



# **2024 Annual Accountability Report**

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**SC Conservation Bank**

**Agency Code: P400**

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<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>SC Conservation Bank</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P400</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>053</b>

## AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

# The SC Conservation Bank

## Title 48 Chapter 59

## S.C. Code of Laws Act 200

### Mission statement:

To improve the quality of life in South Carolina through the conservation of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, archeological sites, and urban parks.

### Objectives:

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



## About the SC Conservation Bank

In 2000, work began on an effort to determine what lands in South Carolina were significant and how they could be protected and sustained. This effort resulted in the Land Legacy Initiative. This initiative was a grassroots effort that combined many individuals, groups, and businesses to identify barriers to land protection efforts and identify specific solutions to remove the barriers. Considerable time and effort were

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>SC Conservation Bank</b>		
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dedicated to studying how similar states were addressing robust growth. Several key themes emerged:

- To promote the well-being and quality of life in South Carolina, greenways, open space, and parks in urban areas must be preserved.
- Funding for the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, natural areas, historical sites, sites of unique ecological significance, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, open space, and urban parks is a critical need.
- The protection of open space is best accomplished in a voluntary manner between willing buyers and willing sellers to ensure that the State continues to enjoy the benefits of wildlife habitats, and healthy streams, rivers, bays, and estuaries; for recreation purposes, scientific studies, and aesthetic appreciation, and to maintain the State's position as an attractive location for visitors and new industry, and to preserve the opportunities for future generations to access and benefit from these outstanding natural and historical sites.

The Initiative determined that the State needed to establish an ongoing funding source to



acquire these real estate interests and that it was critical to encourage cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to work together to meet these objectives. The South Carolina General Assembly, in a bipartisan effort, agreed passed the South Carolina Conservation Bank Act, introduced

by Representative Chip Campsen from Charleston. The Act was signed and ratified by the Governor in April 2002.

The Bank Board, which now consists of 11 members and 6 ex-officio members, was appointed and an Executive Director was hired. Two years were spent studying other states, setting board policy, and establishing the grant application process until fiscal year 2004-05 began. Funding began in July 2004 and since that time the Bank has actively pursued its mission.

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## SC Conservation Bank Statistics

Through June 30, 2024, the SC Conservation Bank has protected 486 properties totaling nearly 389,000 acres across the state.

The Bank collaborates with landowners, other state agencies, local governments, and non-profit land trusts to help leverage Bank grants with other funds. During FY 2024, multiple partners made significant contributions through bargain sales and matching funds allowing SCCB to continue to leverage grant awards and bring more conservation dollars to South Carolina.

The Bank, through its competitive grant awards process and statutory authority to award funds to both qualified governmental and non-profit entities, is uniquely positioned to protect natural resource lands, wetlands, historical and archaeological properties, and urban parks throughout the state, and to attract federal dollars that dramatically leverage the State's contributions. The Bank will continue coordinate and collaborate with other resource agencies to maximize the most cost-effective options available for land acquisition with the greatest public benefit. Such collaboration ensures that land acquisitions support agency objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and the resource agency.



<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>SC Conservation Bank</b>		
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# Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Act



On April 23, 2024, Governor Henry McMaster ceremonially signed H. 3951, the Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Act, on a beautiful Spring Day at Cottle Strawberry Farm in Hopkins, SC. The legislation provides an avenue of permanent protection to working farmland properties whose continued viability is essential to the long-term future of the economic sector of South Carolina. It creates an innovative tool in the toolbox to

protect these farmlands, allow family commercial farms to stay in the family and be passed down to future generations of farmers, and ensures that the South Carolina agricultural industry is not lost to overdevelopment. The Act creates the Working Farmland Protection Fund which is housed at the Bank and is designed to help landowners who meet specific statutorily defined evaluation criteria preserve their working farms through voluntary conservation easements.

The Bank received a total of \$3 million in Appropriations for the Working Farmland Protection Fund for fiscal year 2025 and expects to receive many competitive applications from its qualified entities. These applications will be evaluated by the Conservation Bank Board at its quarterly meetings throughout the year, and the Bank looks forward to reporting on the success of the program in next year's Agency Accountability Report.

