

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK**  
**Special Purpose Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 10, 2020– 10:00 am**  
**Via telephone conference**

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held a special purpose meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 10:00 am via teleconference. 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, Andrea Clark, Elliott Close, Geordy Johnson, Charles Lane, Curtis Spencer, Richmond Wilhoit, Jr, Larry Yonce; and Ex-Officio member Justin Hancock for Duane Parrish, Director for SCPRT. Board Members absent were Brent McLaurin, Keith Williamson and Larry Yonce, and Ex-Officio members Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR

**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 asked Ms. Pennebaker to call roll of the Board Members. Ms. Pennebaker called roll and a quorum was established with 9 Board Members and 1 Ex-Officio members in attendance. Chairman McShane stated that proper public notice had been given for the meeting.

**3) 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.

**4) NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM**

The purpose of the meeting was the discussion of the Bank's participation in The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The Chairman yielded the floor to Grants Review Chairman Lavender and Director West to describe the program to the Board. Mr. West explained the program and asked the Board to evaluate any potential Coastal Grant applications with the same level of scrutiny as the Bank's traditional grant funding program. Mr. West then 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, a culturally and ecologically significant property, comprised of approximately 205 acres of diverse coastal habitats. Maria Whitehead spoke in favor of the application. The Grants Review committee recommended that the Board sponsor this application. Chairman McShane called for a vote to approve the recommendation, 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. Justin Hancock spoke in favor of the project and confirmed that this river-based park system would be the first new state park

in over two decades. The Grants Review committee recommended that the Board sponsor this application. Chairman McShane called for a vote to approve the recommendation, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5) SUPPORT LETTERS**

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.). The Grants Review Committee recommended 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. Chairman McShane called for a vote to approve the recommendation, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **8) TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman stated that the next Board meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th at 10:00am. Chairman McShane recommends changing the date to either September 30<sup>th</sup> or October 7<sup>th</sup> to give the General Assembly time to review the FY21 budget and make any necessary adjustments. The Board will meet either in person or via teleconference depending on recommendations of the Governor at that time.

#### **9) ADJOURN**

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Yonce made the motion, Ms. Clark seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.