



# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



Tel (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

## MINUTES

6:00 PM, Monday, December 11th, 2017

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present: Mr. Land  
Mr. Blanton  
Mr. Hollifield  
Ms. Alexander  
Ms. Sewell  
Dr. Grey

Staff Present: Adam Chapman, Zoning Administrator

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Land called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

July 10, 2017 – Motion Mr. Land, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Hollifield, Passed 6-0 in favor  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Motion by Mr. Land, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Blanton, Passed 6-0 in favor

### 3. FARM Center Report

As a guest speaker was present Mr. Land moved the FARM Center Report to this point in the meeting. Gwen McPhail represented the FARM center and gave a thorough update on construction. Mrs. McPhail stated that it had been a nine-year process but the lease for the land had been signed and the land leased from the County for 10\$. The main entrance driveway has been constructed, mowing activities have commenced. Using C-Funds, a second, minor entrance is being created. The first scheduled event is the High School Rodeo. For that, metal has been purchased and several craftsmen have donated their welding skills to build the corral. \$12,000 has been donated by Wachovia bank for educational activities. Mr. Land asked about the capacity of the arena and, including floor space it is 3,000-5,000 people, which is enough for the local High School graduations, Mrs. McPhail stated. Hosting the High School graduation is a focus of this project as currently there is no place to host graduation in the County. Mrs. Sewell asked about

getting the FARM committee and the AAB for a meeting. Staff will try to find a good day and time for this meeting. Mr. Land asked if there was a budget from the County for the FARM project. Mrs. McPhail said no but once there was more than a driveway poured, FARM may reach out to the County. Mr. Land asked about the size of land, Mrs. McPhail stated that the site was 57 acres but only 28 were usable. Mrs. McPhail concluded with that while there was work to be done on the site from fixing fencing and getting rid of poison, plus all the construction, she was confident in the site being ready for the High School Rodeo.

#### **4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

At this point, the vote was held for Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Land opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Blanton made a nomination for Mr. Land to be Chairman, Mrs. Alexander 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. A vote was held and Mr. Land became the Chairman with a 6-0 vote. Mr. Land opened the floor for nominations and Mr. Land nominated Mr. Blanton, Mr. Hollifield 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. A vote was held and Mr. Blanton became Vice-Chairman with a 6-0 vote.

#### **5. Continued Discussion on Creating an AAB Mission Statement, AAB Proclamation, and potential AAB Partnerships (including creation of an event survey)**

The mission statement and slogan had been voted on at the previous meeting.

#### **6. Discussion on AAB Signage and Website**

Mr. Land discussed the importance of creating a logo and the care that must be taken when creating a logo. Mr. Land recommended reaching out to FARM and the Fair Board to look into the possibility of creating one logo for all of Oconee County's Agricultural Groups. Mrs. Sewell made the point that those groups may not be inclined to be party to this. Mr. Land stated that the website needs to be established with a joint venture with the other agencies. Mr. Land is not recommending that Chattooga Belle Farms be part of the AAB logo.

#### **7. AAB Publicity and Value of Oconee County Agriculture**

Mrs. Sewell noted that the Agricultural Census had been sent out. Mr. Hollifield and Mr. Land mentioned the importance of filling out the Census and having other farmers fill the Census out as well. Mr. Land noted that Agriculture had been left out of Planning in Oconee County for most of the County's history. Staff was asked what was being done for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oconee County and the staff was not familiar with the plan. Staff offered to network the AAB with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee.

#### **8. Board Correspondence with Outside Agencies**

Mr. Blanton read down his list of agencies which the AAB could network with:

- a. Agri-tourism

- b. Certified Organic farming
- c. Poultry farming – Mrs. Willoughby was nominated to contact
- d. Cattle farming
- e. Fruits and/or Vegetable farming – Mr. Hollifield volunteered for Apples
- f. Bee Keeping
- g. Silviculture & Forestry operations
- h. Aquaculture
- i. Agri-business
- j. Or another agricultural pursuit, as that term is commonly understood

## **9. Old Business**

Mr. Hollifield stated in the last meeting suggested changing the meeting time to 6:30. Mr. Hollifield made a motion to change the meeting time from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm a second was made by Mr.Blanton.

## **10. New Business**

None

## **11. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mrs.Alexander