Meeting agenda February 8th, 2021

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Approval of Minutes from 1/21/2021
- Public comment for non-agenda items (3-minutes per person)
- 4. New AAB member welcome
- 5. AAB workshop date & planning
- 6. Agricultural disclosure act letter
- 7. Animal processing letter
- 8. Farmers resource guide

9. SNAP-Ed local food policy council development and expansion grant program

10. Legislation items that will impact local agriculture (House Bill 3766 and Senate Bill 50)

11. Adjourn



### Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

#### When & Where

6:30PM Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 Council Chambers 415 South Pine Street Walhalla, S.C.

#### **Alternative participation**

YouTube: "YourOconee" Zoom: 888-475-4499 or 877-853-5257 and entering meeting ID # 828 4377 0168 Radio: F.M. 92.3 (within 500' of Council Chambers)

#### Staff contact

846-638-4218 planninginfo@oconeesc.com

### LIMITED IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE PERMITTED

Due to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing state of emergency, in-person attendance at this Commission meeting by members of the general public will be limited. Attendance will be limited to twenty percent of the stated maximum occupancy, which equates to thirty-four (34) persons (including Council members, other elected officials. and staff). Attendees will be required to sit in designated seats, appropriately spaced. Inperson attendance will be allowed on a "first-come" basis.



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

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#### Minutes 6:30 PM, Thursday, January 21, 2021 COUNCIL CHAMBERS OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

#### LIMITED IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE PERMITTED

Due to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing state of emergency, in-person attendance at this Commission meeting by members of the general public will be limited. Attendance will be limited to twenty percent of the stated maximum occupancy, which equates to thirty-four (34) persons (including Council members, other elected officials, and staff). Attendees will be required to sit in designated seats, appropriately spaced. In-person attendance will be allowed on a "first-come" basis. Additionally, to ensure the meeting otherwise remains open to the public, we will continue to broadcast it live on the County's YouTube channel, which can be found via the County's website at Oconeesc.com. Further, the public may call in and listen by dialing **888-475-4499 OR 877-853-5257** and entering meeting ID # **828 4377 0168**. And, individuals parked in close proximity to Council Chambers may listen

to the meeting on FM 92.3.

#### PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY PROHIBITED

During this election season, please remain aware that engaging in partisan political activity during a County Commission meeting is prohibited. Oconee Code of Ordinances Section 2-61. "Partisan political activities" are those activities that are directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for political office, or political group.

#### **Members Present**

Kim Alexander	Rex Blanton
Debbie Sewell	Ashley Townsend

#### **Staff Present**

Adam Chapman Laura Zimmerman

#### **Media Present**

None

- 1. Call to Order Mr. Chapman called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
- 2. Approval of minutes from 11/09/2020 Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 3/0 with Ms. Townsend abstaining as a new member.

#### Oconee County Administrative Offices 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691 / 864.638.4218 / www.oconeesc.com

- 3. Citizen comment None
- 4. Election of Officers

<u>Chair</u>

- Mr. Blanton nominated Ms. Alexander for Chair; Ms. Alexander rescinded the nomination.
- Ms. Alexander nominated Ms. Sewell for Chair; there were no other nominations; vote was 4/0; Ms. Sewell was named Chair

#### Vice-Chair

• Ms. Townsend nominated Ms. Alexander for Vice-Chair; there were no other nominations; vote was 4/0; Ms. Alexander was named Vice-Chair

Secretary

- Mr. Blanton nominated Mr. Chapman for Secretary; there were no other nominations; vote was 4/0; Mr. Chapman was named Secretary
- 5. Approval of 2021 calendar of meetings Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the Calendar of Meetings as submitted with the provision that the meeting time be changed to 6:30 PM. Ms. Townsend seconded the motion. Motion approved 4/0.
- 6. 2021 Goals discussion, no motion, no vote.
- 7. Agriculture Advisory Board Workshop Ms. Alexander made a motion to hold a AAB Workshop to set goals for 2021 and orientate new board members; seconded by Mr. Blanton; approved 4/0. Date for workshop will be set via email correspondence.
- 8. Animal processing updates on status were presented and discussed.
- 9. Open Seats Members agreed to identify candidates for open seats and forward questionnaire with goal to have open seats filled by County Council prior to next meeting.
- 10. Mr. Blanton made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Ms. Alexander and approved unanimously at 7:15 PM.