**AGENCY NAME:**

**SC Conservation Bank**

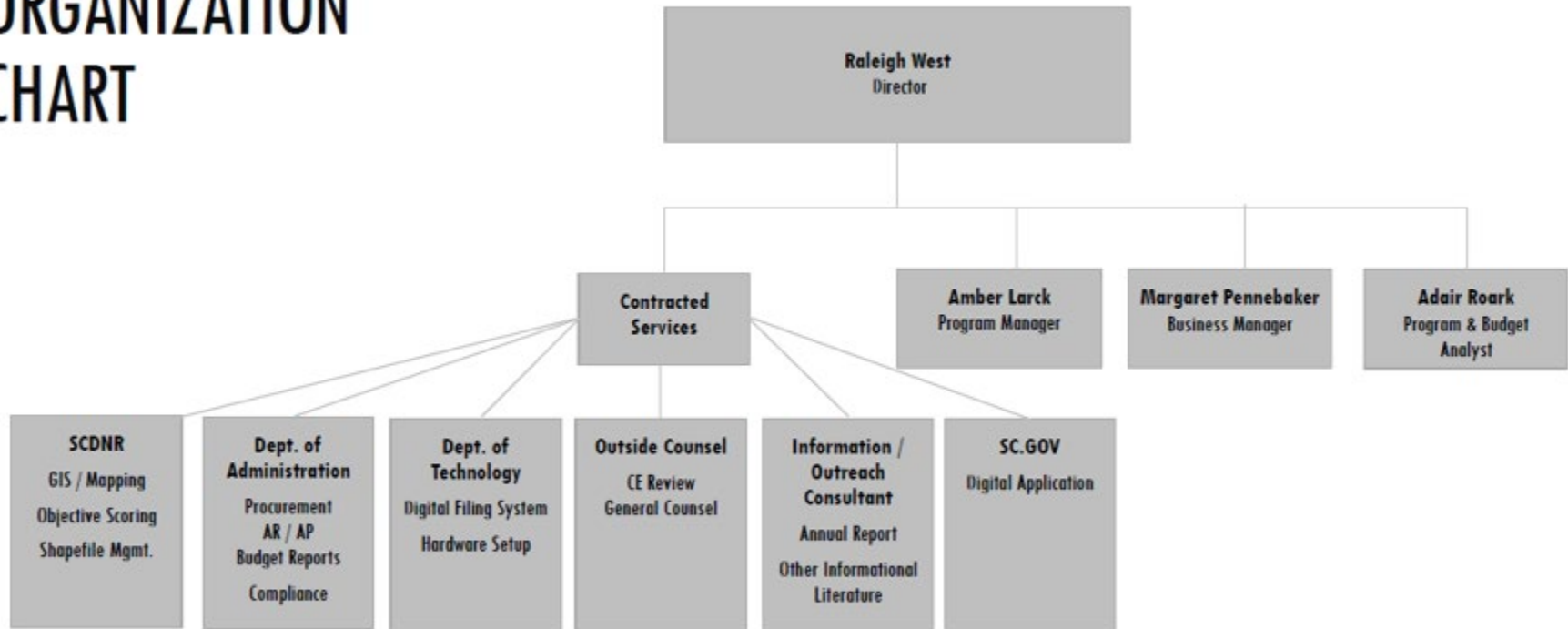
**AGENCY CODE:**

**P400**

**SECTION:**

**053**

# ORGANIZATION CHART



# 2024

## Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

### P400 - Conservation Bank

#### Primary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Margaret	Pennebaker	Business Manager	margaret.pennebaker@sccbanc.sc.gov	803-608-7807

#### Secondary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Amber	Larck	Project Manager	amber.larck@sccbanc.sc.gov	803-917-1033

#### Agency Mission

Adopted in:

2002

To improve the quality of life in South Carolina through the conservation of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, archeological sites, and urban parks.

#### Agency Vision

Adopted in:

2002

To improve the quality of life in South Carolina for current and future generations by conserving, preserving and protecting significant natural resource areas and wildlife habitats; water quality; forest lands; farmlands, especially family farms; 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; and to encourage cooperation and innovative partnerships among private landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.

#### Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

#### Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

None

#### Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2024

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
No Significant Events				

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? (See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20).

Yes

Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)

Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 30-1-10 through 30-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).

