these requirements have been included for your information. Additionally, the Bank recognizes that a number of requirements of this statute, before any acceptance or disbursement of funds can be made, are very expensive and difficult to obtain. For that reason, several of these requirements have been placed at the back of the process so that you will have some indication of favorability prior to having to meet these requirements.

.Funding of proposals will be based on the amount of funding available and the priority of the proposals as set by the Board in accordance with the statutory criteria. Non- acceptance of your proposal does not mean it is not a good proposal. Nor does non-acceptance under one budget cycle preclude your proposal from being re-submitted.

We appreciate your interest and commitment to conservation and look forward to working with you to keep South Carolina a special place. If we can be of any help in this

process or if you need additional information please feel free to contact us.

#### Application for Funding South Carolina Conservation Bank

I. General Information: Section One: Acquisition type: \_\_\_ Fee Simple \_\_\_ Conservation Easement \_\_\_ Loan Landowner's Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: Daytime Telephone: Eligible Trust Fund Recipient Seeking Funding Name of Organization: Authorized Agent Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: Daytime Telephone: II. Property Information County\_\_\_\_\_\_
Tax Map #\_\_\_\_\_\_ Legal Description: Assessor's Plat and Lot Numbers: Deed Reference (Book and Page Number) Current local zoning status where property is located\_\_\_\_\_ Location on County Map (attach) Brief description of property including: a. Total acres

b. Total forestedc. Total cleared/open

- d. Total wetlands
- e. Creeks or rivers
- f. Please include any surveys, USGS maps, directions, county locator map, or any other pertinent information.

|          | map, or any other portion morniage.                                                                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| III. M   | iscellaneous Information:                                                                                                |
| a.       | Who is the party responsible for managing this land? (Code Sec. 48-59-70)                                                |
|          | Name                                                                                                                     |
|          | Address                                                                                                                  |
|          |                                                                                                                          |
|          | Telephone Number                                                                                                         |
| b.       | Who is responsible for enforcing any conservation easements or other restrictions on this property? (Code Sec. 48-59-70) |
|          | Name                                                                                                                     |
|          | Address                                                                                                                  |
|          | Address                                                                                                                  |
|          | Telephone Number                                                                                                         |
|          |                                                                                                                          |
| IV. Nar  | nes and addresses of adjoining landowners.(attach list)                                                                  |
|          |                                                                                                                          |
|          |                                                                                                                          |
|          | Cignature of Fliable Trust Fried Desiriest (Applies a)                                                                   |
|          | Signature of Eligible Trust Fund Recipient (Applicant)                                                                   |
| _        | Date                                                                                                                     |
|          |                                                                                                                          |
|          | For Office Use Only                                                                                                      |
|          |                                                                                                                          |
| Received | By:                                                                                                                      |

Application Number:\_\_\_\_\_

#### **General Information: Section Two**

| A. | To                | be    | filled out by the la                                                                     | ndowner.                                                   |                                                          |                                                          |
|----|-------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|    | 1.                | be    | oes this land contain<br>en down-zoned wit<br>ode Sec.48-59-70,                          | hin three years (                                          | erest in property<br>of the date of this                 | that has<br>s application?                               |
|    |                   |       | yes                                                                                      | -                                                          | no                                                       |                                                          |
|    |                   | iting | us the qualified entity:                                                                 |                                                            | eeking funding n                                         | otified you in                                           |
|    |                   | (5    | .C.Code Sec.48-59                                                                        | -/0,6-1,6-2)                                               |                                                          |                                                          |
|    |                   | a.    | That interests in la permanent convey eligible trust fund.                               | nd purchased wance of such int                             | ith trust funds re<br>erests from the l                  | sult in a<br>andowner to the                             |
|    |                   |       | yes                                                                                      | <u> </u>                                                   | no                                                       |                                                          |
|    |                   | b.    | That it may be in t independent legal advice.                                            | ne landowner's l<br>counsel,apprais                        | pest interests to als, and other pr                      | retain<br>ofessional                                     |
|    |                   |       | ye                                                                                       | es <u> </u>                                                | no                                                       |                                                          |
| В. |                   |       | Carolina Conserva<br>ment.                                                               | tion Bank—Land                                             | downer Inspection                                        | on Consent                                               |
|    | ,                 |       |                                                                                          |                                                            | ,as the landow                                           | mer or                                                   |
|    | the<br>Act<br>pro | pr    | wner's agent agree<br>operty being offered<br>agree to allow auth<br>rty as may be requi | to allow inspecti<br>d under the Sout<br>orized or design: | on, or appraisal<br>h Carolina Cons<br>ated agent or sta | if necessary, of<br>ervation Bank<br>off to inspect this |
|    |                   |       | Signature of Lanc                                                                        | owner/Agent                                                |                                                          | Date                                                     |

