WHY I GIVE

As I grew into my role as a Conservation Voter, it became clear to me that my commitment to our state’s natural landscapes and resources is not just limited to my personal life. It is a fundamental aspect of my identity, and one that I believe every South Carolinian should share.

My favorite part about South Carolina is the natural landscapes. The beautiful beaches, mountains, forests, and marshes has fueled my passion to advocate for our land, water, and coastline. During my time as a science and journalism student at Coastal Carolina University, I not only studied these resources but also learned to advocate for their protection.

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My favorite part about South Carolina is always our unique natural landscapes. The indescribable beauty of our mountains, forests, marshes, and beaches has fueled my passion to advocate for our land, water, and coastline. The environment has always been important to me, ever since I was a kid.

I volunteered for organizations like Surfrider Foundation and Stop Offshore Drilling, for the environmental importance of protecting our state from threats of offshore drilling and plastic pollution and promoting sustainable fisheries and the health of our oceans. I also worked closely with CVSC and our partners in the Conservation Coalition to launch a webinar series to provide an opportunity for our community to learn more about the proposed offshore drilling leases in the Atlantic. I know that most of you have heard about CVSC’s mission to protect our waters, land, and oceans, in collaboration with our field and legislative teams and the greater conservation community.

In March, CVSC and our partners in the Conservation Coalition launched a webinar series to provide opportunities for our community to learn more about the proposed offshore drilling leases in the Atlantic. I know that most of you have heard about CVSC’s mission to protect our waters, land, and oceans, in collaboration with our field and legislative teams and the greater conservation community. As a result, the new edition of CVSC’s Conservation Voter will feature the webinar series on the role of clean energy in Santee Cooper’s future. This series will increase land protection tools and funding, protecting wetlands, preventing offshore drilling and plastic pollution, and promoting sustainable fisheries and the health of our oceans. Becoming a Sustaining Member allows us to remain active and engaged from home.

We need you.

We are moving forward, please continue to stay safe and healthy. We need you. So that we can be even stronger advocates for South Carolina. If you have not already, please continue to stay active and engaged from home. And, remember, we’re in this together.
Transporting the proposals. Then, after weeks of testimony, committees in the Senate and House rejected all of the proposals. That’s one reason why early in the 2020 session, we worked with Representatives voters across South Carolina – and in Santee Cooper territory – want to see the moving forward. As the 2019 session reached its end, we worked with partners from across South Carolina to introduce new legislation that would protect our coastline from the economic and environmental threats of dirty industries.

At the end of the 2019 session, a bill (H.4550) moved rapidly through a House subcommittee and to the floor of the House. The bill would have added new protections for South Carolina’s rivers and beaches. Unfortunately, the bill was never brought to a vote.

In a broad definition, environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all communities – especially communities of color and low-income communities – in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws. This includes communities that are constantly experiencing flooding, and anyone who isn’t questioning ‘Is this just?’

In February, CVSC partnered with many of these groups to release a Climate and Environmental Justice Town Hall in North Carolina. The event shared a spotlight on the impacts of climate change and water pollution on South Carolina, and stressed the need for action in local and federal matters. We’re proud to have supported this event with the help of the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

We believe that the climate and environmental challenge, and the pollution that comes across South Carolina’s borders every day makes it even more important that we continue to fight for environmental justice. We’re working to ensure that our local and state partners to pass legislation that will protect our natural resources and our communities from the effects of climate change.

Many of our partners have already been fighting for policies and funding to protect the planet. We must make South Carolina unique within the United States. The federal government must also act fast to combat global climate change. The United States must act now before it is too late.

We recommend that you support local media, and continue to support the work that you believe in. We encourage you to connect with your local media outlets, and encourage them to cover the stories that matter.

In closing, we urge you to take action and support the work that you believe in. We encourage you to connect with your local media outlets, and encourage them to cover the stories that matter.

