

# Agricultural Advisory Board Agenda

## December 12, 2022

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**1. Call to order**

**2. Moment of silence**

**3. Invocation**

**4. Pledge of allegiance**

**5. Approval of minutes**  
November 14, 2022

**6. 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.*

**7. Discussions** [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required]

- Comprehensive Plan Updates
- NRCS

**8. Adjourn**



## Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

### When & Where

6:00 PM

Monday, December 12, 2022

Council Chambers

415 South Pine Street

Walhalla, SC 29691

### Alternative participation

YouTube: "YourOconee"

### Staff contact

846-638-4218

[planninginfo@oconeesc.com](mailto:planninginfo@oconeesc.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Debbie Sewell, Vice-Chairman, At-Large

Tessa Moxley, Secretary, At-Large

Rex Blanton, District III

Charlie Whiten, District V

Kim Alexander, Chairman, District I

Larry Cantrell, District II

Ashley Townsend, District IV

Kerrie Roach, Ex-Officio

## Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, November 14, 2022

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

### Members Present

Rex Blanton  
Kim Alexander  
Debbie Sewell  
Ashley Townsend  
Tessa Moxley

### Staff Present

James Coley

### Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Approval of minutes-** October 10, 2022. Ms. Townsend made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Mr. Blanton. Ms. Alexander called for a vote. The motion passed 5/0.
6. **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*
7. **Presentation-**
8. **Discussions** [to include vote and/or action on matters brought up in discussion if required]
  - o Food Council-Mandolin Bright
    - i. Currently working on the Oconee County Food Assessment
    - ii. Will begin application for 501c3 status soon
    - iii. Committee recruitment to begin in Spring of 2023
  - o Ag board to send the Food Council documents to support the research and content of the Oconee County Food Assessment
  - o Celebration of Agriculture Banquet
  - o Young Farmers of Oconee County - Agricultural land
    - i. Were not in attendance

- ii. Ms. Alexander stressed the importance of maintaining a relationship with the Young Farmers and ensuring that they feel supported.

**9. Adjourn:** Mr. Blanton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by and approved 5/0.

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation	Date Completed
<b>Goal 8.1. Support and Protect the Agricultural Industry in Oconee County.</b>			
<b>Objective 8.1.1. Recognize important agricultural land as a valuable natural resource to protect for future generations.</b>			
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.1.</u> Advocate use of “Best Management Practices” in farmland and forest operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil &amp; Water Conservation Commissions</li> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Clemson Cooperative Extension (CCE)</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> </ul>	2025	
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.2.</u> Encourage and support collaboration between landowners and public and private agencies in the development of ecologically and economically sound plans for preservation and restoration of farmland and forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2025	
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.3.</u> Work with SCDOT and other state and regional agencies to ensure projects for infrastructure facility maintenance and expansion will not be detrimental to the continuation of agriculture and silviculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SCDOT</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> </ul>	2021	
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.4.</u> Limit non-agricultural development in productive and prime agricultural areas to densities and development patterns that are consistent with the continuation of economically viable agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2021	
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.5.</u> Support state legislation that links incentives to continue farming (such as state income tax credits or differential assessment for property taxes and affirmative supports for the business of agriculture) with controls preventing conversion of the recipient's agricultural land to non-farm uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2025	
Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation	Date Completed
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.6.</u> Seek grants and take advantage of state and federal programs to assist with the purchase of development rights and agricultural easements on prime agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2023	
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.7.</u> Ensure that the impacts to adjacent farms and forest land is part of the deliberation and decision making for proposed public projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2021	

