

## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC 29691



TEL (864) 638-4218

## Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday February 14, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

**Members Present**

Rex Blanton  
Debbie Sewell  
Kim Alexander

Charlie Whiten  
Tessa Moxley

**Staff Present**

James Coley  
Laura Zimmerman

**Media Present**

None

1. **Call to order-** Mr. Coley called the meeting to order at 5:02pm
2. **Approval of minutes** – December 13th, 2021. Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Mr. Blanton. Ms. Sewell called for a vote. The motion passed 5/0.
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](mailto:planninginfo@oconeesc.com) or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record.*
4. **Election of Officers**
  - a. **Nominations for Chair:**
    - i. Mr. Blanton nominated Ms. Sewell for Chair, seconded by Mr. Whiten.
    - ii. Ms. Sewell declined the nomination, stating that Ms. Alexander had previously agreed to hold the Chair position for the year 2022.
    - iii. Mr. Whiten made a motion to nominate Ms. Alexander for Chair,

**Oconee County Administrative Offices****415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691 / 864.638.4218 / [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com)**

seconded by Mr. Blanton and accepted by Ms. Alexander. Ms. Alexander called for a vote. The motion passed 5/0.

**b. Nominations for Vice Chair:**

- i. Mr. Whiten nominated Ms. Sewell for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Blanton and accepted by Ms. Sewell. Ms. Alexander called for a vote. The motion passed 5/0.

**c. Nominations for Secretary**

- i. Ms. Alexander asked Ms. Moxley if she would be willing to continue as secretary, which she accepted.
- ii. Mr. Whiten made a motion to nominate Ms. Moxley for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Blanton, and approved 5/0.

**5. Approval of 2022 Meeting Calendar -** Mr. Blanton made a motion to approve the calendar, seconded by Ms. Alexander

**a. Discussion**

- i. The committee agreed that it would be more accommodating for everyone to have the meeting time at 6:00pm, rather than 5:00pm.
- ii. Ms. Sewell made a motion to change the meeting time from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, seconded by Mr. Blanton.
- iii. Ms. Alexander called for a vote to approve the calendar with the time change. The motion passed 5/0.

**6. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation –** Vote to add to Agricultural Advisory Board meetings

- a. Mr. Whiten made a motion to add the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation at the beginning of each meeting, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 5/0.

**7. Discussion**

- a. **Kerrie Roach's Email –** Ms. Roach made an inquiry via email if the Clemson University Agriculture Extension could hold the Ex-Officio position as an Agency instead of a person, and send the appropriate person to specific meetings, instead of Ms. Roach holding the Ex-Officio position since she is not able to attend every time.
  - i. Ms. Alexander asked Mr. Coley to put this item on the next meeting agenda so that the Ag Board can do research before discussing the topic further.

**8. Adjourn-** Mr. Whiten made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30pm, seconded by Ms. Sewell, and approved 5/0.

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March 14, 2022

To: Ms. Amanda Brock, Oconee County Administrator

Thank you for hearing our concerns.

As you are aware, Oconee County has grown considerably over the last 20-30 years. More residents are here now, and development continues, as more people continue to move to the area. As part of this change, many farmers no longer simply farm their own land; they rent and lease land from others. This requires the moving of large equipment onto road ways in order to tend to other fields and parcels. The size of the required machines, coupled with current road conditions, creates traffic and safety issues for drivers and farmers.

First, the placement of mailboxes on the right side of the road, in the right-of-way, makes it virtually impossible for two-way traffic to flow as there is not enough width to accommodate the farming equipment and vehicles.

Second, tree limbs growing into and over the roadway pose safety issues as combines can be as tall as 16 feet and as wide as 14 feet. In our county, there are, at least, 12 of these large combines and approximately 25-30 large tractors and hay balers, which are coming into contact with these limbs.

It is our request for you to send this letter to the Oconee County Roads and Bridges Department, and the local SCDOT Office and request the following actions be considered on the list of roads provided, in the interest of public and traffic safety:

1. That mailboxes be relocated further out to the edges of the road right-of-way.
2. That trees be cut and regularly maintained to a height of 17'.

Best Regards,

Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board



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## Road List:

- Snow Creek Rd. (State)
- Return Church Rd. (State)
- SC-59-State (State)
- Worley Rd. (County)
- Callaham Rd. (State)
- Pine Grove Rd (-State)
- Smith Dairy Rd. -S-37-52 & S-37-75 (State)
- Cedar Lane (County)
- Mud Creek Rd (County)
- Williams Farm Rd. (County)
- Sam Brown Rd. S-37-39 (State)
- Dave Nix Rd. S-37-51 (State)
- State Rd. S-37-116 (State)
- Grant Rd. (County)
- Earle's Grove Rd. S-37-99 16 (State)
- E. Spearman Rd. 37-86 (State)
- Marrett Rd. (County)
- SC 182 (State)
- Greer Rd (State)
- Rock Hill Rd. (State)
- SC 243 (State)
- Beaverdam Church Rd. (County)
- Durham Rd. S-37-100 (State)
- Herring Rd. (County)
- State Rd. S 37-138 (State)