

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

Minutes

4:00 PM, Monday June 14, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present

Rex Blanton
Debbie Sewell
Kim Alexander
Tessa Moxley

Staff Present

Vivian Kompier

Media Present

None

1. Call to Order – Ms. Sewell called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM.

2. Approval of minutes from May 13th – Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections (add the day of the month to second item- April 12th-; under item four, change sentence "Purchased by county, 50 - year lease to Farm Center" to "Land was purchased by the county, then leased under a 50-year lease to the Farm Center"). seconded by Rex Blanton 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]

- Mike Smith- Planning Commission, Chairman-Boards and Committees working together toward a common goal
 - Pat - Cattlemen's Association
 - The county needs incentives for landowners to keep land in agriculture
 - In the past two weeks 400 acres of farmland has been sold to developers

Oconee County Administrative Offices

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- Mr. Smith suggests finding a model of the county purchasing land and leasing it back to a farmer within the state in order to present the idea to the County Council
- Discussion about “AgLanta”, a government program based in Atlanta.

Discussion:

- Ms. Tessa Moxley made a motion to appoint Rex Blanton as the point person to find incentive programs that protect Ag land to present at the next Ag board meeting, with the purpose of working with the Planning Commission on a proposal for the County Council. Seconded by Ms. Kim Alexander and approved 4/0.
- Road safety and Agriculture
 - Ms. Debbie Sewell speaking for Charlie Whiten - Proposal to start a safety campaign in the county with signage, etc.
 - Ms. Kim Alexander questions if the signs would be an effective measure
 - Mr. Mike Smith - Highway 24 planning discussion. Roundabouts are an effective measure to reduce intersection collisions.

Discussion

- Ms. Alexander made a motion to table further discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Rex Blanton and Approved 4/0.
- Phone call from Trixi Derosa-Davis-Strengthening Local Food Act

6. Adjourn— Mr. Rex Blanton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10pm, seconded by Kim Alexander, and approved 4/0.