

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

Minutes

4:00 PM, Monday August 9, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present

Debbie Sewell

Charlie Whiten

Rex Blanton

Larry Cantrell

Staff Present

Laura Zimmerman

Media Present

None

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Sewell called the meeting to order at 4:05PM.

2. **Approval of minutes from July 12** – Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Cantrell. Ms. Sewell called for a vote. The motion was approved 4/0.

3. **Public Comment** - None

4. **Discussions**
 - a. **Road Safety and Agriculture**
 - i. Rural Roads Safety Brochure – Ms. Sewell made a motion that the Agricultural Advisory Board support a County-wide Agricultural Road Safety campaign and will approach Young Farmers and other agricultural groups for input to advise the County Council; seconded by Mr. Blanton. Discussion included, but was not limited to, possible groups to approach to work on the campaign. Ms. Sewell called for a vote; approved 4/0
 - ii. Mailbox placement
 1. Discussion and conclusions:

Oconee County Administrative Offices

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- a. Issues with mailbox placement should be reported to Postmaster
 - b. Issues with roads (i.e. signs and/or low hanging limbs) should be reported to Oconee County Roads & Bridges for County road and South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for State road.
2. Mr. Blanton made a motion that Agricultural Advisory Board draft a list of roads in need of maintenance, such as signs and limbs, to be sent to the SCDOT; seconded by Mr. Whiten.
Discussion included, but was not limited to, responsibility for drafting the list, when the task would be completed, and whether the list be submitted as well as compiled. Mr. Blanton and Mr. Whiten agreed to work on list and submit it to the Board by the next meeting on September 13th. It was also clarified that if the road in question was a County road, the request for maintenance would go to Oconee County Roads & Bridges, not SCDOT. Ms. Sewell called for a vote on the motion as amended. The motion was approved 4/0.
Mr. Whiten made a motion that he and Mr. Blanton draft a list of areas where farm equipment have trouble with mailboxes and submit to the appropriate postmaster by the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Blanton. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the fact that it will take some research to find the correct postmaster for each area identified. Ms. Sewell called for a vote. The motion was approved 4/0.

b. Farmland Conservation and Preservation

- i. Voluntary Agricultural District Brochure – discussion on how Forsyth County, North Carolina works to preserve and conserve their farmland. Ms. Sewell challenged all board members to develop a strategy by the October meeting that the Agricultural Advisory Board can take to the Oconee County Planning Commission for assistance in achieving the conservation and preservation of the County’s farm and forest lands.

5. Meeting Schedule for September 2021 – January 2022 – Ms. Sewell made a motion that the AAB change the start time for remaining scheduled meetings from 6:30 to 5:00; seconded by Mr. Whiten. Ms. Sewell called for a vote. The motion was approved 4/0.

6. Adjourn – Mr. Blanton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 PM; seconded by Mr. Cantrell. Ms. Sewell called for a vote. The motion was approved 4/0.