

AGENCY NAME:	SC CONSERVATION BANK		
AGENCY CODE:	P400	SECTION:	53



Fiscal Year 2013-14 Accountability Report

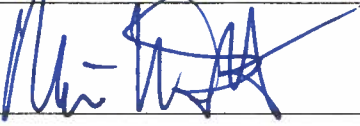
SUBMISSION FORM


AGENCY MISSION	To improve the quality of life in South Carolina through the conservation of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, and archeological sites.
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Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's accountability report.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Marvin N. Davant	803-917-0634	davantm@dnr.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Margie W. Rish	803-734-0360	rishm@dnr.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2013-14 Accountability Report, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR (SIGN/DATE):		9/12/14
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	MARVIN N. DAVANT	

BOARD/CMSN CHAIR (SIGN/DATE):		9/12/14
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	WESTON ADAMS, III	

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AGENCY’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The “Agency’s Discussion and Analysis” section provides agency leadership with an opportunity to comment on internal and external factors affecting the agency’s performance in the past year, the agency’s current efforts and the associated results (referencing information presented elsewhere in the accountability report), and any plans now under development to introduce additional changes. This passage should not exceed 5 pages, or up to 7 pages when including any charts or graphs.

The South Carolina Conservation Bank was established in 2002 and funding began in 2004. During the ten years of funding the Conservation Bank has conserved, preserved and protected over 214,000 acres of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, parks and archeological sites. The average cost in conserving these significant lands averages \$535 per acre. The Conservation Bank has provided funding for numerous projects throughout 43 of the 46 counties within the State. These accomplishments have been reached through partnership efforts between the Conservation Bank and numerous Land Trust Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations, state agencies and private citizens.

The funding provided by the SC Conservation Bank has helped conserve the following:

- 99,589 acres now available for hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation with public access;
- 503 acres available for urban parks;
- 812 acres available for historic sites;

100,905 total acres available for public access

Limited public access easements: 59,808 acres.

76% of the Conservation Bank grants acres have significant public access. 87% of the Conservation Bank funds have been expended on these grants

The Conservation Bank grants have provided public hunting & fishing on private lands including youth hunt opportunities.

The SC Conservation Bank continues to strive toward accomplishing the following objectives as set forth in our Mission Statement and listed on our website.