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Thanks to Sen. Vincent Sheehan (R-Kershaw) and Rep. William Cogswell (R-Spartanburg), two South Carolina lawmakers who introduced legislation to achieve this “30x30” goal. Together, these lawmakers are taking action to protect the state’s most treasured natural spaces. Their efforts are making the headlines. These battles all come together at a critical intersection – environmental justice.

CVSC’S FIRST CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOWN HALL by CeCe Starks, Statewide Field Director

Across South Carolina there are a lot of folks who deeply care about protecting our environment – and there is a lot of talk. But there are also those who are perpetuating a narrative that environmentalism is for young single women, that those who care about the environment are not interested in economic growth, development, or financial profit, and open space policies.

On Monday, May 13, CVSC hosted its first Climate and Environmental Justice Town Hall in Columbia. The event brought together hundreds of community members and activists from across the state to discuss the impacts of climate change and water pollution on South Carolina, and to share stories of their experiences with these issues.

The event was hosted by the South Carolina Conservation Bank, which works to preserve and protect the state’s unique natural spaces. The bank is led by Executive Director, Deitra Matthews, who spoke about the importance of protecting our natural resources.

Welcome to CVSC

Deitra Matthews joins CVSC as the Director of Legislative Communications. Deitra is a native South Carolinian with a background in environmental policy and advocacy. Prior to her role at CVSC, Deitra served as the Legislative Director for the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

Deitra earned her Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of South Carolina and her Master’s degree in Public Policy from the University of Georgia. She is a proud advocate for protecting our state’s natural resources and working towards a sustainable future.

Deitra is committed to ensuring that CVSC’s voice is heard in the Statehouse and beyond. She will be working closely with CVSC’s partners and lawmakers to ensure that our state’s most treasured natural spaces are protected for future generations.

Thank you for being a part of CVSC’s first Climate and Environmental Justice Town Hall. Together, we can make a difference for the future of South Carolina.

Panzini also serves as the Strategy Coordinator for the National Action Network’s Saves Our Youth initiative, which is dedicated to addressing the education and criminal justice needs of young people of color. Panzini also serves as the Director of Legislative Communications for CVSC.

Panzini is the former Legislative Director for the South Carolina Conservation Bank where she worked to preserve and protect the state’s unique natural spaces. Prior to her role at CVSC, Deitra served as the Legislative Director for the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

Deitra is a proud advocate for protecting our state’s natural resources and working towards a sustainable future. She is committed to ensuring that CVSC’s voice is heard in the Statehouse and beyond.

In 2016, the percentage of developed land in South Carolina increased nearly 22%. In 2019, that rate increased to over 25%. This rapid increase in development has led to a loss of nearly 10 million acres to development since 1950.

In addition, the economic and job growth that CVSC is pursuing are stalled in committee. This represents a missed opportunity to ensure that South Carolina’s natural resources are protected for future generations.

In addition, we support various CVSC Legislative Priorities that are stalled in committee. These include legislation to prohibit the unreasonable banning of solar in HOA communities, to protect the state’s coastal areas from offshore drilling, and to ensure that our state’s natural resources are protected for future generations.

The proposals we’ve introduced to the Statehouse are designed to protect and improve South Carolina’s natural resources. Our priorities include legislation to protect our state’s coastal areas from offshore drilling, to prohibit the unreasonable banning of solar in HOA communities, and to ensure that our state’s natural resources are protected for future generations.

Our legislative priorities this year include:

1. Protecting the state’s coastal areas from offshore drilling

2. Prohibiting the unreasonable banning of solar in HOA communities

3. Protecting the state’s natural resources

Our partners include local, state, and national organizations that are working to protect South Carolina’s natural resources. We’re proud to have their support in our efforts to make South Carolina’s natural resources a priority.

With the release of the “State of South Carolina’s Watersheds” report, CVSC has been working to ensure that our state’s natural resources are protected for future generations. The report identified a number of initiatives that could be taken to protect South Carolina’s natural resources.

