

SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK
Grants Review Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 - 10:00 am
First Floor Conference Room
2711 Middleburg Drive
Columbia, SC 29204

1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Grants Review Committee (GRC) was called to order by Committee Chairman Tommy Lavender at 10:00 am on September 8, 2021. Chairman Lavender stated that a notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act

The Chairman asked Director West to give a general overview of the Grant Review process and a report of the Bank's current financials.

2) ROLL CALL

Committee members present included Chairman Tommy Lavender (nonvoting), Elliott Close, Richmond Wilhoit Jr., Larry Yonce, Justin Hancock for Duane Parrish, and ex-officio member Michael McShane. Member absent was Geordy Johnson.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Lavender opened the floor to anyone who would like to address the Committee. There being none, the Committee moved to the next agenda item.

4) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman Lavender stated the GRC was given a draft copy of the 05/26/2021 GRC teleconference meeting minutes to review. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Chairman Lavender asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as distributed. Mr. Close made the motion, Mr. Wilhoit seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5) EXECUTIVE SESSION (*PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL MATTERS*)

The Chairman called for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing proposed contractual matters in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act *Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)*. Mr. Wilhoit made the motion, Mr. Close seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Close made the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Wilhoit seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Chairman called for a motion to approve the recommendations of Bank staff and subject to the availability of funding by the Board with the following exceptions:

- Item 6: Reduce staff recommendation to \$750,000;
- Item 7: Reduce staff recommendation to \$250,000;
- Item 12: Reduce staff score for the Threat of Conversion by 3 points;
- Item 15: Reduce staff score for Public Access by 7 points; Increase staff score for Unique Opportunity by 2 points;
- Item 16: Change staff recommendation to no recommendation by the GRC;

Item 18: Mr. Close recused himself; reduce staff recommendation to \$1,000,000;
Item 26: Reduce staff recommendation to \$225,000.

Mr. Close made the motion to send these GRC recommendations to the full Board at the next scheduled Board meeting. Mr. Wilhoit seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman asked for any comments. Mr. McShane requested the GRC's support in exploring additional avenues for the Bank to obtain funding from other federal programs, like the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The Grants Review Committee supported this effort.

6) ADJOURN

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