Yes

Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?

Yes

Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:

SC Code of Laws Section 48-59-70(M)

Has the agency promulgated any regulations?

No

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?

Yes

(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)



# Strategic Plan Results

# FY2024

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P400 - Conservation Bank

- Goal 1** To establish sustainable amounts of diverse habitat reflecting the values of SC citizens
- Goal 2** To improve public awareness & understanding of resource management issues & increase opportunities to participate in the process.
- Goal 3** To develop and maintain effective support and planning systems to ensure efficient overall agency operations.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
<b>1.1 Within the next 5 years improve the abundance &amp; distribution of conserved properties</b>														
<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>														
1.1.1	Increase the number of acres of land in conservation	359,571	370,000	389,159	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of acres reported in applications approved by the Conservation Bank for land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000X000	
1.1.2	Increase the number of conservation grants awarded	422	450	486	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of applications approved by the Conservation Bank for land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000X000	
<b>1.2 Within the next 5 years improve the abundance &amp; distribution of conserved properties</b>														
<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>														
1.2.1	Increase the number of acres of public access land in conservation	110,359	111,500	122,594	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of acres reported in applications approved by the Conservation Bank for public access land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications for conservation of public access land reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000X000	
1.2.2	Increase the number of public access land conservation grants awarded	172	180	204	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of applications approved by the Conservation Bank for public access land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000X000	
<b>2.1 To develop and maintain effective and supportive partnerships that enable the bank and its partners to reach mutual conservation goals.</b>														
<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>														

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.1.1	Create a "Focus Area" and establish a focus group in an area of high growth pressure and/or high conservation priority.	100%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Staff activity records	Conservation Bank internal master calendar	Increases the public awareness of the critical need to fund land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
<b>2.2 General Assembly</b>		<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>												
2.2.1	Attend at least 10 meetings (virtual or in-person) for the purpose of informing members of the General Assembly as to the benefits of the conservation practices.	10	10	10	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of meetings	Staff activity records	Conservation Bank internal master calendar	Increases legislative awareness of the critical need to fund land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Assembly	0100.010000.000	
2.2.2	Develop and distribute an Annual Report to the Governor's office and each member of the General Assembly.	171	171	171	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of recipients	Staff activity records	Annual Report distribution list	Increases legislative awareness of the critical need to fund land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	Governor and General Assembly	0100.010000.000	
<b>3.1 Design enhanced application and award criteria for the grant application process</b>		<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>												
3.1.1	Implement, modify, debug and fine-tune online grant application to attract a larger volume of high quality conservation proposals consistent with the Bank's mission in order to move to maintenance phase	90%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Grants Review Committee meetings and minutes	Agency Internal Records	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
3.1.2	Update grant scoring and mapping data as needed to ensure alignment with conservation priority goals.	100%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Grants Review Committee meetings and minutes	Agency Internal Records	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
3.1.3	Hold meeting(s) as necessary with Board and stakeholders to inform and discuss grant application changes.	1	1	2	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of meetings	Board meeting notice and Agenda	Agency Internal Records	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
<b>3.2 Develop and maintain an Heir's Property conservation easement plan and program</b>		<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>												
3.2.1	Hold meeting with the Center for Heir's Property Preservation to collaborate on conservation of heir's property.	1	1	1	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of meetings	Staff activity records	Agency Internal Records-meeting notes	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
3.2.2	In collaboration with the Center for Heir's Property Preservation, identify opportunities to advance conservation of heirs property lands.	1	1	1	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of times report is monitored and updated	Heir's Property report	Agency Internal Records-Heir's Property Report	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
<b>3.3 Establish system to update Board and general public on the accomplishments of stakeholders</b>		<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>												

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
3.3.1	Provide quarterly email updates to Board members	4	4	4	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of updates	Board correspondence files	Agency Internal Records	Engages the Conservation Bank Board and other stakeholders in furthering the progress of land conservation efforts as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	Conservation Bank Board	0100.010000.000		
3.3.2	Update website within 30 business days when Board-approved land conservation grants are completed and finalized.	100%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Conservation Bank website	website activity logs	Engages the Conservation Bank Board and other stakeholders in furthering the progress of land conservation efforts as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000		
3.3.3	Create Property Signage template for installation at existing public access projects and install initial test signage.	0.5	5	6	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of signs	Staff activity records	Agency Internal Records	Increases the public awareness of the availability of public access conserved lands which is an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000		
<b>3.4</b>	<b>To develop and effective and efficient Bank staff</b>						<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>								
3.4.1	Each Conservation Bank employee will attend at least two career development opportunities	6	6	6	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of completed professional development activities	Agency HR records	Agency Internal Records-Human Resources	Emphasizes employee growth, knowledge development and retention.	Employees	0100.010000.000		