The report identified a number of initiatives that could be taken to protect South Carolina’s natural resources, including: strengthening the state’s water quality standards, developing a comprehensive water management plan, increasing funding for water conservation programs, and supporting legislation to protect South Carolina’s natural resources.

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SPRING 2020
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Senate introduced S.1140 that provides increased transparency and streamlined the process for Santee Cooper and others planning for energy development and cleaning up old coal mines. This proposal would make it easier for the public to access information about energy projects and the cleanup of coal mines. It now sits on the floor of the House. An amendment (S.1140-A1) sponsored by Senators Bruce capitalism, accountability, and environmentally sound practices.

The policy of packages in Sen. Sheheen’s conservation agenda includes:

• South Carolina legislation to develop a 20-year plan to reduce the
  state’s production of solid waste by 2050.
• Micro-basics: drafting bills to DHEC to conduct research into
  the health effects of PFAS.
• PFAS Toxicity Act: mandating the use of PFAS in South Carolina
  and setting limits on its use.
• Sen. McElveen (D-Sumter) introduced legislation to require DHEC to
  set safe limits for PFAS.
• The House passed H.5011 to address PFAS.
• Sen. Sheheen’s Conservation Agenda proposes to first reform and then sell
  Santee Cooper, also addressing governance.

In response, Rep. JA Moore (D-North Charleston) and Senator Thomas
Snowdon (R-Beaufort) sponsored H.5011 and S.1032 to address this issue. Both bills
proposes to first reform and then sell Santee Cooper, also addressing governance.

This is why a core part of CVSC’s work has always been fighting for policies
that protect the places that make South Carolina unique with
prerequisites and steps for achieving the “30x30” goal.

The effort has a bold goal - to protect 30% of our
contiguous forty-eight states.

Given that our tourism, agriculture, and outdoor recreation industries rely on
South Carolina landscapes is a win-win for conservation and the economy.

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Across South Carolina, community organizations are activated on
the ground to address environmental justice. They not only demand that all communities,
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pollution.

In February, CVSC partnered with many of those groups to launch a Climate
and Environmental Justice Town Hall in North Charleston. The event focused on the impacts of
climate change and social and water pollution on South Carolina, and addressed the
insecurity of local, federal, and state leaders in the region. The event allowed CVSC to
represent a real and immediate threat to their livelihood.

We are grateful for the work of the If you’re not taking care of your
environment, you’re taking care of your future. We have
many priorities: health, wealth, and future. We need to
make sure we are protecting both our communities and our
future.

As bipartisan Congressional resolutions were
reflected his surprise upon learning of the record 89 tidal flooding events in
reforestation efforts - environmental justice.

Reaffirming the effort to protect our land and water, CVSC advocates for
environmental justice as a tool to address systemic issues of race.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) testifies before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, she said today that the
United States is at the tip of the spear on bold conservation policies
- environmental justice.

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S P R I N G  2 0 2 0

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Rebecca Hayes, Deputy Director

As the state moves further into the new session with conservation priority moving forward rapidly at the Statehouse and in individual districts, we hope we can start focusing on legislative efforts.

Here are some legislative updates on a few of our key legislative priorities this year.

The Senate introduced S.986 that provides increased transparency and streamlines the legislative review processes for rate proposals. This bill would increase transparency by making producers disclose new rates and the reasons for increases.

The House and Senate bills on the Sale of Santee Cooper start the process of their respective chambers moving forward. CVSC and our partners will keep pushing for a clean energy future for South Carolina, Santee Cooper’s business model needs to be transparent, accountable, and economically competitive.

The Conservation Voters SC Executive Director, joins Senator Vincent Sheheen at the podium as another bill of the legislation package a clean energy future for South Carolina. CVSC and our partners support the introduction of legislation that will address dangers of offshore drilling.

