

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 - 11:00 am
Nemours Plantation
161 Nemours Plantation Dr., Yemassee, SC

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 11:00 am at Nemours Plantation, 161 Nemours Plantation Dr. Yemassee, SC. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Michael McShane presided at the meeting and members present included Keith Williamson, Vice-Chairman, Charles Lane, Pamela S. Porter (via teleconference), Curtis Spencer, Richmond Wilhoit, Jr.; and Ex-Officio members Russell Hubright for Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; Robert Boyles for Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR, and Justin Hancock for Duane Parrish, SCPRT. Board Members absent were Elliott Close, Dr. Brent McLaurin, and Larry Yonce.

1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McShane called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance. He then invited Dr. Andrew Bridges, CEO of Nemours Wildlife Foundation, to give a brief welcome and description of Nemours and the Foundation.

2) ROLL CALL

Chairman McShane called roll and a quorum was established with 9 Board Members and 3 Ex-Officio members in attendance. Chairman McShane stated that proper public notice had been given for the meeting.

3) CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman McShane recognized Beaufort county stakeholders present at the meeting and invited Alice Howard to give an overview of Beaufort County programs and efforts towards funding land conservation.

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

5) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mr. McShane stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the 09/21/2022 Quarterly Meeting minutes prior to the meeting for their review and that copies were within the Board Member meeting materials. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the meeting minutes. There being none, Mr. Lane made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

6) NEW BUSINESS

a) **Approved Appraiser List**

Director West explained the updated and more robust requirements for Bank approved Appraisers which will become effective 01/01/2023.

b) **Mapping**

Director West reported on the effectiveness of the map-based conservation criteria which has been utilized in application scoring for one year. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will use the feedback and input received to evaluate the Conservation Priorities Map at its next meeting planned for the first quarter of 2023.

c) **Project Updates**

Director West then informed the Board of the progress of outstanding grants. A chart listing all projects and their statuses was included within the Board meeting handouts.

d) Financial Report

Director West reported that the Bank has roughly \$8.26 million unobligated dollars remaining from its FY23 appropriations. The Bank anticipates having a total of roughly \$14 million available for the upcoming January application cycle if reimbursements come in as anticipated.

7) PRESENTATION

The Board enjoyed an educational presentation from Andrew Bridges and Travis Folk on a project undertaken to identify and digitize historic rice fields in select coastal counties in South Carolina. Next, Jason Ayers gave a presentation on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program.

8) BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairman McShane invited Board members to make comments. Mr. Spencer mentioned the newly formed SC Farm Bureau land trust created to protect and conserve farm properties.

9) TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman stated that the next Board meeting will be in March of 2023. The date, time and place to be announced at a later date.

10) ADJOURN

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