

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

Minutes

5:00 PM, Monday December 13, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present

Rex Blanton
Debbie Sewell

Charlie Whiten
Tessa Moxley

Staff Present

James Coley
Laura Zimmerman

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order** – Ms. Sewell called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
2. **Approval of Minutes** – November 8, 2021. Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Mr. Blanton. Ms. Sewell called for a vote. The motion passed 4/0.
3. **Public Comment Session** [*3 minutes per person*] *If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting the Planning Department at planninginfo@oconeesc.com or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record.* - None
4. **Introductions** – James Coley, Planning Director
5. **Discussions** – [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required]
 - a. **Proposed Development Standards**
 - i. Communication to County Council - letter.
 - ii. Presentation to County Council
 1. Talking points:
 - a. Ms. Sewell proposed that each Ag Board member speak to their county representative in favor of the proposed development standards
 - b. Ms. Sewell proposed the following argument in favor of the standards: The scope of the development standards is quite

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narrow; minimum buffering, screening, and lighting requirements for *new developments*, therefore should be accepted as a baseline of standards.

- b. **Road Safety and Agriculture**
 - i. Communication to County Council – letter
 - 1. Mr. Whiten to present to County Council
 - a. Mr. Whiten met with farmers across the state and found that road safety is an issue statewide. Equipment is larger and many key roads are not maintained to standard.
 - b. The primary request is that the state and County do the necessary maintenance to maintain road safety; including, but not limited to, keeping signs and mailboxes at the regulation setbacks, cutting back overgrown vegetation on roadsides, and maintaining a clear shoulder.
 - 2. A letter written by Mr. Whiten was submitted to Mr. Coley to be reviewed and addressed at the next meeting.
 - ii. Presentation to County Council
- 6. **Adjourn-** Mr. Blanton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM, seconded by Mr. Whiten, and approved 4/0.

Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board 2022 Meeting Schedule

2nd Monday* at 5:00 p.m.

(***T**hursday, if Monday falls on a holiday)

1. March 14, 2022
2. April 11, 2022
3. May 9, 022
4. June 13, 2022
5. July 11, 2022
6. August 8, 2022
7. September 12, 2022
8. October 10, 2022
9. November 14, 2022
10. December 12, 2022
11. January 9, 2023