# FY2025

## Strategic Plan Development

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

### P400 - Conservation Bank

- Goal 1** To establish sustainable amounts of diverse habitat reflecting the values of SC citizens
- Goal 2** To improve public awareness & understanding of resource management issues & increase opportunities to participate in the process.
- Goal 3** To develop and maintain effective support and planning systems to ensure efficient overall agency operations.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
<b>1.1 Within the next 5 years improve the abundance &amp; distribution of conserved properties</b>													
<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>													
1.1.1	Increase the number of acres of land in conservation	359,159	415,000	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of acres reported in applications approved by the Conservation Bank for land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000X000	
1.1.2	Increase the number of conservation grants awarded	486	525	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of applications approved by the Conservation Bank for land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000X000	
<b>1.2 Within the next 5 years improve the abundance &amp; distribution of conserved properties</b>													
<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>													
1.2.1	Increase the number of acres of public access land in conservation	122,594	130,000	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of acres reported in applications approved by the Conservation Bank for public access land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications for conservation of public access land reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000X000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.2.2	Increase the number of public access land conservation grants awarded	204	210	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of applications approved by the Conservation Bank for public access land conservation grants	Based on the number of applications reviewed and approved by the SC Conservation Bank Board	Agency Internal Records	Promotes the critical need for land conservation efforts by funding the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.030000.X000	
<b>2.1 To develop and maintain effective and supportive partnerships that enable the bank and its partners to reach mutual conservation goals.</b>												<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>	
2.1.1	Create a "Focus Area" and establish a focus group in an area of high growth pressure and/or high conservation priority.	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Staff activity records	Conservation Bank internal master calendar	Increases the public awareness of the critical need to fund land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
<b>2.2 General Assembly</b>												<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>	
2.2.1	Attend at least 10 meetings (virtual or in-person) for the purpose of informing members of the General Assembly as to the benefits of the conservation practices.	10	10	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of meetings	Staff activity records	Conservation Bank internal master calendar	Increases legislative awareness of the critical need to fund land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Assembly	0100.010000.000	
2.2.2	Develop and distribute an Annual Report to the Governor's office and each member of the General Assembly.	172	172	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of recipients	Staff activity records	Annual Report distribution list	Increases legislative awareness of the critical need to fund land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	Governor and General Assembly	0100.010000.000	
<b>3.1 Design enhanced application and award criteria for the grant application process</b>												<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>	
3.1.1	Modify, debug and fine-tune online grant application as necessary to attract a large volume of high quality conservation proposals consistent with the Bank's mission. Implement online application component for the qualified Working Farmlands Protection Fund applicants.	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Grants Review Committee meetings and minutes	Agency Internal Records	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
3.1.2	Update grant scoring and mapping data annually and as needed to ensure alignment with conservation priority goals.	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Grants Review Committee meetings and minutes	Agency Internal Records	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	
3.1.3	Hold meeting(s) as necessary with Board and stakeholders to inform and discuss grant application changes.	2	2	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of meetings	Board meeting notice and Agenda	Agency Internal Records	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
<b>3.2 Develop and maintain an Heir's Property conservation easement plan and program</b>													<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>	
3.2.1	Hold meeting with the Center for Heir's Property Preservation to collaborate on conservation of heir's property.	1	1	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of meetings	Staff activity records	Agency Internal Records-meeting notes	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000		
3.2.2	In collaboration with the Center for Heir's Property Preservation, identify opportunities to advance conservation of heirs property lands.	1	1	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of times report is monitored and updated	Heir's Property report	Agency Internal Records-Heir's Property Report	Increases the quality of land conservation projects which is vital in addressing the critical need of land conservation as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000		
<b>3.3 Establish system to update Board and general public on the accomplishments of stakeholders</b>													<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>	
3.3.1	Provide quarterly email updates to Board members	4	4	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of updates	Board correspondence files	Agency Internal Records	Engages the Conservation Bank Board and other stakeholders in furthering the progress of land conservation efforts as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	Conservation Bank Board	0100.010000.000		
3.3.2	Update website within 30 business days when Board-approved land conservation grants are completed and finalized.	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Percent complete as determined by the agency	Conservation Bank website	website activity logs	Engages the Conservation Bank Board and other stakeholders in furthering the progress of land conservation efforts as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000		
3.3.3	Create Property Signage template for installation at existing public access projects and install initial test signage.	6	8	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of signs	Staff activity records	Agency Internal Records	Increases the public awareness of the availability of public access conserved lands which is an essential element in the orderly development of the State.	General Public	0100.010000.000		
<b>3.4 To develop and effective and efficient Bank staff</b>													<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>	
3.4.1	Each Conservation Bank employee will attend at least one career development opportunities.	4	4	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of completed professional development activities	Agency HR records	Agency Internal Records-Human Resources	Emphasizes employee growth, knowledge development and retention.	Employees	0100.010000.000		