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.

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#### Oconee County Council Office

Oconee County Administrative Offices 415 South Pine Street Walhalla, SC 29691

Phone: 864-718-1023 Fax: 864 718-1024

E-mail: <u>ksmith@oconeesc.com</u>

John Elliott, Chair Pro Tem District I

Wayne McCall District II

Paul A. Cain Vice Chair District III

Julian Davis, III Chairman District IV

J. Glenn Hart District V





September 15th, 2020

Senator Thomas C. Alexander SC Senate 313 Gressette Bldg. Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Senator Alexander:

We, the members of Oconee County Council, acknowledge the incredible importance of farmers and farmland in Oconee County and the State of South Carolina. The agricultural community accounts for over 40 billion dollars per year in revenue and over 200,000 jobs, both directly and indirectly, throughout South Carolina. While South Carolina's Right-to –Farm act has provided a degree of defense we know we can do more to protect farmers and farmland.

We respectfully ask that our state legislator introduce legislation that creates an "Agricultural Disclosure" when real property is being transferred. A simple notice will ensure the purchaser is made aware, prior to purchase, that adjacent properties are being utilized for agricultural purposes. This would be similar to the existing "Leadbased paint" and "Asbestos" disclosures that purchasers of real property are required to receive. Agricultural disclosure forms are successfully utilized in several other states providing one more layer of protection for our farmers and farmland and helps to prevent against frivolous government interference and litigation.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Julian Davis, III Council Chairman Oconee County Council

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Phone: 864-718-1023 Fax: 864 718-1024

E-mail: <u>ksmith@oconeesc.com</u>

John Elliott, Chair Pro Tem District I

Wayne McCall District II

Paul A. Cain Vice Chair District III

Julian Davis, III Chairman District IV

J. Glenn Hart District V





December 15, 2020 The Honorable Representative William E. Sandifer, III SC House of Representatives 407 Blatt Bldg. Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Representative Sandifer:

Nationwide, farmers are experiencing difficulty in scheduling adequate processing dates for their animals, largely related to the pandemic. As an industrious animal farming County, this rings true for many farms in Oconee, especially smaller farms. Many pastures are full of animals at their peak without processing dates. Some farmers are even booking processing dates into 2022 at this point, as that is the only availability.

As the County Council we are seeking your support in legislative action that can help remedy the situation in a two ways that will provide temporary relief to keep the wheels turning until processing facilities can catch up with the demand.

1. <u>Temporary</u> exemption to USDA/SCDA labeling requirements to sell at farmer's markets for next season - This will allow some farms to continue selling meat without the strict requirements on labeling. This does a couple things: it is quicker and easier for processors to package and label this way, possibly allowing a greater number of bookings. In addition, it allows a greater number of processors for farms to use without the requirement to use facilities that provide USDA/SCDA labeling. It still requires farmers to use a processing facility that is USDA inspected (just not labeled individual cuts).

2. Temporary exemption for on-site animal processing for small ruminants. Since processors have become so inundated, they have pushed off their smaller animal "days" to make more room for cow/pig processing. This has caused a significant burden to our sheep/goat farmers. Like the exemption for small poultry farms, allowing a temporary exemption for small ruminants to process and sell on the farm, as long as meat is sold directly to consumers and follows the other guidelines under the poultry exemption.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Julian Davis, III Chairman, Oconee County Council **House Bill 3766** the *bill abolishes DHEC and splits the agency into two separate entities; the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Control.* 

**Senate Bill 506**, the bill expands the types of foods produced by Home-Based Food Production Operations that can be sold for direct sales to retail stores, online and mail order direct-to-consumer sales, including labeling and identification requirements.