#### General Information -Section Three

To be filled out by eligible trust fund recipient seeking funding (Applicant) 1. Organization Name/Contact Con tact Person\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: Please attach certification that this is a charitable not-for-profit corporation or trust authorized to do business in this state; whose principal activity is the acquisition and management of land for conservation or historic purposes and which has tax-exempt status as a public charity under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or Certification that the applicant is an otherwise qualified entity under the S.C.Conservation Bank Act.(Code Sec.48-59-30,4-c) 2. How will you be able to complete the project and acquire the interests in the proposed lands? (Code Sec.48-59-70,H-1) 3. How many total acres of lands or projects have you preserved in this state? (Code Sec.48-59-70.H-2) 4. Briefly describe the lands your organization has preserved in this state. including their size, location and method of preservation. Note: this section need not be complied with for specific preserved lands if the privacy or proprietary interests of the owners of such preserved lands would be violated.)(Code Sec.48-59-70,H-3)

| 5. | subje                       | he trust fund recipients notified the owner of the land that is the ct of the trust fund grant or loan of the following in writing?(Code 8-59-70,B-1,B-2)                                                                                                                                              |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | a.                          | That interests in land purchased with trust funds result in a permanent conveyance of such interests in land from the landowner to the eligible trust fund recipient or it assignees.                                                                                                                  |
|    | b.                          | That it may be in the landowner's interest to retain independent legal counsel, appraisals and other professional advice.                                                                                                                                                                              |
|    | tha                         | ach notarized copy. <b>Note:</b> Applications not having affirmation at the notice requirement of this section has been met will not be ensidered for funding requests.                                                                                                                                |
| 6. | summa<br>attach             | the eligible trust recipient or the landowner have a general arized land management plan for this proposal? Please .(Code Sec. 48-59-70, G1-8). <b>Note:</b> A detailed land use gement plan is required prior to closing.                                                                             |
|    |                             | yes no                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7. | easem                       | n how the eligible trust fund recipient intends to enforce the lent restrictions on this proposal.(Code Sec.48-59-70,G-6,7 and ach additional sheet if necessary.                                                                                                                                      |
|    |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 8. | Simple<br>and us<br>regulat | eligible trust fund recipient uses SCCB funding to acquire Fee etitle to land, does it understand and agree that public access see of the land must be permitted, subject to those rules and tions that are consistent with the conservation purposes for the land was acquired. (Code Sec.48-59-80,K) |
|    |                             | ves no                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| <ol> <li>Does the eligible trust fund recipient agree that trust funds may only be used for the acquisition of interests in land including closing costs and not for management, planning, staffing, or any costs not associated with the purchase of interests in lands?(Code Sec. 48-59-110).</li> </ol>                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10. Does the eligible trust fund recipient have reasonable documentation<br>to support this request? Please attach. The proposal will not be<br>considered without adequate substantiation of estimated Fair Market<br>Value Note: However, a qualified and competent appraisal<br>establishing fair market value and/or the value of the proposed<br>easement will subsequently be required prior to closing. (Code<br>Sec.48-59-70,M) |
| yes no                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11. What is the amount of support sought for this proposal?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| \$                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12. Explain how this proposal will satisfy the criteria listed in Sections Four, Five, and Six of the ensuing pages. (Code Sec. 48-59-70,G) (Please attach a narrative of what your intended plans are and how you plan to accomplish them.)                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Signature of Authorized Agent for Eligible Trust Fund Recipient                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Notary Signature                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| My commission expires:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

