

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

Minutes

6:30 PM, MONDAY, August 12, 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Draft Minutes – Monday, August 12, 2019

Members Present

Berry Rickard
Sandra Gray
Edward Land
Rex Blanton
Doug Hollifield
Debbie Sewell
Vickie Willoughby

Staff Present

Adam Chapman
Vivian Kompier

Media Present

None

- 1. Call to Order** – Mr. Blanton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- 2. Public Comment** - None
- 3. Approval of 2/11/19, 4/8/19 and 7/8/19 Minutes** – Add Sandra Gray to 4/8 minutes, Correct Mr. Rikars' name on all minutes, Motion to approve with changes by Ms. Gray, seconded by Ms. Willoughby and approved 7/0.
- 4. Agriculture Element of the Comprehensive Plan** –
Public Comment (3-minutes per person) - Email from Chris Starker attached.

8.1.1.1 – A motion was made by Ms. Sewell to replace encourage with advocate, remove soil and water conservation (duplicated) from accountable agencies, and add Clemson Cooperative Extension and State Forestry Commission. Mr. Land seconded and was approved 7/0.

8.1.1.2 – Ms. Sewell made a motion to switch the words “forests and farmland” to “farmland and forests.” Ms. Willoughby seconded and was approved 7/0.

8.1.1.2 – Mr. Blanton made a motion to add Clemson Cooperative Extension and Conservation Groups to the accountable agencies. Ms. Gray seconded and approved 7/0.

8.1.1.3 – Mr. Land made a motion to add municipalities to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Blanton, approved 7/0.

8.1.1.3 & 8.1.1.4 – A motion was made by Mr. Blanton to add Oconee Economic Alliance to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Ms. Gray and approved 7/0.

8.1.1.6. – Mr. Blanton made a motion to add Conservation Groups to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 7/0.

8.1.1.7 – A motion was made by Ms. Sewell to change the wording to: Ensure that the impacts to adjacent farms and forest land is part of deliberation and decision making for proposed public projects. Seconded by Ms. Willoughby, approved 7/0.

8.1.1.8 – A motion was made by Mr. Rikard to Approach the LLR to add a disclosure saying you are moving next to a farm when you purchase an adjacent property. Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 7/0.

Add 8.1.1.9 – Ms. Sewell made a motion to add strategy – Create a program that invites entrepreneurs, non-profits and residents to apply for a program that allows them to adopt a vacant county owned property or building and start a new garden or farm. Not seconded or voted upon.

Add 8.1.1.10 – Ms. Sewell made a motion to add a Director of Agriculture and Forestry staff position to coordinate and communicate with foresters, farmers, county administrators, and the public on agriculture and forestry matters. Position would be under the Planning Commission. Seconded by Ms. Gray and approved 7/0.

8.1.2.7 – Ms. Sewell made a motion to add “local food hub with adjoining counties.” Seconded by Mr. Land and was approved 7/0.

8.1.2.8 – A motion was made by Mr. Rikard to strike this strategy and seconded by Mr. Land. Approved 4/3.

8.2.1.2 and 8.2.1.3 – A motion was made by Mr. Blanton to add US Forestry and Conservation Groups to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Rikard and approved 7/0.

8.2.1.4 – A motion was made by a Mr. Blanton to add US Forestry and Clemson Cooperative Extension to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Rikard and approved 7/0.

8.3.1.1 and 8.3.1.2 – Mr. Blanton made a motion to add Oconee County Schools to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 7/0.

8.3.1.3 – Ms. Sewell made a motion to add “support and incentivize businesses”. Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 7/0.

8.3.1.3 – Mr. Blanton made a motion to add Clemson Cooperative Extension to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 7/0.

8.3.1.4 – Needs to be reworded.

8.3.1.5 – Mr. Hollifield made a motion to add Farmers Markets to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 7/0.

8.3.1.7 – Mr. Land made a motion to add a period after standards and strike the rest of the paragraph. Seconded by Mr. Hollifield and approved 7/0.

8.3.1.8 – Mr. Land made a motion to add Private Organizations, Nonprofit, and Disaster Relief Organizations to the accountable agencies. Seconded by Mr. Hollifield and approved 7/0.
Mr. Land made a motion to add “Educate and assist in mitigating the harmful effects of Climate Change in Oconee County through Agricultural means.” to the Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 7/0.

5. Highway 123 Corridor Plan – Mr. Chapman mentioned to the board that the Highway 123 Corridor Plan is moving to County Council.

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business – September 10, 2019 meeting at Chattooga Belle.

Heritage Fair last weekend in September.

Farm Bureau annual meeting at Westminster Middle School.

8. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

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.