

Agricultural Advisory Board Agenda

June 10, 2024



1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of allegiance
5. Approval of minutes
 - May 13, 2024
6. Presentations [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required]
 - Mission goals and vision
 - Members of the board and contact information
 - Partner organizations
 - Citizen initiated zoning
7. Public discussion 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.
8. Adjourn

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Alexander, Chairman, District I	Trent Smith, District II
Rex Blanton, District III	Natalie Arnold, District IV
Charlie Whiten, District V	Nathaniel Duncan, At-Large
Tessa Moxley, Secretary, At-Large	Chris Talley, Ex-Officio

Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

When & Where

6:00 PM

June 10, 2024

The Community Room
Blue Ridge Electric
2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Westminster SC 29693

Staff contact

846-638-4218

planninginfo@oconeesc.com

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

District 4



MONDAY
JUNE 10
2024
6:00PM

The Community Room at
Blue Ridge Electric

2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Westminster, SC 29693

Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, May 13, 2024
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present

Tessa Moxley
Natalie Arnold
Nate Duncan
Kim Alexander
Charlie Whiten
Chris Talley

Staff Present

Elise Dunaway

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the May 13th meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Welcome new member-** Natalie Arnold, Choestoa Farms
6. **Approval of minutes-** April 8. Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Smith and approved 5/0.
7. **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*
8. **Discussion** [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required].
 - o Move agricultural school contest
 - i. All contests to be in the Fall

Ms. Moxley made a motion to move the Agricultural school contest for Oconee High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools to be held in the Fall, seconded by Mr. Smith and approved 5/0.

- ii. Update on agricultural educators in the county schools
 1. Will be meeting with Dr. Thorsland to discuss the matter further
- iii. Discussion ensued on how to package all the extracurricular agricultural activities that the Ag teachers on a 190-day contract do as something like a "Coaches stipend".
- o Ms. Moxley updated the board on the Oconee Food Council initiatives

- i. Next Farmer Breakfast: Producer to Markets networking
 - 1. May 29th 7:30 am
 - o Mr. Whiten provided updates on roads and bridges in Oconee that are important to maintain for agricultural equipment. There are some bridges that have weight limits that are too low for agricultural equipment, as well as ambulances and fire trucks.
 - i. Ms. Alexander suggested that we pull, review, and revise the letter that was written to address the issues with the setbacks on the roads.
- 9. **Adjourn:** Ms. Moxley made a motion to adjourn at 6:37pm, seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved 5/0.

DIVISION 12. - AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Sec. 2-420.4. - Establishment.

There is hereby established the Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board (the "board"), purposed to aid and advise the county on all matters related to agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in the county are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county is both maintained and developed.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 1, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.5. - Membership.

The board shall consist of seven voting members and one, non-voting, ex officio member, appointed by the council in accordance with the following requirements and recommendations:

- (1) The board shall consist of eight members, selected and appointed by a majority vote of council, with one member selected from each of the five council districts, two members selected at-large, without regard to district of residence and one member selected as the ex officio, without regard to district of residence. Council may receive recommendations for the two at-large seats and single ex officio seat from the county agricultural advisory board.
- (2) Each board voting member's primary residence shall be located in Oconee County; and
- (3) Council shall endeavor to appoint, but not require candidates to be appointed from, the following:
 - a. A member of the Bee Keepers' Association;
 - b. A member of the Fruits and Vegetable Growers (Clemson Extension);
 - c. A member of the Oconee Cattlemen's Association;
 - d. A member of the Oconee Poultry Growers; and
 - e. An Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner or designee.
- (4) All appointed board members shall have a demonstrated background, experience, and interest in agriculture and actively participate in at-least one of the following areas of agriculture:
 - a. Agri-tourism;
 - b. Certified organic farming;
 - c. Poultry farming;
 - d. Cattle farming;

- e. Fruits and/or vegetable farming;
 - f. Bee keeping;
 - g. Silviculture and forestry operations;
 - h. Aquaculture;
 - i. Agri-business; or
 - j. Another agricultural pursuit, as that term is commonly understood.
- (5) Interested candidates for the board will be requested to complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council. Council is not required to select a member from the submitted questionnaires; members of council may directly solicit a candidate for any appointment by the board. However, all potential candidates, whether those submitting questionnaires on their own or those solicited for appointment by members of council, must complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council before being appointed to any county board or commission by any member of council.
- (6) All appointments to the board will be made upon recommendation by a council member and an affirmative vote by full council.
- (7) The ex officio member shall have expertise in relevant agricultural technologies, programs, and policies as well as providing expert analysis and opinion to the voting members of the board. The ex officio member is a non-voting member and the ex officio member's attendance at meetings does not count towards quorum.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 2, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.6. - Term of members.