# 2024

## Budget Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

### P400 - Conservation Bank

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) Total
0100.010000.000	Administration	General operating expenses and grant awards under the Bank's grants program to improve the quality of life in South Carolina by conserving significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, archeological sites, and urban parks	\$ 505,943.70	\$ 52,291,000.00	\$ -	\$ 52,796,943.70	\$ 9,801,585.00	\$ 232,162.00	\$ -	\$ 10,033,747.00
0100.030000X000	Conservation Bank Trust	Grant awards under the Bank's Conservation Grants program to improve the quality of life in South Carolina by conserving significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, archeological sites, and urban parksgrants program	\$ 6,426,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,426,000.00	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00
0118.100000X000	National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant	Authorization to award grants from the NCWCG program to protect, restore and enhance coastal wetland ecosystems and associated uplands.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
0106.150000X000	Savannah Harbor Extension Project	Authorization to establish a fund separate and distinct from the General Trust Fund for the purpose of collecting, holding and administering monies, arising from the SHEP settlement agreement.	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	Employee fringe benefits	\$ 118,074.03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 118,074.03	\$ 125,331.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,331.00
9813.010000X000	Conservation Grants	Grant awards under the Bank's Conservation Grants program to improve the quality of life in South Carolina by conserving significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, archeological sites, and urban parks.	\$ 31,561,259.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,561,259.00	\$ 21,880,519.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,880,519.00
0107.200000X000	Working Ag Lands	Grant awards under the Working Farmland Protection Fund for the purpose of providing permanent protection to working farmland properties whose continued availability to commercial agricultural businesses is essential to the long-term future of the economic sector.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00

# 2024

## Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

**P400 - Conservation Bank**

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
SC Code §48-59-100	State	Statute	Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an easement acquired in whole or in part with trust funds must provide for public access consistent with the uses permitted by the terms of the easement.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
SC Code §48-59-110	State	Statute	Establishes trust fund use restrictions, and allows and establishes policies for board to award additional grant funds to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, or the South Carolina Forestry Commission for the acquisition of fee simple title to land to which the public will have full access. The additional funds must be used only for improvements that create or enhance wildlife habitats.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
SC Code §48-59-120	State	Statute	Repeal and amendment requirements	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
SC Code §48-59-130	State	Statute	The provisions of this chapter must not be construed to eliminate or unreasonably restrict hunting, fishing, farming, forestry, timber management, or wildlife habitat management, as regulated by the laws of this State, upon lands for which interests in lands are obtained pursuant to this chapter. These and other traditional and compatible activities may be conducted, where appropriate, upon lands preserved with trust funds.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
SC Code §48-59-140	State	Statute	Establishes statutory parameters governing the purchase a conservation easements with trust funds.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
SC Code §48-59-20	State	Statute	Established the purpose for enacting the SC Conservation Bank Act and including an ongoing funding source to acquire interests in land from willing sellers through cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change



Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
SC Code §48-59-30	State	Statute	Definitions	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
SC Code §48-59-40 (A-C)	State	Statute	Establishes guidelines for Board member appointments, terms, and qualifications	Not related to agency deliverable	This section was amended on 03/11/2024 to increase the Board to a seventeen members by adding the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Transportation as additional ex officio members.	Amended
SC Code §48-59-40 (D)	State	Statute	Establishes parameters for Board member recusal from voting when a conflict of interest arises	Requires a service	Board members may not vote on any action affecting or providing funding for the acquisition on interests in land.	No Change
SC Code §48-59-40 (E)	State	Statute	Board meetings	Board, commission, or committee on which someone from our agency must/may serve		No Change
SC Code §48-59-40 (F)	State	Statute	Board member personal liability	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
SC Code §48-59-50 (A-B)	State	Statute	Establishes and directs the Bank's powers and duties in carrying out the purpose of the Conservation Bank Act	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
SC Code §48-59-50 (C)	State	Statute	The Bank is authorized to hire an Executive Director with the advice and consent of the Senate, to hire staff, to contract services and to enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies	Requires a service	Hiring of Executive Director, staff, contract services, cooperative agreements with other state agencies	No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
SC Code §48-59-50 (D)	State	Statute	Establishes the trust fund as the funding source for bank operating expenses	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
SC Code §48-59-50 (E)	State	Statute	Stipulates that fund awards cannot be made unless the funds are in the trust fund at the time of the award; provides for certain exceptions for awards for extraordinary conservation opportunities	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
SC Code §48-59-60	State	Statute	Statutorily establishes the South Carolina Conservation Bank Trust Fund as separate and distinct from all other funds in the State Treasury for the purpose of receiving and holding revenues of the bank. Earnings on the trust fund are retained in the trust fund and unexpended trust fund revenues are carried forward in the trust fund from one fiscal year to the next.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
SC Code §48-59-70	State	Statute	Trust fund grants or loans for land interests; application; conservation criteria.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
SC Code §48-59-80	State	Statute	Statutorily establishes that interests in lands must be held by eligible trust fund recipients and addresses mortgages, insurance and rights of fee simple title owners. The Bank must be named as an insured on a title insurance policy acceptable to the board and obtained by the loan recipient for loans it makes to eligible trust fund recipients.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
SC Code §48-59-90	State	Statute	Funds from the trust fund may not be used to acquire interests in lands or other interests in real property through the exercise of any power of eminent domain or condemnation proceeding.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
SC Act 224 of 2018	State	Statute	To amend section 48-59-30, code of laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to South Carolina conservation bank definitions, so as to redefine the term eligible trust fund recipient; to amend section 48-59-40, relating to the board of the South Carolina conservation bank, so as to establish certain requirements for members of the board; to amend section 48-59-50, relating to the powers and duties of the South Carolina conservation bank, so as to require the bank to collaborate and advise on mitigation efforts when requested, to authorize the bank to develop conservation criteria to advance support federal, state, and local conservation goals, to provide certain restrictions on who may serve as executive director, and to prohibit the award of a grant or loan unless the funds are presently available in the trust fund; to amend section 48-59-70, relating to grants or loans for land interests, so as to expand the conservation criteria to include the value of the proposal for access to the public, to require a detailed statement of applicable fees and costs of the acquisition of the interest in the land on the application, to require the establishment of a grant review committee, and establish certain application requirements; to amend section 48-59-110, relating to use restrictions on trust funds, so as to authorize the bank to award additional grant funds to certain agencies for the acquisition of fee simple title to land and to establish application and reporting requirements; to repeal section 12-24-95 and 12-24-97, both relating to the portion of the deed recording fee credited to the South Carolina conservation bank trust fund; to repeal section 27-8-120, relating to the repeal of the South Carolina conservation bank; to repeal section 48-59-75, relating to the restriction of deed recording fees to the trust fund and to repeal sections 3, 4, 5, and 7 of act 200 of 2002 relating to the requirement to periodically reauthorize the South Carolina conservation bank trust fund.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
SC Code §12-24-95	State	Statute	Statutorily directs the SCCB to receive twenty-five cents of every dollar thirty cents from the deed stamp recording fee for the purpose of accepting and reviewing land conservation easements and making grants and loans to qualified public and private entities to acquire interests in real property for the purpose of improving the quality of life in SC by permanently preserving & protecting farmlands, forestlands, wetlands, openlands, historic sites, archaeological sites, urban parks & natural resources.	Distribute funding to another entity	HISTORY: Former Section, titled State deed recording fee credited to South Carolina Conservation Bank Trust Fund, had the following history: 2002 Act No. 200, Section 3, eff April 10, 2002. Repealed by 2018 Act No. 224, Section 6.A, eff July 1, 2018.	No Change
SC Code §12-24-97	State	Statute	Establishes when the SCCB started receiving funding; how long they would receive funding and if the SCCB Act is repealed where the funding would be redirected	Distribute funding to another entity	HISTORY: Former Section, titled Starting date for transfers on which fee based, had the following history: 2002 Act No. 200, Section 4, eff April 10, 2002. Repealed by 2018 Act No. 224, Section 6.A, eff July 1, 2018	No Change
SC Code §48-59-10	State	Statute	Established & statutorily required to accept & review land conservation easements and make grants and loans to qualified public and private entities to acquire interests in real property for the purpose of improving the quality of life in SC by permanently protecting farmlands, forestlands, wetlands, openlands, urban parks, historic sites and natural resources.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
FY24 General Appropriations Act Proviso 53.1	State	FY22-23 Proviso	53.1. (CB: Trust Program Carry Forward) The Conservation Bank may carry forward any unexpended funds allocated to the Conservation Bank Trust Program from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
FY24 General Appropriations Act Proviso 53.2	State	FY23-24 Proviso	53.2. (CB: General Fund Carry Forward) Of the funds appropriated in the prior fiscal year to the Conservation Bank for administration, unexpended funds may be carried forward to the current fiscal year and expended for the same purposes.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
FY24 General Appropriations Act Proviso 117.171	State	FY23-24 Proviso	117.171. (GP: Land Acquisitions) Prior to entering into contracts to utilize funds appropriated or authorized by the General Assembly to acquire interests in land for natural resource protection and rural land preservation, including conservation easements, the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Resilience, and Forestry Commission (Resource Agencies) shall coordinate and collaborate with the SC Conservation Bank to maximize the most cost effective options available for the acquisition with the greatest public benefit. The Conservation Bank shall coordinate with the Resource Agency to ensure that the funds are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
SC Code §48-59-150 (A)	State	Statute	Establishes the Working Farmland Protection Fund for the purpose of providing permanent protection to working farmland properties whose continued availability to commercial agricultural businesses is essential to the long-term future of the economic sector. Balances in the fund must be retained and carried forward annually and interest earned on balances in the fund must be credited to the fund.	Requires a service		Added
SC Code §48-59-150 (B-C)	State	Statute	Sets forth appropriate use of the fund and sets criteria by which grant applications to the fund are considered, evaluated, and awarded	Funding agency deliverable(s)		Added

