

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

MINUTES

6:30 PM, MONDAY, October 8th, 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present:

- Rex Blanton
- Ed Land
- Debbie Sewell
- Kim Alexander
- Dr. Sandra Gray
- Doug Hollifield
- Vickie Willoughby

Staff Present:

Adam Chapman - Staff Liaison

Media Present:

None

1. **Call to Order** - 6:30PM

2. **Approval of Minutes**

September 10th, 2018

3. **Public Comment** - None

4. **UpState Forever**

Chris Starker, a representative from UpState Forever, a land conservation group gave a presentation to the AAB on the benefits, costs, and procedures related to putting land into a conservation easement. An in-depth presentation involving the various methods and benefits was had by the board with Mr. Starker.

5. **Discussion on the Farmer & Rancher Listening Session II**

Mr. Blanton asked to confirm the date of the meeting, November 15th. Mr. Chapman asked the board for their input on how the logistics of the meeting will run. Mr. Chapman recommended having a process where break out groups occur. Mr. Chapman noted that the Listening session will tie in to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hollifield and Mrs. Sewell suggested that the focus should be on the farmers and not break up but listen to all the farmers as a whole.

6. **Protection of Agricultural Lands**

Mr. Chapman noted that the Planning Commission has asked the AAB to provide some additional information regarding agricultural buffers. Mr. Chapman has asked the AAB to provide information regarding their thoughts on the potential buffer. Mr. Hollifield asked about the distance of the Lake Overlay vegetative buffer, Mr. Chapman answered 25'. Mrs. Sewell asked

why these buffers would only apply to areas zoned agricultural versus all farms. Mrs. Sewell asked if we could find a way to look at areas next to farms that are not zoned for agriculture.
Mr. Hollifield

7. Heritage Fair & Farm-to-Table summary

Mr. Blanton outlined the AAB table and its impact at the fair.

8. Radio minute-

The radio minute was discussed throughout the meeting regarding the format. Mrs. Alexander clarified that the AAB would run one advertisement, ahead of the Farmer and Rancher Listening Session. A conversation was had regarding the choice of advertisements. Mr. Blanton recommended utilizing the narrative format of the advertisement and the board agreed.

9. Rural infrastructure-

Mr. Land provided a brief overview of the sewer south project.

10. Ex-officio member

The board was informed about the new position on the AAB, the Ex-Officio member. No vote was taken

11. New Business

12. Old Business

13. Adjourn

Anyone wishing to submit written comments to the Agricultural Advisory Board can send their comments to the Planning Department by mail or by emailing them to the email address below. Please Note: If you would like to receive a copy of the agenda via email please contact our office, or email us at achapman@oconeesc.com.