#### Section Four—Conservation Criteria Code Section 48-59-70 Sec. C and D

| 1  | 1. | The extent to which the proposal conserves unique or important wildlife habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |    | Wildlife Habitat Values: The habitat potential of a parcel for all types of wildlife and fisheries species including those hunted and fished                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|    |    | <ul> <li>Parcel contains excellent habitat or habitat potential for game species including black bear, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, waterfowl, bobwhite quail and others.</li> <li>Parcel contains excellent habitat or habitat potential for game fish including cold-water trout, black bass, sunfish and others.</li> <li>Parcel contains significant populations of resident species.</li> <li>Parcel contains good or excellent habitat or habitat potential for forest inhabiting birds.</li> <li>Parcel contains good or excellent habitat or habitat potential for significant populations of forest inhabiting mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.</li> <li>Parcel contains areas for resting and feeding of migratory species.</li> <li>Parcel exhibits connective habitats, corridors, habitat linkages and areas that reduce biological isolation.</li> </ul> |
| 2. |    | The extent that proposal conserves rare or endangered species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|    |    | Threatened and Endangered Species: The parcel contains populations or suitable habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species of fish, wildlife or plants. Examples:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|    |    | Parcel contains known occurrences of rare, threatened or endangered species of animals or plants.  Parcel is within close proximity to a site with known occurrences of species of concern.  Parcel contains habitats that are suitable for reoccupation of such species.  Parcel contains habitats that often harbor such species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3. | (  | The extent that the proposal conserves a relatively undisturbed or outstanding example of an ecosystem indigenous to South Carolina. Examples:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|    |    | Parcel contains Carolina Bay.<br>Parcel contains Spartina Marshlands                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|    | Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. | The extent the parcel conserves riparian habitats, wetlands, water quality, watersheds of significant ecological value, critical aquifer recharge areas, estuaries, bays or beaches.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|    | Riparian and Hydrologic Values: The parcel contains wetlands that have ecological values including unique habitats, flood control, sediment filtration, and contaminant filtration. Examples:  Parcel is situated on a river, stream or marine shore.  Parcel has extensive river, stream or marine shoreline.  Parcel includes the 100-year floodplain.  Parcel includes a designated scenic river, stream or wetland.  Parcel contains minimum 50-foot buffer of trees along shorelines as a sediment buffer.  Parcel contains ecologically significant wetlands such as isolated bays, bogs, depression meadows and ponds.  Parcel is adjacent to or near other protected wetlands.  Parcel includes the surface watershed or the ground water aquifer of a public water supply. |
| 5. | The extent the parcel has for conserving outstanding geologic features. Examples:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|    | <ul> <li>Parcel contains mountains.</li> <li>Parcel contains significant rock formations/waterfalls.</li> <li>Parcel contains significant earth strata.</li> <li>Parcel contains limestone bluff</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 6. | The extent to which the parcel conserves a site of unique historical or archeological significance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|    | Cultural and Historic Resources: The parcel contains known or likely sites of significant historic or cultural value. Examples:  — Parcel contains cultural resources such as a historic forest, mill site, or tar kiln.  — Parcel contains other historic or archaeological resources such as Native American sites, historic structures or historic sites parcel contains sites identified by the S.C. Dept.Of History And Archives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7. | The extent the parcel conserves an area of critical forestlands, farmlands, or wetlands. Examples:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|    | Parcel has the soil productivity and natural vegetative community to<br>produce high quality timber, pulpwood and other forest products.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

|    | Parcel has growing timber stock in place. Parcel has diverse timber age and type. Parcel has prime soils Parcel is agriculturally unique Parcel contains unique wetlands                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. | The extent the parcel conserves an area of forestlands or farmlands which are located on prime soils, in microclimates or have strategic geographical significances.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|    | The potential of a parcel to produce forest products including productivity, accessibility, vegetative community, standing timber, management history and location. Examples:  Parcel has the soil productivity and natural vegetative community to produce high quality timber, pulpwood, forest and agricultural commodities.  Parcel has growing timber stock in place.  Parcel has diverse timber age and type.  Parcel has growing crops in place.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9. | The extent that the parcel conserves an area for public recreation, greenways, or parkland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|    | Public Recreation Potential: The potential of a parcel to provide the public with outdoor recreational potential including hunting, fishing, hiking, birding, horseback riding, wildlife observation, and other types of recreation. Examples:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|    | <ul> <li>Parcel is externally accessible to the public by automobile and internally accessible by vehicle, foot, boat or bicycle. The public must be able to reach the tract by auto and transit the tract reasonably under most environmental conditions.</li> <li>Parcel has the potential for hiking, cycling and horseback riding trails.</li> <li>Parcel has potential water-based recreational value.</li> <li>Parcel has unique habitat, geological formation, wildlife population or other special recreational attraction.</li> <li>Parcel has potential for inclusion in the Wildlife Management Area Program.</li> </ul> |
|    | The extent the parcel conserves a larger area or ecosystem already containing protected lands or as a connection between natural habitats or open space that are already protected. Examples:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|    | <ul> <li>Parcel adjoins or is close to a state park.</li> <li>Parcel adjoins or is close to a state or federal forest or refuge.</li> <li>Parcel borders on other protected and managed lands.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Parcel borders a scenic highway or river.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11. The extent that the parcel conserves a significant acreage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Parcel contains 100-500 acres Parcel contains 501-1,000 acres Parcel contains 1,001-5,000 acres Parcel contains 5,001-10,000 acres Parcel contains over 10,000 acres Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 12. The extent the parcel presents a unique opportunity to accomplish one or more of the criteria in Items 1-11, where the same or a similar opportunity is unlikely to present itself in the future. Examples:                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul> <li>Parcel is in danger of conversion to non-traditional use within 10 years</li> <li>Parcel is currently for sale on the open market.</li> <li>Parcel may remain as is, but will become further subdivided within 10 years.</li> <li>Parcel is located where infrastructure extensions and improvements are imminent.</li> <li>Parcel may remain as is, but is in danger of non-sustainable management.</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