# 2024

## Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:  
**P400 - Conservation Bank**

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2024	Summary of changes to services
Established to accept and review land conservation easements & make grants and loans to qualified public and private entities to acquire interests in real estate for the purpose of improving the quality of life in SC by permanently conserving, preserving & protecting farmlands, forestlands, wetlands, openlands, urban parks, historic sites archaeological sites & natural resources	A qualified entity defined in The Conservation Bank Act as a state agency (SCDNR, SCPRT, or SC Forestry Commission), municipalities, and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.	Eligible Trust Fund Recipient	General Public	Executive	This office is responsible for overseeing and distribution of grant funds 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	Limit protection of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical and archaeological properties and urban parks throughout the state, and reduce leverage opportunities.	No Change	
Collaborate and advise on mitigation efforts between state agencies and other parties to help ensure that mitigation efforts are consistent with the purposes set forth in the Bank's enabling statute.	SCDOC is a state agency charged with helping to grow new and existing business by assisting with the location of new sites and building approving grants for community development and infrastructure improvement.	SC Department of Commerce	General Public				No Change	
Submit application to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the NCWCG program and administer funds accordingly.	Eligible entities are eligible trust fund recipient as defined by the SCCB Act to include state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit land trusts.	Eligible Entities	USFWS, General Public				No Change	

