

South Carolina Soybean Board
Minutes
Santee Conference Center
1737 Bass Drive | Santee, SC
Monday, December 16, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

- Fitzhugh Bethea, Chair
- Wes Woodard, Vice Chair
- Rachael Sharp, Secretary-
Treasurer
- Cecil Eaddy
- Michael Grier
- James Shuler
- Jeffy Westbury
- Charlie Whiten

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

- Joe Alvin Derrick
- David Owens
- John Rivers

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

- Dwight Cauthen, Commodity Coordinator, SC Farm Bureau
- Mary C. Cromley, Executive Director, SCSB
- Ellen Lloyd, Administrative Assistant, SCDA
- Samuel Quinney, Director of Agricultural Outreach, SCDA
- Kyle Smith, Extension Agent, Clemson Extension

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order and an opening prayer was given at approximately 3:03pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes, July 30, 2024 – ***A motion was made and seconded to approved the minutes as typed. All were in favor. Motion carried.***
- III. Reports
 - a. United Soybean Board – Chairman Bethea reported that USB elected a new chairman at its board meeting the previous week, Phillip Good, who is a soybean farmer from Mississippi. Chairman Bethea will also serve on the Communication and Education (C&E) committee for the upcoming year. Miss Cromley also added that the USB Executive Committee was in Savannah in November and she hosted the group at her parents’ farm and cotton gin for a tour and dinner while they were in the area. She also noted

that during the same week, USB's communications team was in South Carolina for several days shooting videos at Jeffy Westbury's farm and at the SC Port Authority's facilities in Dillon and Charleston. During discussion, it was noted that USB would be hosting a board meeting in South Carolina within the next couple of years, potentially 2027.

A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Upon the conclusion of executive session, no action was taken related to the purpose of the executive session and all guests were invited to rejoin the Board for the remainder of the agenda.

- b. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Miss Cromley informed the Board that USB approved the FY25 Budget and Marketing Plan without additional questions.
 - b. Proposed Budget Amendments – Miss Cromley and Miss Sharp proposed the following changes to the FY25 budget:
 - i. Removal of the \$45,000 projected interest income due to the Board's decision to invest uncommitted funds into CD or high-interest saving accounts being denied by SCDA.
 - ii. Addition of funding for employment of a Marketing Specialist to be shared with the South Carolina Corn Board.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the budget as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- IV. Old Business – there was no old business.
- V. New Business – Funding and Travel Requests
 - a. Biomass Based Diesel Funding Request – Miss Cromley presented the Board with information provided by the American Soybean Association on their new Biomass Based Diesel Initiative. ***A motion was made a seconded to support the Biomass Based Diesel Initiative with \$7,500. All were in favor. Motion carried.***
 - b. SC FFA Agronomy CDE – ***A motion was made and seconded to support the SC FFA Agronomy Career Development Event in the amount of \$1,750. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

- c. Upcoming Events and Travel Requests – Miss Cromley presented the following travel requests for approval:
 - i. Commodity Classic, Denver, CO, February 28 – March 5, 2025
 - ii. SCFB YF&R Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC, February 7 – 9, 2025; \$2,500 sponsorship and travel
 - iii. United Soybean Board Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 17–21, 2025

A motion was made and seconded to approve the sponsorship and travel requests as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- d. Next Meeting Date/Location: The next meeting of the South Carolina Soybean Board will take place on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Clemson Sandhills REC. Timing will be determined once research proposals have been received.

Prior to adjournment, Miss Cromley informed the board that Jimmie Lee Shaw, a soybean farmer from Newberry that has served as South Carolina’s director on the American Soybean Association board, was elected to ASA’s nine-person Executive Committee while in St. Louis the previous week.

- VI. Adjourn – ***A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:27pm.

Minutes typed by Ellen Lloyd, Administrative Assistant at the South Carolina Department of Agriculture; edited by Mary Catherine Cromley, Assistant Secretary Treasurer of the South Carolina Soybean Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the South Carolina Soybean Board Meeting on December 16, 2024.

Fitzhugh Bethea, Chairman

Date