#### Section Five- Financial Criteria Code Section 48-59-70 Section E

| 1  | protects land at a reasonable cost?                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <ul> <li>Parcel is available at a low cost per acre.</li> <li>Parcel is available from a willing seller at a reasonable price.</li> </ul>                                                                  |
| 2. | How does the proposal leverage trust funds by including funding or in-kind assets or services from other governmental sources?                                                                             |
|    | — Have matching funds of any kind or services-in-kind been applied for;<br>have any been received; in what amount or percentage of this proposal<br>from any other governmental source.                    |
|    | Explain:                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3. | How does the proposal leverage trust funds by including funding or in-kind assets or services from private or non-profit sources, or charitable donations of land or conservation easements?               |
|    | — Have matching funds of any kind been applied for; have any been<br>received; in what amount or percent of its proposal from private or non-<br>profit sources.                                           |
|    | Explain:                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4. | How does the proposal leverage trust funds by purchasing conservation easements that preserve land at a cost that is low, relative to the fair market value of the fee simple title of the land preserves? |
|    | Is the proposal a bargain sale? Is the parcel available with match funding donated by the current owner?                                                                                                   |
|    | If so, in what amount/percent?                                                                                                                                                                             |
|    | Explain:                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

5. Has any other conservation incentives and means of conservation such as donated, conservation easements or participation in other governmental programs have been explored, applied for, secured, or exhausted?

Explain:

#### Section Six—Public Access Code Section 48-59-70 Section F

- To what extent does the proposal provide public access for hunting, fishing, outdoor recreational activities, and other forms of public access.
  - A.\_\_ No public access is proposed.
  - B. Limited public access is proposed such as:

Hunting, fishing, canoeing, biking, hiking, bird watching, educational opportunities for scientific and biological research and habitat management, Youth Hunts, Handicapped Hunters, Make A Wish, and other outdoor activities.

- 1. Minimal access: Small groups or specific individuals with few allowed activities on few days.
- 2.Moderate access: Small or medium sized groups with access many times per year with several allowed activities.
- 3. High access: General public access all year or many days with several Activities allowed.
- 4. Very high access: General public access year round with many Activities allowed.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO APPLICANT: FINAL REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE FULFILLED BEFORE CLOSING OR ANY DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

In an effort to reduce costs and time in filling out the South Carolina Conservation Bank application for funding forms the Board has chosen to make the initial phase of the application process as simple as possible. If properly filled out, the attached forms should give the Bank enough information to make a decision as to whether it should proceed further with your proposal.

However, if the Bank should decide that your proposal is significant you should know that there are a number of statutorily required items that you have not had to provide up to the proposal acceptance point that you will now have to provide before closing or before any funds can be distributed. These items are as follows:

- 1.An acceptable Title Insurance Policy with the SCCB as a named insured or a side contractual agreement with the SCCBank that if any funds are paid as a result of faulty title or abrogation of the easement said funds revert to the SCC Bank in the appropriate amounts This indemnification must be made prior to distribution. (S.C. Code Sec. 48-59-80-D)
- 2.A detailed land use management plan.(S.C.Code Sec. 48-59-70 G-6,7)
- 3.An Environmental Hazard Assessment. No disbursement of funds will be made until the land meets all state and federal environmental laws and regulations.(S.C.Code Sec.48-59-80-E)
- 4. A qualified and competent appraisal establishing fair market value and/or the value of the proposed easement. Note: 1) No funding of a proposal will be made without such appraisal 2.) Contents of an appraisal are confidential prior to a grant, loan, or subsequent acquisition of interests in lands obtained with such grant or loan.

Should the information provided by the above items be in substantial conflict with the information provided in your pre acceptance application the SCCBank has the right to cancel your request and re-prioritize other proposals.

We look forward to working with you on making South Carolina a very special place. If you have any questions please call us at 803-734-3986