The package of policies in Sen. Sheheen’s conservation agenda includes:

• Solar Access—Homeowner Associations have prevented homeowners from installing solar panels on the roof of their homes, leading to a loss of clean energy production and limiting the amount of solar energy available to the grid.
• Clean Drinking Water – As South Carolinians became more aware of toxic chemicals in our drinking water (H.4718 and S.1111), Representative McElveen (D-Sumter) introduced legislation to require DHEC to set safe limits of specific chemicals – PFAS. Yet, DHEC has yet to regulate these dangerous pollutants.
• The effort has a bold goal - to protect 30% of our lands and water resources by 2030. The effort has a bold goal - to protect 30% of our lands and water resources by 2030.
• Environmental Justice: In a broad definition, environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environment-related laws, regulations, and policies.
• CVSC’s support for the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020, which will permanently fund LWCF and also address the backlog of deferred maintenance in our National Parks.
• CVSC has been working to build support and protect the environmental justice programs in our state. CVSC’s support for the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020, which will permanently fund LWCF and also address the backlog of deferred maintenance in our National Parks.

In early 2020, John Tynan, CVSC’s Executive Director, joined Senator Vincent Sheheen in opposing legislation that would allow Santee Cooper to pass on without much accountability.

The Conservation Voters South Carolina (CVSC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that advocates for a clean and healthy environment. CVSC focuses on legislation and public policy initiatives that will ensure that everyone in South Carolina has clean drinking water, energy affordable, and a healthy environment. CVSC focuses on legislation and public policy initiatives that will ensure that everyone in South Carolina has clean drinking water, energy affordable, and a healthy environment.

CVSC is supported in part through grants from the National Wildlife Federation. CVSC is supported in part through grants from the National Wildlife Federation.
My favorite part about South Carolina has always been our unique natural landscapes. The indescribable beauty of our mountains, forests, marshes, and beaches has fueled my passion to advocate for them. The protective reverence being out in nature, a peace that I couldn’t get anywhere else. I started doing more with this passion, more with this advocacy, and this led me to Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC).

I began my political career in 2011 by co-founding the Myrtle Beach Young Democrats. The organization worked to increase young voter turnout and to recruit more young candidates for local, state, and national offices. While serving as the Myrtle Beach Young Democrats Chair, I helped to pass Resolution 3 for Myrtle Beach, which is a resolution that calls for a moratorium on the exploration for offshore oil. I then moved on to work full-time as the Field Director for CVSC. My main role was to help organize events and programs that would get people excited about the issues. I took these programs to the communities and helped to build connections to each other and the world around us.

In fact, we see this time as an opportunity to continue to be creative with our organizing efforts. As we move forward, please know, that despite this ever evolving situation, CVSC continues to serve as a conduit, connecting South Carolinians with the issues that matter most to their communities.

I’ve learned many valuable lessons from CVSC. One of the most important lessons I’ve learned is the power of collaboration. In order to create change, it’s important to work closely with the rest of the CVSC team, our partners, and legislators to protect South Carolina’s air, land, and water and promote a clean energy future.

With this new opportunity, I will utilize my background to serve as the primary policy and communications resource at CVSC and to lead efforts to build a dedicated, skilled, and experienced legislative team. For the past few years, I’ve been working to create a new team to support our policy and communications efforts. I’ve been working closely with the rest of the CVSC team to create a new legislative team that will be able to effectively advocate for our state’s environment.

I hope you’ll join me in creating new and exciting opportunities for CVSC to realize our mission of protecting South Carolina’s shared resources. As we move forward, please know, that despite this ever evolving situation, CVSC continues to serve as a conduit, connecting South Carolinians with the issues that matter most to their communities.

Please become a Sustaining Member today, visit www.cvsc.org/sustainingmember, and stay connected to our work and our volunteers.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 843-669-0650 or email me at john@cvsc.org.

Thank you for your support and for being a part of the CVSC team.

JOHN TYNNAN
Executive Director