

MINUTES
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
of the
SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK
Thursday, October 19, 2017 – 10:30 am
1201 Main Street – Suite 1820
Columbia, SC 29201

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held a conference call meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 10:30 am at 1201 Main Street, Suite 1820, Columbia, South Carolina. 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 James Roquemore presided at the meeting and members present included Michael G. McShane, Vice Chairman; Andrea Clark; C. Douglass Harper; D. Clinch Heyward; W. Thomas Lavender, Jr.; and William L. Snow, Sr. Members absent were Elliott Close; Charles Lane; and Ex-officio members Cary L. Chastain, Chairman SCDNR Board; Duane Parrish, Director for SCPRT; and Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order, thanked everyone for taking the time to join, and read through the agenda.

II. DISCUSSION OF MINUTES

No discussion took place in regards to the Board Minutes. The Board Minutes from July 27, 2017 and September 13, 2017 will be reviewed and approved at the next Board Meeting.

III. PERSONNEL MATTERS

The Chairman acknowledged Mr. Davant's retirement effective December 31, 2017 and thanked him for his guidance and leadership. The Chairman stated that Mr. Davant has accomplished setting aside over 288,000 acres at a very cost efficient method for the State. Mr. Davant thanked Chairman Roquemore for his kind words. Dr. Beasley, Executive Director of Katawba Valley Land Trust, asked the Chairman if he could make a comment from the Land Trust community. With Chairman Roquemore's acceptance, Dr. Beasley stated that there couldn't have been better leadership at the SCCB since its beginning and that Mr. Davant has done his best to fund the good conservation projects at a bargain price. Mr. Davant thanked Dr. Beasley and stated that without the help of these Land Trusts, he would not have been able to accomplish what he has. The Chairman also thanked Dr. Beasley for his comments and stated that the Board couldn't agree more.

The Chairman mentioned the letter from Senator Leatherman that criticized the SCCB for failure to afford the entire \$3 million that was designated to SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). The Chairman stated that the SCCB paid the \$3 million to SCDNR the following week so that obligation has been taken care of. The Chairman noted that as stated in prior minutes, it was always the SCCB's intention to pay this amount as the SCCB's funds became available. The Chairman stated that the plan was to have Mr. Davant meet with Director Taylor at SCDNR to determine a timeline that worked best with both agencies. The Chairman stated that this was done and the letters from Director Taylor and Senator Leatherman only showed a difference in opinion as to when these grants should have been paid. The Chairman asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the SCDNR grants. Mr. McShane clarified by stating that it was a priority of the SCCB to pay these grants under State law and the funding this year was different than past years. Mr. McShane stated that Mr. Davant and Director Taylor worked this out and the grants to SCDNR have been paid. The Chairman thanked Mr. McShane for his additional comments and asked if there were any other questions or comments from the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next action item, with the Board's permission, is that he would like to appoint a small committee to plan a path forward and to be considered at the next Board Meeting. Mr. McShane made the notion for Chairman Roquemore to appoint a committee of the Board selected to bring a draft interim plan back to the Board at large at the next Board Meeting, preferably before the end of this calendar year. Ms. Clark seconded this motion. Mr. Snow stated that this was a pretty tight timeline with the upcoming holidays and asked if there was a reason why this couldn't take place after the first of the year. Mr. McShane stated that he agreed that it was a tight timeline, however, the draft interim plan needs to be reviewed before the end of the year as Mr. Davant's retirement is effective December 21, 2017. Mr. McShane stated that the Board may be able to find another way to get this done, possibly via conference call. The Chairman stated that the Board will communicate on the way to get together at a later date, asked if there was any further discussion and the motion unanimously passed.

The Chairman asked Mr. Davant to update the Board on the SCCB's current budget situation. Mr. Davant stated that the SCCB currently has roughly \$285,000 and is still cautiously optimistic that the remaining \$5 million from the General Fund will come in and with that the SCCB should be able to fund the outstanding grants. The Chairman asked Mr. Davant if he knew of any timeline as to when and if we would receive the rest of the budget from the General Fund. Mr. Davant stated that it was his understanding that the SCCB would not know as to when and how much funding it will receive from the General Fund until the Legislature deals with the Governor's vetoes. The Chairman asked if there were any other questions from the Board.

IV. ADJOURN

The Chairman thanked Mr. Davant and the SCCB Board Members for participating in the conference call and called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McShane made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Clark seconded and the motion unanimously passed.