

SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK
Grants Review Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 3, 2026 - 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 10:00 am on June 3, 2026. 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, West Cox, Charles Lane, Shannon Bobertz, Rachel Snuggs for Joy Raintree, Eric Fosmire. Member Mike McShane was present via telephone

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Howell 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 03/04/2026 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. Lane made the motion, Mr. McShane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5) PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Howell distributed a list of closed and outstanding projects for FY26, as of 06/02/2026. Director Raleigh West stated that 85 projects totaling \$67.6 million and protecting over 29,000 acres have closed year-to-date. Since the last meeting, the Amazing Grace Roseland project has withdrawn. The Carter Farms, Old Schoolhouse Farm, Bishop Branch Farm, Cold Hill, and McCoy Farm projects have exceeded the grant period, and their closing dates need to be extended to the 09/23/2026 Board meeting. Mr. McShane made the motion, Mr. Howell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Director West stated that the majority of the 32 outstanding projects are on track to close without issue. Bank staff will provide a full update of outstanding projects at the next Board meeting. Then, Director West updated the Committee on outstanding reimbursements.

6) FINANCIAL REPORT

Director West distributed the financial update and noted that the Bank has nearly \$25 million in program dollars available for grants: \$15.7 million in the Standard Grants fund and \$6.7 million in the Working Ags fund, and \$2.4 million in the State Acquisition Fund.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION (*PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL MATTERS*)

Mr. Howell called for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose 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. Ms. Bobertz made the motion, Mr. Lane

seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Howell 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, Ms. Howell made the motion to return to regular session. Dr. King seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Once in open session, Mr. Howell stated that no action was taken during Executive Session. Mr. McShane made a motion to accept both versions of staff recommendations, subject to the availability of funding, including any noted exceptions. The Committee authorizes staff to determine which version corresponds to the actual circumstances in effect at the June 17, 2026 Board meeting and present those recommendations to the full Board at that time. 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: Humbert Woods: Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Lane recused himself from discussion or voting on this project.

Item 4: Glassy Summit: Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Bobertz recused herself from discussion or voting on this project.

Item 8: Goodwill: Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Bobertz recused herself from discussion or voting on this project. Update the recommended funding amount to \$12,600,000.

Item 12: Jordan Farm: update recommendation to approve up to 50% of the final easement value after any parcel carve-outs due to right of first refusal.

Item 18: Mountain Bridge East: Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Raintree recused herself from discussion or voting on this project.

Item 28: Landsford Tract: application withdrawn by the applicant.

Dr. King 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.

8) ADJOURN

Mr. Howell called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lane made the motion, Ms. Bobertz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.