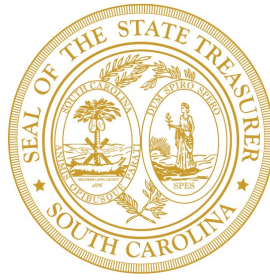


Chairman

THE HONORABLE CURTIS. M. LOFTIS, JR.
State Treasurer

Chairman Pro Tempore

HOWARD H. WRIGHT, JR.



Board Members

HOWARD H. WRIGHT, JR. | *Rock Hill*
W. DONALD PENNINGTON | *Simpsonville*
F. JUSTIN STRICKLAND | *Lexington*
J. DANIEL WALTERS | *Greenville*
K. WAYNE WICKER | *Myrtle Beach*
J. BARRY HAM | *Manning*
CHARLES H. STUART | *Mount Pleasant*
BILLY D. BYRD, II | *Hartsville*
JENNY MICHAELS / *Sumter*
THOMAS BOUCHETTE / *Florence*

SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

10:00 AM

**Conference Room 222 Wade Hampton Bldg
and via WebEx Virtual Conference Room**

Upon proper call and due notice to all its members and after having given required public notice, the State Board of Financial Institutions met on the 7th day of February 2024 with Chairman Loftis presiding.

Other members present: Mrs. Michaels and Messrs. Wright, Walters, Pennington, Strickland, Stuart, and Bouchette.

The Chairman stated that a quorum was present.

Staff present:

Consumer Finance Division: Commissioner Ron Bodvake, Deputy Commissioner Phyllis Wicker, Deputy Commissioner Amy Gelhaus, and Deputy Commissioner Quinton Creed.

Banking Division: Commissioner Kathy Bickham, Deputy Commissioner Janeen Hughes, and Deputy Commissioner Remonia Wright.

State Treasurer's Office: Director of Administration Jordan Dominick, Deputy General Counsel Bill Condon, Deputy General Counsel Shawn Eubanks, Human Resources Director Lisa O'Sullivan, Executive Assistant Jack D'Oliveira, Fiscal Analyst Tiffany Hubbard, and Fiscal Analyst Cameron Larkin.

Guests present from NASCUS (National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors): Brian Knight, President and CEO, John Kolhoff, Senior Vice President of Policy and Supervision, and Mary Ellen O'Neill, Accreditation Program Administrator.

The agenda for this meeting was approved by General Consent.

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The December 6, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes were approved by General Consent.

The Chairman asked if any Member needed to be recused from or had any conflict of interest with any item on the agenda. No conflicts were identified.

The Chairman welcomed the group from NASCUS to present Commissioner Bickham and the Banking Division with an inaugural Certification of Accreditation for Credit Union Supervision. **NASCUS Senior Vice President John Kolhoff** awarded the certificate and gave an overview of NASCUS and of the accreditation process. The Chairman congratulated Commissioner Bickham and her staff on the esteemed certification and thanked her and her staff for their continued dedicated service to South Carolina citizens.

Committee Reports

Legislative and Regulatory Committee, Mr. Stuart informed the Board that The Legislative and Regulatory Committee met on December 14th. Commissioner Bickham provided an overview of the Banking Division's Legislative Tracking Sheet for the upcoming 2023-2024 legislative session. The overview included Senate Bill S.861 related to potential central bank currency and House Bill H. 4569 related to ATM transaction fee limits. Mr. Stuart also informed the Board that Commissioner Bodvake presented a proposed revision to the application for Level I and Level II check cashing companies. The committee recommended that Commissioner Bodvake work with legal staff to revise the application and present at the next committee meeting. Commissioner Bodvake also presented the existing unlicensed check cashing fee schedule along with some updated schedule options. The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2024.

On motion of Mr. Stuart on behalf of the Legislative and Regulatory Committee, the Board approved the retention of the current unlicensed check cashing fee schedule for initial violations and adopted a fee schedule for repeat violations that is double the current fee schedule, subject to any statutory limitations.

Budget and Operations Committee, Mr. Pennington informed the Board that The Budget and Operations Committee met on January 30th. Commissioner Bodvake presented the Consumer Finance Division's Quarterly Operating Expense report and discussed planned upcoming projects. Commissioner Bodvake also discussed Senate Bill S.910 related to unfair trade practices and gave an overview of the fiscal impact statement requested by and submitted to the Senate Subcommittee. Mr. Wright provided further explanation of the proposed bill and the potential impacts on the industry. Mr. Pennington also informed the Board that Commissioner Bickham presented the Banking Division's Quarterly Operating Expense Report and discussed upcoming projects and that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1st, 2024.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner of Consumer Finance, Ron Bodvake, informed the Board of an upcoming NMLS User Conference in San Antonio, TX. Commissioner Bodvake also informed the Board that the January 23rd House Budget Hearing went well and that the Senate Budget Hearing is scheduled for February 21st, 2024.

Commissioner Bodvake provided the Board with reports on monthly statistics and new approved consumer licensees. Mr. Bodvake also provided the Board with NMLS renewal statistics and noted some of the recent trends in activity.

Commissioner of Banking, Kathy Bickham, informed the Board that she and Deputy Commissioner Hughes attended the SCBA's Legislative Reception. Commissioner Bickham also reported that Daniel Flickinger was hired as an intern effective January 8, 2024. Commissioner Bickham echoed Commissioner Bodvake's update on the budget hearings.

Commissioner Bickham also informed the Board of two recent actions taken under delegated authority to approve an extension of time for The Citizens Bank, Olanta, SC to write down Other Real Estate in Florence, SC and for an extension of time for Optus Bank, Columbia, SC to relocate a branch in Columbia, SC.

Executive Session

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session.

Deputy General Counsel Bill Condon stated that the Board will enter Executive Session to discuss information about and review requests by regulated entities, and to receive legal advice as needed.

The Board voted unanimously to end Executive Session.

Once in open session, the Chairman stated that no votes were taken in executive session except to end executive session.

Actions following Executive Session:

On motion of Mr. Bouchette and duly seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Board voted to approve the application of Countybank, Greenwood, South Carolina, to establish a branch at 309 SE Main Street, Simpsonville, South Carolina, subject to any conditions provided by the Commissioner of Banking in Executive Session

On motion of Mr. Strickland and duly seconded by Mr. Stuart, the Board voted to approve the application of The Commercial Bank, Honea Path, South Carolina, to establish a branch at 808 Greenwood Avenue North, Ware Shoals, South Carolina, subject to any conditions provided by the Commissioner of Banking in Executive Session.

The Chairman reminded the Board that the 2024 Statements of Economic Interest need to be filed by the end of March 2024.

Mr. Wright commented on Senate Bill 910 and the potential impacts on the industry and there was discussion on this subject amongst the Board prior to meeting adjournment.

The Chairman announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.