

# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218

## AGENDA

6:30 PM, Monday January 13th, 2020  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

1. Call to Order
2. Election of Officers
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Vice-Chairman
  - c. Secretary
3. Approval of 2020 Calendar of meetings
4. Approval of minutes from 12/09/2019
5. Agricultural Element Goals, Objectives & Strategies for Implementation
6. Agricultural Communication
7. Food Summit
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. 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](mailto:achapman@oconeesc.com).

## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

## Minutes

6:30 PM, Monday, December 9, 2019, 2019  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

**Draft Minutes – Monday, December 9, 2019****Members Present**

Edward Land  
Rex Blanton  
Doug Hollifield  
Vickie Willoughby  
Sandra Gray

**Staff Present**

Adam Chapman  
Vivian Kompier

**Media Present**

Caitlin Harrington - The Journal

- 1. Call to Order** – Mr. Blanton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- 2. Public Comment** – Mandolin Bright spoke about the Oconee Food Summit. The date is February, 28, 2020, 9:00am-3:30pm, at the Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca. They are looking for sponsorships, topics and speakers.
- 3. Approval of 10/14/2019 Minutes** – Mr. Land made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Gray and approved 5/0.
- 4. Farm Bureau meeting update** – Mr. Hollifield spoke about the event with 246 delegates attending, it was a good turnout. Oconee County received 5 awards. (Mr. Hollifield was one of the recipients.) Membership with the Farm Bureau is well worth the \$40.00.
- 5. Agriculture infrastructure** – Mr. Chapman mentioned that Morris Warner from the Clemson Cooperative Extension is retiring and hopefully the position will be filled internally.

**6. Agriculture Communication and updates** – Mr. Chapman gave a few handouts. These are just 1<sup>st</sup> drafts. Agricultural Communication Plan, Agriculture Groups, and Prompts for social media. (see attached)

**7. Old Business** – None

**8. New Business** – SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo will be January 15-16, 2020 in Florence SC.

Mr. Chapman mentioned that the next meeting will be January 13, 2020 and we will set the 2020 calendar and elect officers, please attend. Also, the Comprehensive Plan is almost finished and we will have an agenda going forward. Please be open to the idea of having 2 meetings per month.

Ms. Willoughby is concerned about the school children in Oconee County and is there some way this Board can help the children who have trouble paying for their school meals. Mr. Chapman will do some research.

**9. Adjourn** – The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:23pm

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The Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board will meet on the second Monday of each month as noted below, unless otherwise indicated. The meetings will be at 630PM at 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla. For more information, contact the Planning office at 64-364-5103 or [planninginfo@oconeesc.com](mailto:planninginfo@oconeesc.com)

#### Meeting Dates

- January 13<sup>th</sup>
- February 10<sup>th</sup>
- March 9<sup>th</sup>
- April 13<sup>th</sup>
- May 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)
- June <sup>th</sup>
- July 13<sup>th</sup>
- August 10<sup>th</sup>
- September 14<sup>th</sup>
- October 12<sup>th</sup>
- November 9<sup>th</sup>
- December 14<sup>th</sup>
- January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### E. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The table of goals, objectives and implementation strategies (GOIS) summarizes the actions that will be undertaken in the coming decade to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the Agriculture Element. The Agricultural Advisory Board of Oconee County will be a driving force and an accountable agency for all goals, objectives, and strategies below.

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
<b>Goal 8.1. Support and Protect the Agricultural Industry in Oconee County.</b>		
<b>Objective 8.1.1. Recognize important agricultural land as a valuable natural resource to protect for future generations.</b>		
Strategy 8.1.1.1. Advocate use of "Best Management Practices" in farmland and forest operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil &amp; Water Conservation Commissions</li> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Clemson Cooperative Extension (CCE)</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> </ul>	2025
Strategy 8.1.1.2. Encourage and support collaboration between landowners and public and private agencies in the development of ecologically and economically sound plans for preservation and restoration of farmland and forests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2025
Strategy 8.1.1.3. Work with SCDOT and other state and regional agencies to ensure projects for infrastructure facility maintenance and expansion will not be detrimental to the continuation of agriculture and silviculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SCDOT</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> </ul>	2021
Strategy 8.1.1.4. Limit non-agricultural development in productive and prime agricultural areas to densities and development patterns that are consistent with the continuation of economically viable agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2021
Strategy 8.1.1.5. Support state legislation that links incentives to continue farming (such as state income tax credits or differential assessment for property taxes and affirmative supports for the business of agriculture) with controls preventing conversion of the recipient's agricultural land to non-farm uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2025



Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.6.</u> Seek grants and take advantage of state and federal programs to assist with the purchase of development rights and agricultural easements on prime agricultural land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	<p>2023</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.7.</u> Ensure that the impacts to adjacent farms and forest land is part of the deliberation and decision making for proposed public projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	<p>2021</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.8.</u> Work with the state Real Estate Licensing commission to add an "Agricultural Disclosure Act" to ensure that potential home/land/business purchasers are made aware that agricultural activity is occurring on land adjacent to the purchaser's property of interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• State Real Estate Licensing Commission</li> </ul>	<p>2023</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.9.</u> Activate vacant and underutilized County owned property to facilitate a program that invites entrepreneurs, non-profits, residents, and other groups to begin entry-level agricultural businesses, community gardens, and pilot programs for engaging residents in the agricultural processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• NGO</li> <li>• Not-for-Profit organizations</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Agriculture Organizations</li> <li>• School District of Oconee County (SDOC)</li> </ul>	<p>2023</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.10.</u> Create a staff position of Agricultural communication and coordination to coordinate and communicate with farmers, foresters, local governments, agricultural groups, and the public on agricultural and forestry matters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	<p>2023</p>
<p><b>Objective 8.1.2. Enhance agricultural operations and opportunities.</b></p>		
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.2.1.</u> Work with state and federal agencies to attract agribusiness-related grants and revenue sources and support efforts to establish pilot programs related to new agricultural technologies and products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	<p>2021</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.2.2.</u> Provide appropriate assistance to expand non- traditional and specialty agribusiness opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	<p>2021</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.1.2.3.</u> Ensure the ability of a farm to have a farm-related business onsite.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	<p>2021</p>



Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.4.</u> Promote the establishment of new farm enterprises through support of training for interested persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.5.</u> Allow agricultural products processing facilities to locate in areas with convenient access to farms, but ensure that they do not negatively impact rural character or scenic vistas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.6.</u> Support South Carolina right-to-farm laws and consider adopting a county right-to-farm policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2021
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.7.</u> Promote farm stands and farmers markets in rural and urban areas and local food hub(s) with adjoining counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• FARM Center</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.8.</u> Consider adopting a Voluntary Agricultural and Forestal Areas program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.</u> . Encourage and support programs that educate and engage residents of all ages in aspects of farming and agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Agriculture Advisory Board</li> <li>• Organizations such as FFA and the Oconee Cultivation Project</li> <li>• FARM Center</li> </ul>	2023
<b>Goal 8.2. Protect Oconee County's Forest Resources.</b>		
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.1.</u> Maintain an accurate inventory of important forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> </ul>	2025



Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.2.</u> Coordinate and plan infrastructure and development to protect forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• SCDOT</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> <li>• Conservation Groups</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.3.</u> Support efforts to permanently preserve important forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> <li>• Conservation Groups</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.4.</u> Work with the Forestry Commission to educate citizens about wildfire hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• Rural Fire Departments</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> <li>• CCE</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.5.</u> Consider adopting the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, or relevant portions, to help mitigate wildfire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Rural Fire Departments</li> </ul>	2030
<b>Goal 8.3. Ensure continuing access to healthy, fresh food.</b>		
<b>Objective 8.3.1. Eliminate food deserts and ensure access to healthy food.</b>		
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.1.</u> Integrate food system policies and planning into County land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Local food banks</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• SDOC</li> </ul>	2030
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.2.</u> Encourage residents to supplement personal food sources with gardening and fresh food preservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• SDOC</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.3.</u> Recruit, support, and incentivize businesses that provide healthy food choices in all areas of the County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• CCE</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.4.</u> Revise land use policies to require healthy food access as a part of development standards, prohibit private restrictions that limit gardens, and community gardens, in residential areas when economic incentives are offered by the County to a developer .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> </ul>	2023





<b>Goals/Objectives/Strategies</b>	<b>Accountable Agencies</b>	<b>Time Frame for Evaluation</b>
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.5.</u> Work collaboratively with non-profits and other entities to address the needs of vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly, children, homeless).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Local non-profits</li> <li>• Faith-based community</li> <li>• Farmers@markets</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.6.</u> Support new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.7.</u> Revise the zoning code to require healthy food access as a part of development standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.8.</u> Work collaboratively to ensure that regional emergency preparedness programs include food access and distribution and are working toward the goal of establishing regional capacity for feeding the population for 2 to 3 months in an emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• SC Emergency Management</li> <li>• Private organizations</li> <li>• NFPO</li> <li>• Disaster relief organizations</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.</u> . Demonstrate the use of agriculture as a method of mitigating climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SDOC</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Agricultural groups</li> <li>• Private organizations</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> <li>• Local non-profits</li> <li>• Faith-based community</li> <li>• Farmers@markets</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Local food banks</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> </ul>	2023

