

SC Conservation Bank Grants Review Committee

Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2020 10:00 AM

Opening

A meeting of the Grants Review Committee was called to order by Mr. Tommy Lavender at 10:00 AM on June 3, 2020. The meeting took place via teleconference. Mr. Lavender stated that proper public notice had been issued for the meeting. There were no public comments.

Present

Committee members present included Andrea Clark, Tommy Lavender, Mike McShane, Curtis Spencer, and Keith Williamson. Bank staff present included Raleigh West, Amber Larck, and Margaret Pennebaker.

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was the discussion of the Bank's participation in The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. Mr. Lavender asked Mr. West to describe the program to the committee. Mr. West explained the program and asked the committee to evaluate any potential Coastal Grant applications with the same level of scrutiny as the Bank's traditional grant funding program. Mr. West presented two Coastal Grant applications for sponsorship consideration:

The Oaks Plantation

The South Carolina Conservation Bank (SCCB) is requesting \$1 million in funding from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program (NCWCG) to purchase The Oaks Plantation, which is a culturally and ecologically significant property, comprised of approximately 205 acres of diverse coastal habitats. Maria Whitehead spoke in favor of the application. Mr. Lane made a motion to recommend that the Board sponsor this application. Ms. Clark seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Black River State Park – Phase II

The South Carolina Conservation Bank (SCCB) is requesting \$1 million in funding from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program (NCWCG) to purchase the Mead property, comprised of approximately 840 acres of diverse coastal habitats, and a strategic target for a unique, new state park in South Carolina. Mr. West explained the application details and answered questions. Ms. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Board sponsor this application. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Mr. West presented a template letter of support for National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program applications. The Bank is asked to write letters in support of applications submitted by other qualified entities (i.e. Ducks Unlimited, TNC, etc.). Mr. Lane made a motion to recommend that the Board authorize the Executive Director to evaluate such applications consistent with the Bank's conservation priorities and write letters of support when appropriate without further action from the Board. Ms. Clark seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Spencer, and seconded by Mr. Williamson. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.