# 2024

## Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

**P400 - Conservation Bank**

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Non-Governmental Organization	Non-profit Organizations	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide.	No Change
State Government	SC Department of Commerce	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide. Further, to coordinate and collaborate with the Agency to ensure that funds used for land acquisition are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	Amend
State Government	SC Dept of Natural Resources	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide. Further, to coordinate and collaborate with the Agency to ensure that funds used for land acquisition are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	Amend
State Government	SC Forestry Commission	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide. Further, to coordinate and collaborate with the Agency to ensure that funds used for land acquisition are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	Amend
Non-Governmental Organization	SC Land Trust Network	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide.	No Change
State Government	SC Parks Recreation & Tourism	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide. Further, to coordinate and collaborate with the Agency to ensure that funds used for land acquisition are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	Amend

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Federal Government	SC Soil & Water Conservation Districts	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide.	No Change
Federal Government	US Fish and Wildlife Service	To administer NCWCG program grant funds for projects to protect, restore and enhance coastal wetland ecosystems and associated uplands.	No Change
State Government	SC Office of Resilience	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide. Further, to coordinate and collaborate with the Agency to ensure that funds used for land acquisition are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	No Change
State Government	SC Agriculture Commission	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide. Further, to coordinate and collaborate with the Agency to ensure that funds used for land acquisition are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	Add
State Government	SC Department of Transportation	To work in conjunction with the entity to identify and provide funding within budgetary limitations for the conservation of significant lands contributing important public benefits to the environment, the economy and improvement of the quality of life in SC statewide. Further, to coordinate and collaborate with the Agency to ensure that funds used for land acquisition are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.	Add

## Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:  
P400 - Conservation Bank

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Agency Accountability Report	§1-1-810	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	September 2023	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	Adair Roark (adair.roark@sccbanc.sc.gov); or Margaret Pennebaker (margaret.pennebaker@sccbanc.sc.gov)	No Change	
GAAP Report - Master Checklist Reporting Package		Provides CG's Office of various financial reports to be submitted annually	July 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact DOA	No Change	
GAAP Report - Operating Leases		Provides CG's Office with financial report of all agency operating leases	August 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact DOA	No Change	
GAAP Reporting - Fund Balance		Provides CG's Office with all funds that activity during the fiscal year	August 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact DOA	No Change	
GAAP Reporting - Subsequent Events		Provides CG's Office with notice of any changes that may have occurred once all annual financial reporting has been completed	October 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact DOA	No Change	
Infosec & Privacy Survey		Provides annual IT security reporting to DIS	September 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact info@sccbanc.sc.gov for access	No Change	



Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
IT Data Collection Workbook		Provides annual IT data/planning to DTO	July 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact info@sccbanc.sc.gov for access	No Change	
Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Plan		Provides OSMBCC annual report of utilization of small & minority businesses in procurement related matters	July 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact DOA	No Change	
Payroll Report		Report to SAF of updated employee info for Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage	October 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact info@sccbanc.sc.gov for access	No Change	
State Financial Audit		Provides annual financial reporting to State Auditor	September 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="http://osa.sc.gov/reports/">http://osa.sc.gov/reports/</a>	No Change	
Tort Liability Report		Report to IRF for tort liability insurance coverage	January 2024	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	contact info@sccbanc.sc.gov for access	No Change	
Annual Report		Submitted to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and General Assembly	January 2024	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	<a href="https://www.sccbanc.sc.gov/annual-reports">https://www.sccbanc.sc.gov/annual-reports</a>	Amend	

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	SC Conservation Bank		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	P400	<b>SECTION:</b>	53

**2024  
Accountability Report**

**SUBMISSION FORM**

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following templates:

- Data Template
  - Reorganization and Compliance
  - FY2024 Strategic Plan Results
  - FY2025 Strategic Plan Development
  - Legal
  - Services
  - Partnerships
  - Report or Review
  - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency’s budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

<b>AGENCY DIRECTOR</b> <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>	<b>SIGNATURE ON FILE</b>	<b>Signature Received:</b> 09/13/2024
<i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	J. Raleigh West III	

<b>BOARD/CMSN CHAIR</b> <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>	<b>SIGNATURE ON FILE</b>	<b>Signature Received:</b> 09/13/2024
<i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	Michael G. McShane	