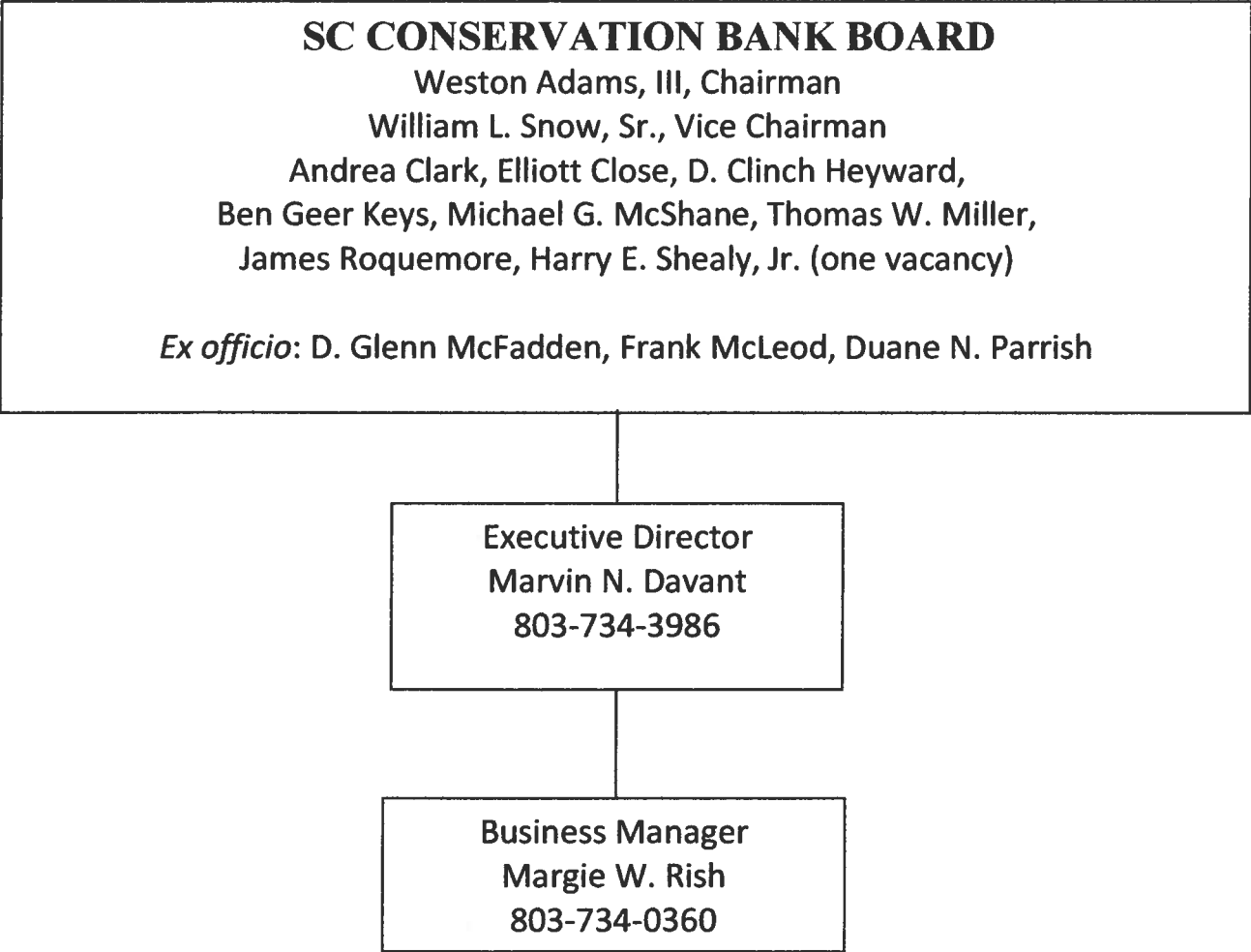
- Protect significant natural resource areas and wildlife habitats
- Protect water quality
- Maintain the State’s forest lands
- Protect farmlands, especially family farms
- Protect and enhance the State’s natural beauty
- Protect and enhance significant historical and archaeological sites
- Enhance public access for outdoor recreation and preserve traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, and other types of outdoor recreation

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- To encourage cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations

ORGIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SC CONSERVATION BANK

The SC Conservation Bank consists of a fourteen member Board with three appointed by the Governor, four appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and four appointed by the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate. It has two employees, the Executive Director and the Business Manager which carry out the day to day operations of the Conservation Bank following the policies as set by the Board within its statutory mandates in conjunction with review by the Board Chairman. A copy of the organizational is referenced below.



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STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Opportunities

1. Because many other states already have similar agencies the Conservation Bank continues to study other states efforts and utilizes their successes and failures
2. The opportunity to partner with other government and private entities having similar goals and objectives.
3. Many large landowners are currently placing large tracts of land on the open market. The window of opportunity to conserve large tracts of land in SC is available now.
4. Conservation and the need for conservation in general, has obtained a more favorable priority view in public awareness.

Challenges

1. Budgeting issues present continuing problems
2. The window of opportunity to conserve large tracts of land that currently exists may be short lived.
3. Section Five of the SC Conservation Bank Act stipulates that if the General Assembly in the annual general appropriations act provides less appropriations than what was provided the previous year to at least half of the state agencies or departments or if the Budget and Control Board orders across the board budget cuts the Conservation Bank will receive no further funding for that fiscal year.
4. The escalating costs of real estate in South Carolina.
5. Budget restrictions and real estate market trends can restrict the amount of funding, reducing the amount of grants the Bank can fund.