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Larry Cantrell - District 2 lcantrell618@gmail.com		_	ikalexander003@outlook.com	
Rex Blanton - District 3 rexb@clemson.edu			lcantrell618@gmail.com	Larry Cantrell - District 2
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Charlie Whiten - District 5 cswhitenfarms@aol.com			cswhitenfarms@aol.com	Charlie Whiten - District 5
Debbie Sewell - At-Large     debbio.sewell@gmail.com       Tessa Moxly - At-Large     tmox34@gmail.com		-+		
Kerrie Roach - Ex-Officio twalker@clemson.edu				



## North Carolina's Network of Food Councils

# Working to build a thriving, sustainable community-based food system across all counties in North Carolina

## What is a Food Council?

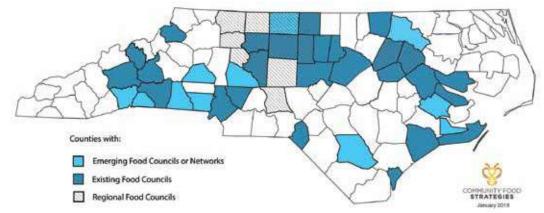
Food councils are community-based coalitions, created to help build a more just and sustainable food system. Each council supports a specific community – usually a county or region, and sometimes a town, city or neighborhood. A local or regional council is made up of individuals and organizations from that community who represent multiple sectors and work together to build relationships, leverage resources, and learn from one another.

## Food is a fundamental need for all people, and touches our lives in the most basic ways.

When food systems are out of balance, people do not have access to healthy food, do not have a connection to where it is grown, and do not have a voice in rectifying these problems. Local food councils work to solve these crucial issues, as well as to improve health outcomes, protect natural resources, support economic development, and aid the work of farmers and fishermen.

## Who is involved?

Food councils are made up of community members. They are intentionally made up of people and organizations from different sectors and industries. They, ideally, also aim to include the voices of people with lived experience of our food system's challenges in addition to the organizations and institutions that serve them. By coming together with diverse perspectives and differing strengths, members of food councils are able to give their communities greater control over the food they consume and solve broader food system issues.



Our state is leading the charge for food council development and capacity building. Over the past decade, the number of local and regional councils in North Carolina has grown from four to over 35. Community Food Strategies is dedicated to fostering collaborative partnerships with and between these groups to help create greater impact in communities across the state.

Members of councils often include representation from these groups – Local government officials • Farmers/ fishermen and/or agricultural organizations • Restaurants and local businesses • Public health professionals • Cooperative Extension staff • Soil & Water Conservation District staff • Faith communities • Public schools • Interested parents and consumers • Food pantry and food security advocates • Community colleges or universities

Ideally, councils reflect the makeup of the community they serve including similar demographic representation across race, class, and rural and urban localities.

## What do councils do?

The work and impact of food councils varies by community. Not every area has the same needs or values around food, so no two councils are the same. Councils try to shift the system by encouraging and influencing policies (and practice) that are designed with health and community wellness as an end goal. In general, councils:

- Create space for people in their community to share stories about food and how it impacts their lives
- Engage experts to help better understand our interconnected food system
- Educate leaders and community members about issues surrounding food
- Connect decision makers and stakeholders to help create more alignment across programs and initiatives
- Recommend program and policy changes that affect local food systems in order to create lasting change
- Work together with people in the community, especially people with lived experience, to build solutions that create equitable outcomes

## **2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NC FOOD COUNCILS**

communityfoodstrategies.org

**Durham Farm** and Food Network provided mini-grants to food pantries to improve services offered to clients.

Asheville-**Buncombe Food Policy Council** launched a Double Up Food Bucks project for greater access to healthy foods.

