

MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK
Special Purpose Meeting
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 1:00 PM
Via Teams

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held a virtual Special Purpose meeting via Teams on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 1:00 PM. Notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting was posted and sent to interested parties in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Michael McShane presided at the meeting and members present included Thomas Lavender, Vice-Chairman, Robert Howell, Peter King, Charles Lane, Jared Thompson, and Richmond Wilhoit, Jr.; and ex officio members Ken Prosser for Mark Hartley, SC Department of Natural Resources; Duane Parrish, SC Parks Recreation & Tourism; Hugh Weathers, SC Agricultural Commission; and Chad Long for Justin Powell, SC Department of Transportation. Ex officio Board Members absent were Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission, and Harry Lightsey, SC Department of Commerce.

1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

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

2) ROLL CALL

Chairman McShane called roll, and a quorum was established with 7 Board Members and 4 ex officio members in attendance. Chairman McShane stated that proper public notice had been given for the meeting.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McShane opened the floor to those members of the public who had requested time to address the Board. There being no public comments, Mr. McShane called for the next agenda item.

4) REVIEW OF PROPOSED LAW CHANGES TO GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Staff provided an overview of the proposed statutory changes prepared for submission to the Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight Committee. The review began with an explanation of the purpose and process behind the proposed changes, including the directive under which Bank staff undertook this effort. It was noted that the review was initiated in response to guidance from the House Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight Committee Staff in preparation for the Bank's upcoming committee hearings.

Staff then led a line-by-line discussion of the proposed amendments, which were included in the Board Member materials distributed prior to the meeting. The proposed revisions were intended to clarify language, improve procedural efficiency, and align the statute with current operations and best practices. Board members were encouraged to review the materials in detail and provide feedback or questions.

Following a review of the recommendations and discussion, Mr. Lavender made a motion that the Board adopt the staff recommendations on sections 48-59-30 through 48-59-110, as presented. Mr. Howell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5) CONSERVATION BANK POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL UPDATE

Staff presented an overview of the proposed updates to the Conservation Bank Policy and Procedure Manual. The presentation began with an explanation of the process undertaken to review and revise the manual, as well as the rationale for the updates. It was noted that the goal of this effort was to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with current practices and statutory requirements.

An overview of the updated materials was provided, with reference to the full draft included in the Board Member packet. Board members were invited to review the proposed revisions and offer feedback or suggestions prior to final adoption.

Following a review of the recommendations and discussion, Mr. Lavender made a motion that, with the exception of 2.3.9 (Verification of Grant Compliance) and 2.4 (Eligible Costs), the Board adopt the staff recommendations on sections 1.1.1 et seq, as presented. Dr. King seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Board tabled staff recommendations on policies 2.3.9 and 2.4 for further study and discussion.

6) BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

Board members expressed appreciation to Bank staff and Board leadership for the thorough review and presentation of the Bank's statute and internal policies and procedures.

7) TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman stated that the next scheduled Board Meeting would be held on June 18, 2025, at 10 AM at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC.

8) ADJOURN

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lavender made the motion, Dr. King seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.