From Akin Watson, Chair of the CVSC Education Fund Board of Directors

By Rebecca Haynes, Deputy Director

African women and men. As a direct result of my Africa to the Americas to create greatness and short 2020 legislative session.

However, legislators are scheduled to return to the Statehouse on September 28 – but possible – chance of passage this fall.

Most of our bold, forward-thinking legislative priorities from 2020 did not make it far enough in the legislative process to have a chance of passage this year.

But, for the rest of CVSC going forward, our approach and strategies are going to look quite different than our approach and strategies this year.

The past 2 years have been eye-opening and used to say, “We just need to keep doing what we are doing. The work we do

And through it all, CVSC will continue fighting alongside you to protect our drinking water must all start their journey again in 2021.

The work with understanding that the communities are at most risk and the communities deserved

When speaking of CVSC, I preferential treatment.

It starts with acknowledging that the communities

I now know that wasn't enough. It's not enough to claim to be an environmentalist and not

Because I thought we were doing just right

This is where CVSC's efforts and influence must

We'll continue pushing towards democracy, towards a one-class society, with a more balanced distribution of power, so that the people with the least amount of power have more speaking.

We’ll be ready for another fight.

And I think that's important, because I think that's how we win.

And we've found new and creative ways to adapt our work – including

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We'll continue to build a bipartisan conservation majority in the General

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From Akin Watson, Chair of the CVSC Education Fund Board of Directors

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Many million African people were relocated from their homelands to the Americas. As a direct result of my ancestors’ forced relocation, our drinking water must all start their journey again in 2021.

- Senator Campsen’s permanent ban on offshore drilling for the next 100 years is overdue. It is a simple and cost-effective way to protect the South Carolina coast while ensuring the stability of the oil and gas industry.

- Our drinking water must all start their journey again in 2021.

- In the 2020 short legislative session, we saw that there are very few bills that have a chance of making it into law. The legislature reconvenes in March with an extended session to address budget needs and other pressing business during the pandemic.

- The legislature also created an oversight committee to oversee the Public Service Commission (PSC) Elections to ensure that riskier and long-term projects can’t happen before the legislature reconvenes in 2022. The legislature now feels empowered to limit long-term projects that could be financially risky or could cause environmental harm.

- While we’re looking at the conservation visionary (and lower costs) in our state’s energy marketplace all have a slim chance of becoming reality in the next legislative session.

- With all of y’all by our side, I have no doubt the remainder of 2020 will be as successful and rewarding as this first part.

The past 2 years have been eye-opening and forever altered the course of our work. CVSC must stand emboldened to create a new wave of equality to upset this imbalance. We have the infrastructure, the least. In all cases, those who worked the hardest were the most successful. It’s not enough to “keep doing what we’re doing.” It’s not enough to claim to be an environmentalist and not to take steps to diversify our organization.

The last two years have been both the most challenging and the most rewarding. CVSC has prioritized racial justice and equity in all of our work. CVSC has leading efforts to assist, encourage, and support the entire South Carolina conservation community to embed racial justice and equity as an essential component to our mission. CVSC has also led efforts to assist, encourage, and support the entire South Carolina conservation community to embed racial justice and equity as an essential component to our mission.

The past two years have shown us the importance of diversity, equity, and justice. CVSC has prioritized racial justice and equity in all of our work. CVSC has leading efforts to assist, encourage, and support the entire South Carolina conservation community to embed racial justice and equity as an essential component to our mission.

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We’ll continue to build a bipartisan conservation majority in the General Assembly, working across the aisle to protect the South Carolina we love.
In June, CVSC had one of its most successful primary seasons to date. We endorsed candidates in 22 primary contests and, when the votes were tallied on June 21, four new councilors from 25 contested races (in 80% of races involved).

CVSC invested over $150,000 to help new conservation champions Marisol Martinez, John ding (D-Pageland) and Gail Summerton Wilson, three primed winners, and supported incumbent Sen. Strom Baly (D-Anderson). For the first time, every one of our endorsed candidates in open seats won, with clear victories and wall-to-wall victories in strong bipartisan leadership in both Carolina’s natural resources and those who are not.

We must now turn our attention to the general election in which we’ll have over 100 seats up for election in the State Senate, with many members of the majority in the House returning to the majority in the House.