Caswell Local **Foods Council** hosted a free soup lunch every 2nd Wednesday of the month in 2017, attracting 50-100 attendees each month.

Pitt County Farm and Food Council became a county sanctioned council, held three community forums, and started work with three action circles.

Warren County Local Foods **Promotion Council** completed a farmer survey and online map to create a Local Cabarrus County Food Guide. Farm & Food Council engaged in a food access study with **UNC-Charlotte** partners. **INCREASING FOOD ACCESS** Capital Area Food Network assisted with the completion of the Wake **County Comprehensive** Food Security Plan, and held multiple community forums **EXPANDING** for input. THE NETWORK Cape Fear Food Council formalized their council structure and committees, which are Alamance meeting monthly, and filled all council and four Food Collaborative committee chair partnered with Elon positions. University classes on Just Foods student projects that Collaborative propelled their recruited an council's top priorities.

Davidson County Local Food Network funded a farmers market awareness campaign, including billboards, stickers, and farmto-plate dinner marketing. grant funding to create a

PROMOTING **FARMERS** & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**ADDRESSING** 

EQUITY

their work.

**INCREASING AWARENESS** 

Capital Area Food

Network developed a

strategic plan for their

Farm Advocacy

Circle.

McDowell Local

Food Advisory

Council received

development for a

**Community Food** 

and Health Hub.

**ADVOCATING** POLICY & PROGRAM CHANGE

Durham Farm & Food Network received funding for facilitation to support the development of a sugary beverage advocacy campaign rooted in

North Carolina Local Food Council racial equity. expanded their membership with diverse voices representative of

Forsyth Community **Food Consortium** hosted monthly Local Food Meet-ups to increase awareness of local food initiatives and encourage collaboration.

feasibility study and project Toe River **Food Security** Network hosted listening sessions with pre-school teachers about gardens, and with faithbased food pantry staff and county government.

> Asheville-**Buncombe FPC** hosted a 2017 Candidates Forum, highlighting the Food Policy Action Plan they developed, which was passed by the City of Asheville.

**Greater High** Point Food Alliance worked with **High Point City Council** to fund a Community Garden Coordinator through the Guilford Co. Extension Office.

**Orange Council** Food Council funded several members to attend racial equity trainings.

**Greater High Point** Food Alliance hosted a **Food Security Summit** and a Youth Food Summit.

Gaston Co. **Food Policy** Council hosted National Farmers Market Week events at all three county farmers markets, and hosted four community education events.

**Orange County** Food Council hosted two forums. welcomed four new council members, and started Food Access & Local Food Economy work groups.

Charlotte-Mecklenberg Food **Policy Council hosted** a food advocacy training for 50+ community members and leaders.

Durham Farm & Food Network hosted a public engagement event to announce their newly created 4-part Policy Platform and encourage new participation.

Advisory Board, formalized its structure, and drafted a plan of work.



Arnold School of Public Health

Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior

#### **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

#### SNAP-Ed Local Food Policy Council Development and Expansion Grant Program

**Background**: The University of South Carolina SNAP-Ed Implementing Agency works with partners to change policy, systems, and environments to make healthy eating opportunities more accessible for South Carolinians living on a low-income. The team also conducts monitoring and evaluation to capture the reach and outcomes of interventions implemented through the SNAP-Ed program around the state. Many emerging and existing local food policy councils (FPCs) rely on volunteers to conduct their work. Conversations and interviews with FPCs in South Carolina have indicated that grant funding could help FPCs build capacity and accomplish council goals. In response, the University of South Carolina SNAP-Ed Implementing Agency developed the Local Food Policy Council Development and Expansion Grant Program.