- (a) The length of the regular term served by each member shall be four years, beginning on January 1 of the year of appointment.
- (b) For the purposes of implementing the standards of this section and thereby establishing a reappointment/replacement schedule of the membership of the board to staggered terms, the following shall apply:
 - (1) All members appointed by council district shall serve for the same length as the remaining term of the council member who appointed them, after which the term of such board members shall be equal to and coincide with the term of the council member appointing or reappointing them, with all terms or parts thereof beginning January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.
 - (2) The first at-large member appointed by council after adoption of the restatement of this section shall serve for four years, and the second such at-large member shall serve for two years, after which the term of each such at-large member shall be four years following

appointment/reappointment, with all terms or parts thereof beginning January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.

- (3) In the event the regular term of a member in good standing expires prior to reappointment or replacement by council, said member shall continue to serve until his or her replacement is appointed and qualified. The date of reappointment or replacement, however, in no way alters the scheduled length of the term.

(c) Removal.

- (1) A member who is absent from three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend at least 50 percent of the regularly scheduled meetings of the board within any 12 calendar month period without adequate excuse, such as documented illness, shall be reported by the chairperson of the board to council and is subject to replacement by council.
- (2) Any member may be removed or replaced at will by majority vote of council upon the motion of the appointing council member, at any time, unless appointment is required by or regulated by state or federal law.
- (3) Should any voting member of this board move or establish residence outside the county where such member was residing at the time of the appointment to this board, such relocation shall constitute a resignation by the member, and a replacement member shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term of such resigned member.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 3, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.7. - Organization, meetings, officers.

- (a) *Officers.* The board shall organize itself, electing one of its members as chairman and one as vice chairman, whose terms must each be for one year. The chairman and vice chairman shall have the right to vote. The board may appoint a secretary, who may be a member of the board or an employee of the county. If the secretary is a member of the board, he or she shall also have the right to vote. Vacancies in such offices by reason of death, resignation, or replacement shall be filled for the unexpired term of the officer whose position becomes vacant, in the same manner as the original election or appointment.
- (b) *Meetings.* The board shall establish a meeting schedule during its first meeting of the calendar year. The board shall meet at least once per month.
- (c) *Bylaws.* In addition, the board shall duly adopt such bylaws as may be necessary for the orderly performance of its duties and functions. Any bylaws which may be adopted by the board for the orderly performance of its duties shall comply with all provisions of the general law of the State of South Carolina and of the ordinance codified in this section, and of all other ordinances of Oconee County, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act.
- (d)

Staff liaison. The board shall have a staff liaison to be designated by the county administrator. The staff liaison may serve as secretary should that be the wish of the board. It is the responsibility of the staff liaison to notify the clerk to council regarding resignations and/or vacancies on any board. It is also the responsibility of the staff liaison to monitor the appointment schedule and inquire and report to the clerk to council if current members wish to be considered for reappointment or replacement.

(e) *[Freedom of information compliance.]* The board shall comply with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") and the requirements set forth in the Code of Ordinances and subsequent ordinances concerning freedom of information and the conduct of public meetings.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 4, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.8. - Powers and duties.

The responsibilities and duties of the board shall be as follows:

- (1) To serve in an advisory role to council on any matter concerning agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in the county are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county is both maintained and developed;
- (2) To formulate plans and recommend their implementation to council, including, but not limited to, ways to bolster agri-business, agri-tourism, and agriculture in general;
- (3) To make policy recommendations, through the planning commission, to council regarding agricultural land use;
- (4) To coordinate policy development with other jurisdictions and agencies to better promote the agricultural industry; and
- (5) To serve as an educational and public awareness forum for agriculture related topics.

The board shall report directly to council, or other appropriate advisory boards, commissions, and/or committees as appropriate and necessary in order to carry out the foregoing functions.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 5, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.9. - Salaries and funding.

Members of the board shall not receive any salary or reimbursements related to serving on the board.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 6, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)



**PETITION FOR REZONING
PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-8.6 (SUBSEQUENT REZONING)
OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES**

"I hereby certify that I own the lot, parcel, or tract of land currently designated by TMS # _____ - _____ - _____ (the "Parcel"). The Parcel is currently zoned in the _____ District, and I hereby request that the Parcel be rezoned to the _____ District, and that all appropriate Oconee County records, including the Oconee County Official Zoning Map, be amended to reflect this rezoning request.

In support of my request, I state the following:

(Attach pages if necessary.)

I acknowledge that the Oconee County Council, Oconee County Planning Commission, and Oconee County staff must take into consideration all relevant information in evaluating this petition, that the final decision rests entirely with the Oconee County Council, and that the approval of this petition is not guaranteed.

Date

Signature

Print Name



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC 29691



TEL (864) 638-4218

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 limbs be regularly maintained to a height of 17' over the road surface, and right-of-way.

Best Regards,

Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC 29691



TEL (864) 638-4218

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)