

**MINUTES**  
**CONFERENCE CALL MEETING**  
**of the**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK**  
**Friday, December 8, 2017 – 10:00 am**  
**1201 Main Street – Suite 1820**  
**Columbia, SC 29201**

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held a conference call meeting on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 10:00 am at 1201 Main Street, Suite 1820, Columbia, South Carolina. 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. Vice Chairman Mike McShane presided at the meeting and members present included Andrea Clark; Elliott Close; C. Douglass Harper; Charles Lane; W. Thomas Lavender, Jr.; William L. Snow, Sr; and Ex-officio member Norman Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR Board. Members absent were James Roquemore, Chairman; D. Clinch Heyward; and Ex-officio members Duane Parrish, Director for SCPRT; and Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman.

**I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for taking the time to join. Mr. McShane asked Mr. Davant if legal counsel was present. Mr. Davant stated that Jonathon Williams was supposed to join the conference call but had not currently been accounted for.

**II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Mr. McShane stated that the first item on the agenda was the adoption of Board Minutes in which he would go through each individually as a separate action.

**A. 7/27/2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McShane directed the Board to the Minutes pertaining to the meeting on July, 27 2017 in Orangeburg. Mr. McShane motioned that page 3, paragraph C state “The Chairman suggests moving to the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) grant per proviso 117.129 and 117.130. Mr. McShane ~~proposed~~ *motioned* that the funds be granted per the provisos following the ~~grant~~ requests from Director Taylor and the funding becoming available to the SCCB. Mr. McShane ~~supplemented~~ *added to the motion with the request* that Mr. Davant meet with Director Taylor to ~~determine a~~ *explain the timeline that works for both agencies regarding the Bank’s funding this year.* Mr. Lavender seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.” Mr. McShane asked Mr. Lavender if he agreed with the corrections. Mr. Lavender stated he had no objection and Mr. McShane if any other Board Member requested changes to be made to this set of Minutes. Being none, Mr. McShane asked for a motion to adopt the July, 27 2017 minutes. Mr. Lane motioned and Mr. Lavender seconded the motion. Mr. McShane called for any other discussion, being none, the motion unanimously passed.

**B. 9/13/2017 CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McShane asked the Board if there were any requested additions, deletions, or correction to the Minutes from September 13, 2017 conference call meeting. There being none, Mr. McShane asked for a motion to adopt the September 13, 2017 Minutes. Mr. Harper made the motion, Ms. Clark seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

**C. 10/19/2017 CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McShane asked the Board if there were any requested additions, deletions, or correction to the Minutes from October 19, 2017 conference call meeting. There being none, Mr. McShane asked for a motion to adopt the October 19, 2017 Minutes. Mr. Close made the motion, Ms. Clark seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

#### **D. 11/10/2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McShane asked the Board if there were any requested additions, deletions, or correction to the Minutes from November 10, 2017 workshop meeting. Mr. Lavender asked for the minutes to be amended to clarify that this meeting was a workshop instead of a regular meeting. Mr. McShane agreed. Mr. Lavender moved to adopt the November 10, 2017 minutes with this change. Mr. Lane seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

### **III. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL DISCUSSION**

Mr. McShane requested the Board move to the agenda item regard the Department of Administration's (DoA) proposal. Mr. McShane clarified that Mr. Lane had been appointed by Chairman Roquemore to lead a committee on a Department of Administration proposal and asked Mr. Lane to elaborate. Mr. Lane stated that the issue that the Bank faces is the normal administrative tasks during the interim period between Mr. Davant's retirement and the SCCB's reauthorization. Mr. Lane stated he met with staff in the offices of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means; in which both made the same recommendation. Mr. Lane stated he then contacted the Department of Administration who was eager to do the work and that the DoA has made at least one contact with Mr. Davant. Mr. Lane noted that the Board has not yet received a proposal from the DoA but that he believes this will be the best option for the Board as hiring someone would be complicated with the short window. Mr. Lane also noted that during these discussions that the SCCB has no chance of receiving the additional funds this year. Mr. Lane recommends that the Chairman and Vice Chairman to work with DoA to make the appropriate financial arrangements. Mr. McShane clarified Mr. Lane's recommendation by stating that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would finalize the negotiation with the DoA to manage the administrative duties for the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. McShane stated that as a courtesy, the Chairman and Vice Chairman would bring the information obtained back to the board for final notification. Mr. Snow asked Mr. Lane to expand on what the DoA would do for the SCCB. Mr. Lane stated that the DoA would oversee the billing, accounting, payroll, filing, and keeping the data updated but there will be no grant making during the time that the DoA manages the SCCB. Mr. Snow asked if Ms. Larck, the current Business Manager, would still be working in the office. Mr. McShane stated that Ms. Larck would remain in the office and that the DoA expressed that this would be critical to them as well. Mr. Lavender clarified by stating that the DoA would primarily be oversight and Mr. McShane agreed. Mr. Lavender asked Mr. McShane since the SCCB does not anticipate additional funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, would the SCCB need to temporarily freeze any additional grant making. Mr. McShane stated this had been answered in a previous Board workshop, however, for formalization until the SCCB goes through the process of determining if any additional funding will be received then all funds will be frozen for grant making including grants that had been previously approved. Mr. McShane stated that since this recommendation was done during a workshop and no action took place, the Board should proceed with the motion to authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman to work with the DoA on an interim plan and bring the plan back to review. Mr. Snow seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

### **IV. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD OFFICERS**

Mr. McShane stated that the last item on the agenda was the election of new board officers. Mr. McShane stated that Chairman Roquemore asked Mr. Lane to set up a nominating process and asked Mr. Lane for the report. Mr. Lane motioned that a new slate of officers take effect on January 1, 2018 including Mr. Harper for Chairman and Mr. McShane to remain Vice Chairman. Ms. Clark seconded this motion. Mr. McShane called for any discussion. Mr. Snow stated that this was an excellent suggestion, the officers had the Board's full support and wished the officers luck. With no other comments, the motion unanimously

passed. Mr. McShane congratulated Mr. Harper and Mr. Harper thanked the Board, stated it was an honor and that he looked forward to serving.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Lavender asked to return to his question regarding the freezing of grant awards and stated that to the extent that funds are available the SCCB needs to manage funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, he would lean to Mr. Davant to guide the Board on any formal action needed. Mr. McShane asked Mr. Lavender if the same group that dealt with the DoA proposal come back with a recommendation to the full Board and Mr. Lavender agreed. Mr. McShane stated that he would relay these recommendation to Chairman Roquemore for further approval.

Mr. Lane expressed his thankfulness to Mr. Davant for his dedication, hard work and service to the SCCB. Mr. Lane stated that after reviewing bullet points about the SCCB, one that stood out to him was that \$155 million has purchased nearly \$700 million in real property in conservation easements. Mr. Davant thanked Mr. Lane and stated that it has been an honor to work with the Board and appreciates all the Board does. Mr. Davant stated that what the SCCB and the Board does really does matter and makes a difference. Multiple members of the Board echoed what Mr. Lane had said, stating that Mr. Davant's work has made South Carolina a much better place. Mr. Davant thanked the Board again and stated that the SCCB's accomplishments could not have happened without the help of many people but he is glad to have been a small part. Mr. McShane asked for the minutes to reflect not only Mr. Davant's 15 years at the SCCB but 54 years as a public servant, not to mention the voluntary impacts that he's done for conservation.

**VI. ADJOURN**

Mr. McShane asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Snow motioned, Mr. Lane seconded and the motion unanimously passed.