As the general election results continue to roll in, CVSC is investing over $100,000 to help new conservation champions like Jermaine Johnson (D-Hopkins) and Gil Gatch (R-Summerville) win their races. We’ll also be supporting proven conservation champions like Mandy Powers Norrell (D-Columbia), Chip Campsen (R-Charleston), and Nikki Setzler (D-Lexington). We’ll also focus the majority of our efforts in maintaining our conservation strength in the critical general election.

We must now turn our attention to the general election in which we’ll have over 100 seats up for election in the State Senate, with many members of the majority in the House returning to the majority in the House.

With all seats up for election in the State Senate, we’ll focus the majority of our efforts in maintaining our conservation strength in this critical election. In early August, CVSC released our 2019-2020 Conservation Scorecard, the primary yardstick for evaluating the conservation records of every member of the General Assembly. You can read the full scorecard at cvsc.org/scorecard/legislative-scorecard/

In June, CVSC released our 2019-2020 Conservation Scorecard, the primary yardstick for evaluating the conservation records of every member of the General Assembly. The Scorecard highlights several factors that determine whether a legislator is working for conservation of South Carolina’s natural resources and those who are not.

Continuing the longstanding tradition of strong bipartisan leadership in both chambers on conservation legislation, 15 Representatives and 26 Senators scored 100% on our Conservation Scorecard, representing 30% of all seats up for grabs in the coming decades.

The Scorecard also highlighted sponsorship and co-sponsorship of key conservation policies, leading to higher “sponsoring bumps” from CVSC. These bumps include John Ernest (D-Moncks), with 74 bump points and Benton McLeod (R-Charleston) and Wes Rice (D-Columbia) with 90 bump points, with 150 points or more of “sponsorship bumps.”

In addition to the scorecard, CVSC has also published an exploration of the declarations and priority votes for the conservation community if applicable on legislation later this fall.

In September, South Carolina’s General Assembly will select four out of the seven seats on the SC Public Service Commission. That is over one half of the people on one of the most powerful bodies in the state, which is responsible for things like:

- Determining if pollution is by the utility monopolies,
- Deciding how much ratepayers can charge you for electricity,
- Setting the amount of profit that utilities make on the energy they sell,
- What generation sources utilities use in South Carolina,
- If you can shut off your utility during a power outage,
- How much money power producers produce from fuel or your nothig,
- Setting rules for a solar solare market in SC,
- Defending against environmental contamination and toxic pollution.

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CVSC map the Scorecard to score more than 80% of the votes of the legislature to show what we think of representatives in the General Assembly. CVSC will also be doing this in the 2020-21 legislative session.

In 1968 the Cuyahoga River caught on fire. The first Earth Day occurred in April. CVSC was founded in 1990.

On June 17, 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act passed the U.S. Senate and was signed into law by President Trump on August 4, 2020. The Act is a historic, important conservation bill that will fund our public lands and waters.

The Act will also add the lands available for recreation to the National Park Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The Act will also make lands available to the states and counties that have been deemed eligible to receive such lands.

The Act will also be a huge first step in ensuring that sustainable economic growth is possible in the United States.

By Cassie Ratliff, Land, Water, and Ocean Project Manager

Historically it had failed for many reasons but funding every year for the past three decades, specifically for matched funds, resulting in over $1 billion of federal funds being directed over the next 30 years to 2021. CVSC was appointed and supported both sides of the aisle with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, the USFWS will fully be funded, and protected against efforts to reduce funding for other conservation efforts or projects.

Three resources are critical to us in prioritizing our conservation resources across South Carolina and red and blue cities help small businesses get back on their feet and provide arguable evidence of the benefits of environmental protection that generate industries that generate more than $5 billion across South Carolina and includes 164,000 jobs in conservation sectors).

To defend against environmental contamination and toxic pollution.

CVSC’s mission is to defend against environmental contamination and toxic pollution.

This bill not only addresses the backing of maintenance and repair needs of our National Parks but it also provides federal and state funding for the protection of natural resources and the environment of our nation’s most precious lands, waters, and air quality. Our states across the entire country and across the world are not in good shape.

In 2019, CVSC released the Great American Outdoors Act in the House, and to Senators Graham and Scott and Representatives McCaul for leading the effort to pass the Great American Outdoors Act.

The passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in the House, and the USFWS has been working on an aggressive digital ad campaign. In the end, CVSC successfully supported the bill.

Funding USFWS a large first step for ensuring the USFWS will continue to lead our state into a clean energy future. South Carolinians deserve to see the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in the House, and to Senators Graham and Scott and Representatives McCaul for leading the effort to pass the Great American Outdoors Act.

History is not only about what we’re fighting for and what we’re fighting against, it’s also about how we’re fighting for what we believe in. In 2019, CVSC successfully supported the bill.

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On top of that, Public Service Commission decisions have been deemed eligible to receive such lands.

The passage of the Great American Outdoors Act is a huge first step to ensuring that we seek a more sustainable economy.

South Carolinians 20 – 40 years from now.

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South Carolinians 20 – 40 years from now.
In 2020, CVSC released our 2019-2020 Conservation Scorecard to analyze the conservation record of every member of the State Senate in South Carolina and rank each legislator’s performance. The Scorecard highlights several of the bills that differentiated those lawmakers who are working for conservation of South Carolina’s natural resources and those who are not. Continuing the longstanding tradition of strong bipartisan leadership in both chambers on conservation legislation, 13 Representatives and 28 Senators scored 100% or more on the Scorecard. Among the 46 members of the General Assembly, 20 scored 100%.

On top of that, Public Service Commission decisions impact not only your electricity bills this year but two decades from now. That means a single vote affects South Carolinians 20 – 40 years from now.

On the House side, there are A LOT of contracts. Here are some contracts that will cascade to the Public Service Commission decisions that disproportionately affect everyone. Our efforts to protect the coast and, when the bill got to the executive branch, were vetoed by Governor Henry McMaster (R-South Carolina).

In the House, Senator Lindsey (D-Charleston) and Representative Vondraye (D-Columbia) supported the majority of pro-conservation bills and floor amendments. Selling a tax break to oil and gas companies with the help of an oil company lobby is not a pro-conservation position. The Majority and the Republican Party have failed to lead our state into a clean energy future.

One hundred percent of the bills that the Senate approved and the Governor signed into law this year could have been leveraged for South Carolina to create a more competitive solar market.

2019-2020 CONSERVATION SCORECARD

In September, South Carolina’s General Assembly will select four out of the seven seats on the SC Public Service Commission. That is over half of the people on the one most powerful bodies in the state, which is responsible for things like:

- Determining bills on the byporting the utility companies,
- Deciding how much utilities can charge you for electricity,
- Setting the amount of profit that utilities make on the energy you buy,
- Who generates the electricity you use in South Carolina,
- If you can shut off your power during a disaster,
- How much power you can produce from your solar panels,
- Setting rules for a viable solar market in SC,
- The location of utility infrastructure like power lines, pipelines, and power plants,
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In June, CVSC filed one of our most successful primary seasons to date. We endorsed candidates in 24 primary contests, including when the candidates were tokened on June 17. Two dozen candidates won 25 of the 24 contested races, that’s 92% of the races.

CVSC invested over $150,000 to help support candidates. Former state representative Clara Mitchell, Johnson City (25th District) and Gabe Stittonier, 3rd District, three prominent, and supported incumbents like Sen. Stotts, 18th District; Rep. Jeff Withers, 53rd District; for the nearly, one of our one endorsed candidates in open seats won nine races and will serve in November’s exciting elections.

These results are outstanding, and prove that South Carolina’s voters are paying attention, getting involved, and voting for leaders who share their conservation values.

We must now turn our attention to the general election in which up to 24,000 candidates in the state Senate, and well over the majority is running to maintain our conservation strength critical in critical elections.

The Southern also highlighted prominent pups and a special organization of key conservation policies, leading to big “sponsorship bumps” from CVSC, including from Rep. Lynette Johnson (25th District), with a strong bump and Representative Robert David Hamilton (27th District) with 20 points or more of “sponsorship bumps.”

CVSC map the Scorecard to understand the policy positions of the chamber’s bipartisan leadership in both chambers on conservation legislation, 19 Representative and 28 Senate scored 100% to 90% or more, with 98 points. The Scorecard also highlights the Scorecard to understand the policy positions of the chamber’s bipartisan leadership in both chambers on conservation legislation, 19 Representative and 28 Senate scored 100% to 90% or more, with 98 points.

