

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

Minutes

4:00 PM, Thursday, May 13, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present

Charlie Whiten
Debbie Sewell
Kim Alexander
Tessa Moxley
Kerri Roach

Staff Present

Laura Zimmerman

Media Present

None

1. Call to Order – Ms. Sewell called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2. Approval of minutes from April 12, 2021 – Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections (Kerrie Roach was not present) seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved 4/0.

3. Public Comment- none

4. Presentations to AAB [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required]

- Foothills Agriculture Resource and Marketing Center / Stanley Gibson, Chairman of Board
 - Farm center in operation for four years. 501C3. Land was purchased by the County, then leased under a 50-year lease to the Farm Center. Website: www.farmoconee.org.
 - “Thrive” summer concert series. First concert, June 5th. July 10th to be the second event.

- Facilities are available for events put on by other organizations. Facilities can accommodate up to 5,000 people.
- Kicking off sponsorship drive--looking for sponsorship at the Summer Concert Series, Foothills Heritage Market, Farm Center, Heritage Fair.

The Farm Center is requesting support via social media, finding grants, reaching out to potential sponsors and educating the public on what the Farm Center does.

Discussion regarding Farm Center

- Ms. Roach asked about fair board meetings
2nd Tuesday of each month
- Ms. Alexander asked if the farm center would like an appointed liaison from the Ag board.
- Mr. Gibson was in support of the AAB forming a work group for the Farm Center.
- Further discussion about whether or not a work group is needed for the Farm Center.
- Ms. Alexander made a motion to form a workgroup called “The Farm Center Workgroup” from members of the AAB. Seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved by 4/0.
- Mr. Whiten made a motion to write a letter of support for the Farm Center, seconded by Ms. Moxley.
 - *Discussion:* Ms. Roach suggested including details about sponsorship opportunities in the letter.
 - Motion approved 4/0.
- The Oconee County Food Council Committee / Gwen McPhail
 - Oconee food summit 2020 recap
 - Covid-19 highlighted some weak spots in our county’s food system
 - Oconee food summit regroup event 2021 recap
 - Zoom event
 - Group formed to address food system needs. “Food Council Committee”.
 - Request for funds from county (letter presented by Gwen McPhail).
 - The Food Council Committee requested a letter be written by the AAB in support of the fund request.

Discussion regarding Food Council Committee letter

- Ms. Alexander made a motion for the AAB to write a letter to Oconee County Council in support of the fund request by the Food Council Committee, seconded by Mr. Whiten, approved 4/0.

5. Discussion Items [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required]

- Discussion regarding summary of AAB Workshop
 - Ms. Alexander suggested waiting on discussion until all members of the board are present

- Discussion regarding scheduled time for future AAB meetings
 - Ms. Sewell proposed continuing with 4pm meetings on every 2nd Monday of the month.
 - Ms. Sewell made a motion to have meetings at 4pm on the second Mondays of June and July, Mr. Whitten seconded, approved by 4/0.

6. Adjourn—Ms. Moxley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20pm, seconded by Ms. Alexander , and approved 4/0.