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Program Template

Program/Title	Purpose	FY 2012-13 Expenditures				FY 2013-14 Expenditures				Associated Objective(s)
		General	Other	Federal	TOTAL	General	Other	Federal	TOTAL	
I. Administration	To conserve significant properties in SC by conservation Easements, low interest loans and purchase of title and the administration of routine office operating expenses and legal services for the year		\$ 6,062,774		\$ 6,062,774		\$ 9,823,210		\$ 9,823,210	All goals & objectives
II. Employer Benefits	State employer contributions		\$ 36,186		\$ 36,186		\$ 37,023		\$ 37,023	All goals & objectives
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Performance Measurement Template

Item	Performance Measure	Last Value	Current Value	Target Value	Time Applicable	Data Source and Availability	Reporting Freq.	Calculation Method	Associated Objective(s)
1	Number of grant awards for conservation easements or fee simple purchases throughout the State	183,719	216,102	250,000	July 1 - June 30	Biannual Conservation Bank Board meetings and minutes	Biannual	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the ConservationBank Board	all goals & objectives
2	Number of grant awards in the counties throughout the South Carolina	37	42	44	July 1 - June 30	Conservation Bank Board minutes	Biannual	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the ConservationBank Board	all goals & objectives
3	Number of focus group meetings attended	4	4	4	July 1 - June 30	Meeting minutes submitted by the Land Trusts and Executive Director Report	Quarterly	Based on quarterly meetings set by the Land Trusts and other entities	all goals & objectives

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Strategic Planning Template

Type	Goal	Item # Strat	Object	Description
G	1			To establish sustainable amounts of diverse habitat reflecting the values of South Carolina Citizens
S		1.1		Within the next 5 years improve the abundance and distribution of conserved properties
O			1.1.1	The Bank will have cumulatively conserved 216,102 acres of diverse habitat during FY 2013-14
G	2			To enhance the use and enjoyment of conserved habitats consistent with the mission of the Conservation Bank Act
S		2.1		To increase the distribution, number & types of opportunities for use of conserved habitats and develop & maintain an inventory of conserved properties
O			2.1.1	The Bank funded 40 new sites of significant natural resources which are distributed statewide
G	3			To improve public awareness & understanding of resource management issues & increase opportunities to participate in the process.
S		3.1		Attend joint conferences and speaking engagements to explain the process and how it works
O			3.1.1	To have an informed and supportive public that has ownership in both conservation practices and benefits
S		3.2		Implement and meet technical review & focus groups
O			3.2.1	To have an informed and support from various land trusts, state agencies and non-profit groups
S		3.3		Implement a Legislative Education Outreach Program with field trips to grant sites
O			3.3.1	The Bank attended numerous meetings informing the General Assembly as to the benefits of the conservation practices
G	4			To develop & maintain effective & partnerships that enable the Bank and its partners to reach mutual conservation goals
S		4.1		Hold quarterly meetings between the Bank and qualified entities & create communications link through website
O			4.1.1	To increase successful projects & programs that involves collaborative partnerships
G	5			To develop and maintain effective support and planning systems
S		5.1		Design & implement award criteria for the grant application and website updates
O			5.1.1	To continue to use an effective criteria award priority system for conservation proposals
S		5.2		Establish update system on the accomplishments for stakeholders
O			5.2.1	Updating the Website continually when new grant awards are approved by the Board
S		5.3		Report at regular Board meetings on budget planning and allocating of funds
O			5.3.1	To develop strategy for an integrated business & budget planning system to guide the agency in allocating services & Resources
S		5.4		Heir's Property with conservation easements
O			5.4.1	To develop a tracking system on heir's property
S		5.5		Ongoing updates for focus groups, technical review panels and stackholders on issues involving the Bank
O			5.5.1	To provide current information to working focus groups & technical review panels to advise the agency on issues
O			5.5.2	To provide stakeholders input into the process
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