Strategy 8.1.1.8. Work with the state Real Estate Licensing commission to add an “Agricultural Disclosure Act” to ensure that potential home/land/business purchasers are made aware that agricultural activity is occurring on land adjacent to the purchaser’s property of interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• State Real Estate Licensing Commission</li> </ul>	2023	
Strategy 8.1.1.9. Activate vacant and underutilized County owned property to facilitate a program that invites entrepreneurs, non-profits, residents, and other groups to begin entry-level agricultural businesses, community gardens, and pilot programs for engaging residents in the agricultural processes. <i>(A motion was made but no second and no vote occurred)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• NGO</li> <li>• Not-for-Profit organizations</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Agriculture organizations</li> <li>• School District of Oconee County (SDOC)</li> </ul>	2023	
Strategy 8.1.1.10. Create a staff position of Agricultural communication and coordination to coordinate and communicate with farmers, foresters, local governments, agricultural groups, and the public on agricultural and forestry matters. <i>Worded slightly differently than voted upon motion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2023	
<b>Objective 8.1.2. Enhance agricultural operations and opportunities.</b>			
Strategy 8.1.2.1. Work with state and federal agencies to attract agribusiness-related grants and revenue sources and support efforts to establish pilot programs related to new agricultural technologies and products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2021	
<b>Goals/Objectives/Strategies</b>	<b>Accountable Agencies</b>	<b>Time Frame for Evaluation</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
Strategy 8.1.2.2. Provide appropriate assistance to expand non- traditional and specialty agribusiness opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2021	
Strategy 8.1.2.3. Ensure the ability of a farm to have a farm-related business onsite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2021	
Strategy 8.1.2.4. Promote the establishment of new farm enterprises through support of training for interested persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> </ul>	2023	
Strategy 8.1.2.5. Allow agricultural products processing facilities to locate in areas with convenient access to farms, but ensure that they do not negatively impact rural character or scenic vistas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2025	
Strategy 8.1.2.6. Support South Carolina right-to- farm laws and consider adopting a county right-to- farm policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2021	

<u>Strategy 8.1.2.7.</u> Promote farm stands and farmers markets in rural and urban areas and local food hub(s) with adjoining counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• FARM Center</li> </ul>	2023	
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.8.</u> Consider adopting a Voluntary Agricultural and Forestal Areas program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> </ul>	2025	
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.9.</u> Encourage and support programs that educate and engage residents of all ages in aspects of farming and agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Agriculture Advisory Board</li> <li>• Organizations such as FFA and the Oconee Cultivation Project</li> <li>• FARM Center</li> </ul>	2023	
<b>Goals/Objectives/Strategies</b>	<b>Accountable Agencies</b>	<b>Time Frame for Evaluation</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
<b>Goal 8.2. Protect Oconee County's Forest Resources.</b>			
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.1.</u> Maintain an accurate inventory of important forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> </ul>	2025	
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.2.</u> Coordinate and plan infrastructure and development to protect forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• SCDOT</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2025	
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.3.</u> Support efforts to permanently preserve important forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forest Commission</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2021	
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.4.</u> Work with the Forestry Commission to educate citizens about wildfire hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• Rural Fire Departments</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> <li>• CCE</li> </ul>	2025	
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.5.</u> Consider adopting the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, or relevant portions, to help mitigate wildfire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Rural fire departments</li> </ul>	2030	
<b>Goal 8.3. Ensure continuing access to healthy, fresh food.</b>			
<b>Objective 8.3.1. Eliminate food deserts and ensure access to healthy food.</b>			
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.1.</u> Integrate food system policies and planning into County land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Local food banks</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• SDOC</li> </ul>	2025	

<u>Strategy 8.3.1.2.</u> Encourage residents to supplement personal food sources with gardening and fresh food preservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• SDOC</li> </ul>	2025	
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.3.</u> Recruit, support, and incentivize businesses that provide healthy food choices in all areas of the County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• CCE</li> </ul>	2023	
<b>Goals/Objectives/Strategies</b>	<b>Accountable Agencies</b>	<b>Time Frame for Evaluation</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.4.</u> Revise land use policies to require healthy food access as a part of development standards, prohibit private restrictions that limit gardens, and community gardens, in residential areas when economic incentives are offered by the County to a developer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> </ul>	2023	
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.5.</u> Work collaboratively with non- profits and other entities to address the needs of vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly, children, homeless).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Local non-profits</li> <li>• Faith-based community</li> <li>• Farmers’ markets</li> </ul>	2023	
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.6.</u> Support new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2023	
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.7.</u> Revise the zoning code to require healthy food access as a part of development standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> </ul>	2023	
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.8.</u> Work collaboratively to ensure that regional emergency preparedness programs include food access and distribution and are working toward the goal of establishing regional capacity for feeding the population for 2-3 months in an emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• SC Emergency Management</li> <li>• Private organizations</li> <li>• NFPO</li> <li>• Disaster relief organizations</li> </ul>	2023	
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.9.</u> Educate and assist in mitigating the harmful effects of Climate Change in Oconee County through agricultural means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SDOC</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Agricultural groups</li> <li>• Private organizations</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> <li>• Local non-profits</li> <li>• Faith-based community</li> <li>• Farmers’ markets</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Local food banks</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> </ul>	2023	