

**SOUTH CAROLINA CORN BOARD
FY2026 Q1 BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY SANDHILL REC
900 Clemson Road Columbia, SC 29229
Tuesday July 29, 2025 | 1:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. John Long, Chairman
Mr. Landrum Weathers, Vice Chairman
Mr. Jimmy Taylor
Mr. Mac Eaddy
Mr. Marion Dubose

OTHER ATTENDEES

Dr. Bennett Harrelson, Executive Director, SC Corn Board
Ms. Francis Price, Chairwoman, Ag Commission
Mr. Gill Rogers
Dr. Michael Plumblee, Clemson University
Ms. Laura Jordan, Clemson University
Mr. Dwight Cauthen, SC Farm Bureau

- I. Welcome and Call to Order John Long, Chairman
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:44 PM.
- II. Approval of Agenda
 - a. ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda pending adding nomination of District 2 board member to new business. All were in favor. Motion carried.***
- III. Review of Minutes – July 2, 2025
 - a. ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as typed. All were in favor. Motion carried.***
- IV. Reports
 - a. **Chairman** – Mr. John Long
 - i. Mr. Long reported to the board that as of July 1, 2025, the SCCB had been in operation for 1 year. Also informed the board of the recent trip to Washington, DC for corn congress and meetings with NCGA. Said there were very good discussions had during those meetings.
 - b. **Executive Director** – Dr. Bennett Harrelson
 - i. Dr. Harrelson reported a summary of his activities since the last board meeting: including attending NCGA and ASA meetings in Washington, DC and both the SCSB sponsored Clemson Corn and Soybean Field Days at Pee Dee and Edisto RECs. It was reported that the field days were very well received and over 140 people, primarily growers and industry partners, participated in the events.
 - ii.
 - c. **Treasurer**

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- i. Landrum Weathers was appointed by the Chairman to interim Treasurer, until a formal vote was to be taken. He reported that roughly \$250,000 carried over from FY25 to FY26.

V. Old Business

- a. All Other Old Business

VI. New Business

- a. Nomination for Open Seat – SCCB District 2

- i. Mr. Long briefed the board on the vacated position previously held by Bo Norris in District 2 of the SCCB. He mentioned that he had talked with all the other board members and discussed Mr. Gill Rogers as a potential replace for that open seat. He said that he has known Mr. Rogers for many years and that he served on the SC Cotton Board for over 20 years and would be a great asset to the SCCB.

- ***A motion was made and seconded to nominate Mr. Gill Rogers to fulfill the term of the open board seat in District 2. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

- b. PROPOSED: SCCB Mission Statement

- i. Dr. Harrelson briefed the board on the Mission Statement that was drafted. He mentioned that he wanted something that was simple and clearly defined the purpose of the SCCB.

- ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the SCCB Mission Statement as written. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

- c. PROPOSED: SCCB Budget

- i. Dr. Harrelson briefed the board on the FY2026 budget. He mentioned that the estimated assessment of \$972,000 was very conservative but did not want to overestimate with the SCCB being so newly formed and not having a firm understanding of how much can be expected on a yearly basis. He mentioned that the majority of the budget was spent on research with \$437,500 being allocated to research projects and research related activities. The next highest portion of the budget was allocated to Promotion and Education at \$293,500. The budget also included a strategic reserve of \$100,000 in case of emergencies that the board would continue to be able to operate.

- ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the SCCB FY2026 Budget as written. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

- d. Sponsorship Requests

- i. Pee Dee REC Field Day – Mr. Jonathan Windham

- Dr. Harrelson briefed the board on the sponsorship request of Mr. Jonathan Windham for the Clemson University Pee Dee REC field day at \$500.
- ***A motion was made and seconded for the SCCB to sponsor the Pee Dee REC field day at the \$500 level. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

- ii. Grown in SC Magazine – SCDA

- Dr. Harrelson briefed the board on the sponsorship request of

SCDA for an advertisement page in the Grown in SC magazine.

- ***A motion was made and seconded for the SCCB to sponsor the Grown in SC Magazine at the \$2,000 level. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

iii. SCDA Critical Initiative – Commissioner Hugh Weathers

- Mr. Long briefed the board on the SCDA Critical Initiative request for \$10,000. The board discussed how the SCDA request would provide deliverables that directly impacted corn producers in the areas of research, education, and promotion. Mr. Long said he would reach out for more information.

e. Non-Research RFPs

i. Clemson Agri-Business Regional Meetings Funding – Mr. Scott Mickey

- Dr. Harrelson briefed the board on the funding request for \$1,500 from Mr. Scott Mickey with the Clemson Extension Agribusiness team for the partial funding of Quarterly Market Producer Meetings to be held regionally throughout the state with the first two taking place today in Orangeburg and Clarendon Counties. With more planned for Dillon and Newberry Counties.
- ***A motion was made and seconded for the SCCB to fund the Regional Marketing Meetings at the \$1,500 level. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

ii. Executive Marketing Seminar – Mr. Scott Mickey

- Dr. Harrelson briefed the board on the funding request for \$1,500 from Mr. Scott Mickey with the Clemson Extension Agribusiness team for the partial funding of 27th Annual Executive Marketing Seminar in Pawley's Island, SC on January 8, 2026.
- ***A motion was made and seconded for the SCCB to fund the 27th Annual Executive Marketing Seminar at the \$1,500 level. All were in favor. Motion carried.***

f. Review of Research RFP

i. Clemson University – FFAR Crop – Animal Systems – Dr. Michael Plumblee

- Dr. Plumblee briefed the board on the FFAR Crop-Animal Systems grant application to look at the use of corn, soybean, and grain sorghum as use in poultry feed production. The project has many components but at this time there is not a financial obligation for the SCCB, but wanted the board to be aware of the project and the potential for support in the project.
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g. Upcoming Events

i. South Carolina Corn & Soybean Growers Meeting – Santee, SC
Wednesday, December 17th

- Dr. Harrelson briefed the board that a date has been set for the Annual SC Corn & Soybean Growers Meeting will be held on December 17, 2025 in Santee.

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- h. All Other New Business
- VII. Executive Session to discuss matters of finances
- VIII. Adjourn
- a. ***A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.***
 - b. Meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM

Minutes submitted by Dr. Bennett Harrelson, Executive Director South Carolina Corn Board.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the South Carolina Corn Board Meeting on July 29, 2025.

Mr. John Long, Chairman

Date