<u>Program Description</u>: In 2021, the University of South Carolina SNAP-Ed Implementing Agency, in partnership with the South Carolina Food Policy Council, intends to award up to \$11,700 each to up to six existing or newly forming local FPCs around the state. These grants will provide funding for newly forming FPCs to accelerate their development and existing FPCs to expand their capacity to identify and advance policy, systems, and environmental change strategies for improving healthy food access and ensuring food equity. The grants are intended to fund staff time to carry out the following activities in order to support FPC formation, development, and operations:

- 1. Conducting Community Food Assessments and holding Community Food Gatherings<sup>1</sup>
- 2. Identifying and advancing policy, systems, and environmental change strategies aimed at improving access to healthy foods and ensuring food equity
- 3. Engaging priority populations most impacted by food inequity and partners from diverse sectors (e.g., health care, planning, local government, law enforcement) in the FPC

Funded organizations will receive training and technical assistance from the University of South Carolina Implementing Agency Team to carry out the above activities. <u>The funding can **only**</u> be used on staff time to carry out the above activities. In accordance with allowable expenses for SNAP-Ed program funding, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A *Community Food Assessment* examines a range of food related issues to inform and build support for practical actions to enhance the local food system. A *Community Food Gathering* is an event in which community members meet to enjoy a meal and discuss the challenges and potential solutions associated with increasing access to healthy, culturally appropriate food within the community.

funding *cannot* be used to lead programs or lobby local, state, or federal elected officials. The funding must be expended by September 30, 2021. This will be done by invoicing the University of South Carolina on a monthly basis, with a final invoice to be submitted no later than September 30, 2021. Upon receipt of this award, every funded organization must complete documentation to be set-up as a supplier in the University of South Carolina System in order to be able to receive payments.

**<u>Eligibility</u>**: Any group interested in developing a FPC or any currently developing or established FPC in the state of South Carolina is eligible to apply. FPCs bring together diverse stakeholders from different sectors and people most impacted by food inequities to offer recommendations for changing policy, systems, and environments in order to make the food system more equitable and accessible for people on a low-income. Grant recipients must be a nonprofit organization or governmental unit and provide a signed W-9 with a federal tax ID number upon establishment of the award. If the FPC does not have such a designation, it may enlist a South Carolina-based fiduciary partner that does. The grant will not cover any fees to a fiduciary partner.

**Selection Criteria:** Applicant organizations will be considered based on the following criteria:

- 1. Demonstrated commitment to prioritize equity and inclusion in all FPC work, including recruitment of council membership reflective of the racial and ethnic diversity of their community.
- 2. Identification of an individual or individuals whose pay will be supported by these funds to carry out the allowable activities described above.
- 3. Willingness to work closely with the University of South Carolina SNAP-Ed Implementing Agency, including, but not limited to, providing details on FPC activities, membership, and the adoption of any policy, systems, or environmental change strategies due to FPC activities.

**Expectations for Successful Grantees:** The following are requirements of all grantees who are awarded funds:

- 1. Participate in monthly South Carolina Local Food Policy Council Network virtual meetings during the grant year.
- 2. Begin work on a Community Food Assessment and share preliminary findings with the University of South Carolina SNAP-Ed Implementing Agency Team.
- 3. Hold a minimum of one Community Food Gathering or carry out another process to gain direct feedback from people most impacted by food inequities during the grant year.
- 4. Prioritize working on the adoption of at least one policy, systems, or environmental change strategy that strengthens or expands transportation for accessing healthy foods among populations on a low-income.
- 5. Attend an informal virtual mid-term check-in with University of South Carolina SNAP-Ed Implementing Agency Team members.
- 6. Submit a brief written report on project outcomes within one month of the end of the grant.
- 7. Participate in an interview for project evaluation purposes toward the end of the grant.

<u>Next Steps</u>: If you are interested in being a candidate for this funding, please complete an interest form at the following link (<u>https://www.scfoodpolicy.org/local-fpc-interest-form</u>) by **February 10, 2021**. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Draper, MSW, SNAP-Ed Implementing Agency Principal Investigator at draper@mailbox.sc.edu.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SNAP-Ed is a federal nutrition assistance program that aims to ensure people living on a low-income are able to meet national dietary and physical activity guidelines while on a budget.



