

SOUTH CAROLINA CORN BOARD
Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2024
Santee Conference Center
Santee, SC

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Long, Chair
Landrum Weathers, Vice Chair
Bo Norris, Secretary-Treasurer
Jimmy Taylor
Marion Dubose
Mac Eaddy
Dean Hutto

OTHER ATTENDEES

Mary C. Cromley, Executive Director, SC Corn Board
Samuel Quinney, Director of Agricultural Outreach, SCDA

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Long called the meeting to order at approximately 10:40am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** – Chairman Long reviewed the agenda for the meeting asked if there were any additions to the agenda as prepared. ***A motion was made and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.***
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – After review of the minutes as presented, the following changes were made:
 - Under item number 5 regarding assessments collected, a change was made to correct the Fiscal Year from 2024 to 2025.
 - Under the Chairman's report, a sentence was amended to reflect that the Chairman noted important items would be discussed during executive session.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- IV. **Reports**
 - a. **Chairman's Report** – Chairman Long gave a brief overview of the meeting the Board attended with SCDA on January 31, 2025. He noted this was an information sharing meeting where each party was able to discuss different concerns regarding the management of the Board's funds and other issues.

He also noted that Commissioner Weathers' position was that many of the Corn Board's concerns were with the Agriculture Commission and not SCDA. Chairman Long noted that overall, it was a good meeting and that he was glad there was an opportunity to meet. He also stated that the Board would discuss more of the details during Executive Session. Miss Cromley distributed an email received from Commissioner Weathers as a follow up to the meeting. There were questions regarding the role of the Commission versus SCDA, and Chairman Long noted that the roles and responsibilities of each were unclear, but that he hoped this would be more clearly addressed in an opinion from the Attorney General. Sam Quinney added that the House Ways and Means Committee included in their budget a proviso that would allow commodity boards to retain interest collected on commodity board funds. The question was asked if this would have to be approved every year. Mr. Quinney indicated that typically once provisos are included in the budget, they remain included in future years.

- b. **Executive Director** – Miss Cromley reported that she and Woody Green, who serves on the Risk Management Action Team, attended the NCGA Action Team Meetings and State Leadership Training in Louisville, Kentucky in January. Miss Cromley also reported the Brooke Appleton, who was serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for NCGA, would be leaving her position soon to serve as Deputy Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA. Miss Cromley also gave a brief update on recent hearings that were being held in Congress, including USDA Secretary nominee Brooke Rollins's confirmation hearing and hearings on economic conditions in farm country.
- c. **Treasurer's Report** – Secretary-Treasurer Norris reported that he and Miss Cromley worked on a proposed budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year, based on current assessment collections. Miss Cromley distributed several documents and noted that expenses were very limited at this point due to the Board not having an approved budget. One transaction was billed to the Board without approval for Ellen Lloyd's use of a transcription service to draft the meeting minutes for the October board meeting. The Board discussed incoming assessments and potential first purchasers who were not complying with remitting assessments. Miss Cromley noted that the marketing order also allowed for the Board to contact out of state first purchasers for remittance.

Proposed Budget: The Board engaged in discussion regarding the proposed FY25 budget. After much discussion and review, the Board made the following changes to the budget as proposed:

- Inclusion of all funds committed to Clemson, not just funds that would be paid in FY2025.
- Increase expected income from \$250,000 to \$300,000
- Include \$10,000 for Clemson Outreach Support

- Include \$10,000 for Research Promotion, to include mailings to inform growers of meetings
- Remove technology expenses for board members

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

A motion was made and seconded to give the Executive Director the authority to spend up to \$2,500 within the budgeted program areas. All were in favor. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

- a. **Policy and Procedures Manual** – Miss Cromley asked the Board for additional guidance regarding how they would like to proceed with the development of a Policy and Procedures Manual. The Board asked Miss Cromley to start a draft based on other boards manuals. Miss Cromley noted that many of the policies and procedures in place were already determined by the Marketing Order, but that this would be supplemental. No other action was taken.

VI. New Business

- a. **Mini-grants for Educators** – Miss Cromley noted that this was included in and approved in the budget but explained that this would provide \$500 grants to teachers to use a lesson related to corn or corn production. The Board approved \$5,000 in the budget to provide 10 grants to teachers in South Carolina. No further action was taken.
- b. **Sponsorship Requests:**
 - i. SC Poultry Federation Meeting – The Board reviewed the sponsorship materials for the SC Poultry Federation Annual Meeting in July in Charleston, SC. ***A motion was made and seconded to sponsor the annual meeting at the \$4,000 as well as a one-hole sponsorship at the golf tournament. All were in favor. Motion carried.***
 - ii. John de la Howe Foundation Event – The Board reviewed the sponsorship materials for the John de la Howe Foundation Event in March. A motion was made and seconded to sponsor the event at the \$5,000 level. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- VII. Executive Session** – A motion was made and seconded for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters of employment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Upon reentering open session, a motion was made and seconded to present an MOU with changes as outlined in Executive Session that is in alignment with the MOU the South Carolina Soybean Board will present to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Catherine Cromley, Assistant Secretary Treasurer of the 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 February 6, 2025.

John Long, Chairman

Date

Additional Action Taken by the Board

On April 3, 2025, the South Carolina Corn Board called an Executive Session meeting following the agreement to a waiver of public notice to address an urgent matter related to the status of the Board's bank accounts.

During the meeting, *a motion was made and seconded that the bank account held in the Board's name at Chase Bank be closed and all funds transferred to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. A roll call vote was taken; all were in favor. Motion carried.*

Summary submitted by Mary Catherine Cromley, Assistant Secretary Treasurer of the South Carolina Corn Board.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved actions of the South Carolina Corn Board Meeting on April 3, 2025.

John Long, Chairman

Date