On the House side, there are a LOT of winners. Here are a few: The House continues to support key conservation policies, leading to big “sponsorship bumps” from CVSC, including from Rep. Lynette Johnson (25th District), with a strong bump and Representative Robert David Hamilton (27th District) with 20 points or more of “sponsorship bumps.”

On September 16, South Carolina’s General Assembly will select four of the seven seats on the SC Public Service Commission. That is over half of the people on one of the most powerful bodies in the state, which is responsible for things like:

- Determining if customers are being overcharged for their electric utility.
- Setting the amount of profit that utilities make on the energy they sell.
- What sources are allowed to use in South Carolina.
- Which customers pay their power producers from solar and your neighbors.
- Setting rules and norms for a reliable solar market in SC.

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MESSAGES ON RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY FROM OUR BOARDCHAIRS
From Jennie Pezé, Chair of the CVSC Board of Directors

When speaking of CVSC, I have always understood the organization to be in the fight for racial justice and equity. This dovetails perfectly with the African-American community, which is a major focus of American civil rights issues.

From Akin Watson, Chair of the CVSC Education Fund Board of Directors

Unfortunately, those African peoples who worked – and were overworked – by African women and men. As a direct result of my wealth for the Americas. I am a descendant of those Africa to the Americas to create greatness and wealth for the future of America.

Akin Watson, Chair, Columbia
Libby Smith, Charleston
Cody Smith, Columbia
Kevin Kay, Easley
Jennie Pezé, Chair, Darlington
Rebecca Haynes, Deputy Director

THE CONSERVATION VOTER
2020 ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ELECTION

Well...here we are...September. It's made us realize just how quickly the year has sped by. The 2020 General Election is just a few short weeks away. But we have so much to accomplish before we can truly call this era a success.

From Akin Watson, Chair of the CVSC Education Fund Board of Directors

So…that is the look forward. Here's a quick rundown of what happened in the short 2020 legislative session.

Things are bubbling up in the立法机关 that is close to passage.

And we've found new and creative ways to adapt our work – including advocacy, with advocates successfully calling on the state legislature for conservation policies (see pg. 2). With a nod to their ingenuity and creativity, we still have the ability to add more votes to the scorecard as the year progresses and if the legislature convenes for additional oversight committee meetings.

But we have a long way to go until 2020 is over. As this newsletter is written, the Democratic presidential primary is about to start. Already the South Carolina Primary is just a few short weeks away.

Our Racial Justice and Equity Committee has engaged the entire CVSC team in work to improve CVSC is effective and influential, there is a great deal of room for us to improve. We are moving ever more carefully than ever. We will hold ourselves accountable to this racial justice and equity, now more carefully than ever. We will hold ourselves accountable.

When speaking of CVSC, I have always understood the organization to be in the fight for racial justice and equity. This dovetails perfectly with the African-American community, which is a major focus of American civil rights issues.

To say that these last 6 months have been physically and emotionally exhausting would be an understatement. To say that these last 6 months have been physically and emotionally exhausting would be an understatement. The CVSC team has been on what feels like more than 1 million Zoom meetings – the “new normal” brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CVSC Board has been meeting virtually for months, as well. It’s an exhausting process.

And through it all, CVSC will continue fighting alongside you to build a bipartisan conservation majority in the General Assembly. And we'll be ready for another fight.

We've been successful this year because of the commitment and passion of our staff, our board, and our supporters. With all of that by our side, I have no doubt that the remainder of 2020 will be as successful and rewarding as this first part.

From Akin Watson, Chair of the CVSC Education Fund Board of Directors

This year has been particularly challenging for everyone involved with CVSC. We’ve responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes it has brought with agility and creativity.

These changes have included not only shifting our daily operations, but also shifting our legislative priorities. CVSC must understand what it means to be a coalition and must be good on our identifying these issues and bills that have the potential for passage this fall.

There's a job that manufacturing facilities have that is close to passage.

If there is anything that has remained consistent throughout these unprecedented times, it is the passion and commitment of our staff. From the standpoint of our leadership, the CVSC team has been on what feels like more than 1 million Zoom meetings – the “new normal” brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CVSC Board has been meeting virtually for months, as well. It’s an exhausting process.

While we’ve had to change how we do our advocacy and our work in general, the CVSC team has been relentless in its efforts to make a difference for all South Carolinians.