

# MINUTES

## SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:00 am

Via Webex

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 11:00 am via Webex. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Michael McShane presided at the meeting and members present included Thomas Lavender, Vice-Chairman, Elliott Close, Charles Lane, Pam Porter, Curtis Spencer, Richmond Wilhoit, Jr., Keith Williamson, Larry Yonce; and Ex-Officio members Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; and Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR, and Justin Hancock for Duane Parrish, Director for SCPRT. Board Members absent were Geordy Johnson and Brent McLaurin.

### 1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McShane called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance.

### 2) ROLL CALL

Chairman McShane called roll and a quorum was established with 8 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 expressed gratitude and thanks to outgoing Board member, Andrea Clark, for her years of dedicated service and commitment to the Board. Ms. Clark was not able to attend today's meeting, but the Chairman hopes that the Board can properly thank Ms. Clark at some point in the future. Chairman McShane then introduced and welcomed new Board member, Pamela S. Porter.

### 4) PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

### 5) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman McShane stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the 09/30/2020 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 minutes. There being none, Mr. Lavender made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

### 6) OLD BUSINESS

#### a) Financial Report

Director West presented the financial report, a copy of which was provided in the Board meeting handouts. There were no questions regarding the financial report.

#### b) Project Updates

Director West informed the Board that payments have been issued for two projects approved at the 09/30/21 Board meeting: Bramlett Bottoms and Meyer Lake. A chart describing these two closed projects as well as the outstanding projects was included with the Board meeting handouts. Next, Mr. West discussed the Old Santee Canal project, which was approved by the Board at its 09/30/2020 meeting. Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Spencer recused himself from the discussion and any resultant voting. The project was approved at 655 acres for \$270,000. The title opinion obtained as a requirement of closing revealed an 80-acre Santee Cooper easement, resulting in the project changing to 575 acres. Chris Vaughan of Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust explained the project details surrounding this change. Following discussion, Mr. Lavender made a motion to accept the modification of the grant request to

reduce the acreage of the grant award from 644.94 acres to 564.94 acres, with the award amount remaining at \$270,000. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

c) SHEP Settlement Funds

Chairman McShane discussed the Savannah Harbor Expansion Plan (SHEP) and explained that of the settlement monies, \$5 million dollars is designated for the Conservation Bank for use on projects within the Savannah River Basin. Mr. McShane expects that the opportunity to use some of that money should come soon, and the Bank will use its usual review and scoring process to evaluate and select applicable projects.

## 7) NEW BUSINESS

a) Director's Update

Mr. West described a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SCDNR and the Bank to clarify terms in a typical grant agreement relating to the management plan and the requirement to produce annual reports, and the method for recording the grant agreement. This MOU would allow SCDNR to incorporate properties they acquire into existing preserves and produce the management plan for the existing preserve in order to satisfy the management plan requirement. The MOU also clarifies that when a property enters a WMA or a Heritage Trust program it is de facto available for inspection by the Bank, eliminating the need of an annual report. The Bank's legal counsel has reviewed the MOU and does not see any issues with it. There was no objection from the Board and Mr. West was authorized to move forward with executing the document.

Next, Mr. West announced that the Bank has contracted with Steward Terra to produce a communications plan. Mr. West will enter into a limited contract (\$7,500) with Steward Terra to implement this plan after the first of the calendar year.

## 8) BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

During the Board member open discussion, Mr. Pulliam encouraged Bank staff and Board members to work with the General Assembly as a whole as well as the individual legislators to advance the mission and good work of the Bank. Mr. Hancock discussed the opportunities that exist for SCPRT and SCCB to work together to expand the state park footprint throughout the state.

## 9) TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman stated that the next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. 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. Lane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.