

**SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK**  
**Grants Review Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday December 3, 2025 - 10:00 am  
2711 Middleburg Dr., Columbia, SC 29204

1) WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Grants Review Committee (GRC) was called to order by Committee Chairman Rob Howell at 10:02 am on December 3, 2025. Chairman Howell 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 GRC Chairman Rob Howell, Peter King, Tommy Lavender, Mike McShane, Richie Wilhoit, Sean Connolly for SC Department of Transportation, and James Douglas for SC Forestry Commission.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Howell welcomed guests Eric Fosmire of SC Office of Resilience. He then 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

Mr. Howell stated that the GRC was given a draft copy of the 09/03/2025 GRC meeting minutes to review. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Mr. Howell asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting as distributed. Mr. Wilhoit the motion, Dr. King seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5) PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Howell distributed a list of closed and outstanding projects for FY26, as of 11/24/2025. Director Raleigh West reviewed withdrawn projects and stated that 34 projects totaling \$26.6 million and protecting over 9,000 acres have closed year to date. Director West stated that the majority of the 41 outstanding projects are on track to close without issue. Bank staff will provide a full update of outstanding projects at the next Board meeting. Director West then updated the committee on outstanding reimbursements. Mr. Lavender made a motion to extend projects, Dr. King seconded, all approved. Finally, Director West explained the need to update the Policy and Procedure Manual and distributed a draft policy addition regarding grant period extensions. He noted that the policy is intended to formalize the procedure already in practice. Following discussion, Mr. Lavender made the motion to recommend Board approval of the addition of Section 2.3.10, *Grant Period Extensions*. Mr. Wilhoit seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. A copy of the draft policy was included in the meeting handouts.

6) FINANCIAL REPORT

Director West distributed the financial update and noted that the Bank has just over \$3.3 million in program dollars available for grants: \$3.3 million in the Standard Grants fund and \$45,000 in the Working Ags fund.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION (*PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL MATTERS*)

Mr. Howell 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)* and to invite guests of the committee to stay for Executive Session. Mr. Lavender made the motion, Dr. King seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. McShane noted that action may thereafter be taken on items discussed during Executive Session and requested that committee members recuse themselves as appropriate.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Mr. McShane the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Lavender seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Once in open session, Mr. Howell stated that no action was taken during Executive Session. Mr. Lavender 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 [2] : Keadle Bridge Addition – Deferred**

**Item [22] : Winbush Family Farm – Change threat of conversion 1 to a 5**

**Item [24] : Kidd Family Farm – Change threat of conversion from 1 to a 5**

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

7) ADJOURN

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