

SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK
Grants Review Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 29, 2023 - 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 Mike McShane at 10:00 am on November 29, 2023. Chairman McShane stated that a notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2) ROLL CALL

Committee members present included Chairman Mike McShane, Rob Howell, Charles Lane, Tommy Lavender, Curtis Spencer, and Russell Hubright for Walter McPhail. Member absent was Brent McLaurin.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McShane opened the floor to anyone interested in making public comments. There being no one, the Committee moved to the next agenda item.

4) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman McShane stated the GRC was given a draft copy of the 09/15/2023 GRC meeting minutes to review. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Chairman McShane asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of all three meetings as distributed. Mr. Lane made the motion, Mr. Lavender seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5) PROJECT UPDATES

Chairman McShane distributed a list of closed and outstanding projects for FY24 year-to-date. Executive Director Raleigh West explained the Ravenswood project needs an additional extension; if such extension is granted, it will be the final extension and will not extend beyond the current fiscal year. Several of the outstanding projects are tied up in the federal grant application process. Chairman McShane requested Bank staff provide a written update for FY22 projects to the Board at the December Board meeting.

7) FINANCIAL REPORT

Director West distributed the financial update and pointed out that the Bank has a total of just over \$11.4 million dollars available for grants. The Bank also has expected reimbursements of \$22.3 million dollars. Chairman McShane provided information regarding timing expectations of pending reimbursements.

8) 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. Spencer made the motion with the request for any committee members to recuse themselves as appropriate, Mr. Lavender seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Mr. Spencer made the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Lavender seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Once in open session, Mr. Lane made a

motion to approve the recommendations of Bank staff and subject to the availability of funding by the Board with the following exceptions:

Item 1 (Ashley River – Berry Tract): Defer without prejudice and sponsor a Coastal Wetlands grant.

Item 2 (Waites – Merrill Boyce Tracts): No funding recommendation.

Item 5 (Limehouse): Decrease threat of conversion score to 0 (decrease total score to 69) and decrease funding level to \$1,400,000.

Item 8 (Oconee Station Connector): Disclose that Director West has a potential conflict of interest.

Item 11 (Pudding Swamp – Atkinson Farm): Increase Unique Opportunity score to 6 (increase total score to 59.8).

Item 13 (Shealy Farm): Due to a potential conflict of interest, Messrs. Lane and Lavender recused themselves from discussion or voting on this project.

Item 15 (Cedarleaf Farm): Due to a potential conflict of interest, Messrs. Lane and Lavender recused themselves from discussion or voting on this project.

Item 18 (Hope Station): increase unique opportunity score to 8 (increase total score to 52.8).

Item 19 (Harrison Street Properties): decrease funding level to \$165,000.

Mr. Lavender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman McShane stated that the Grants Review Committee will make these recommendations to the full Board at the next scheduled Board meeting.

10) ADJOURN

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