

Agricultural Advisory Board Agenda

September 9, 2024



1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of allegiance
5. Approval of minutes
 - June 10, 2024
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 or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record.

7. Discussion – Update on Food Council and Farmers Breakfast
8. Discussion – Agricultural Highway Signage
9. Discussion - Farmland Preservation / Over Development
10. Discussion – Update on Ag. Education / Meeting with SDOC Ag Sub-Committee

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

September 9, 2024

Oconee County Council
Chambers
415 S. Pine St. Walhalla, SC
29691

Staff contact

846-638-4218

planninginfo@oconeesc.com

11. **Discussion** – Combine District 1 and 2 Location for October Meeting
12. **Discussion** – Strategic Meeting in November for 2025
13. **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

AAB Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, June 10th, 2024
Blue Ridge Electric Conference Center

Members Present

Natalie Arnold Hoxit
Trent Smith
Kim Alexander
Nate Duncan
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-** Mr. Smith Made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Duncan and approved 5/0
6. **Presentations**
 - **Mission goals and vision**
 - **Members of the board and contact information**
 - **Partner organizations**
 - **Citizen initiated zoning**
7. **Public Discussion Section**
 - Concerns and questions regarding runoff and drain water management
 - i. There is an ordinance takes effect once county reaches a population of 75,000
 - ii. MS4 is the ordinance.
 - iii. The county is not required to enforce the ordinance yet because the ordinance is based on population *and* density
 - iv. until this regulation is a requirement for the county, they will not opt into it
 - v. Runoff and erosion is an issue that is getting worse
 - Timber
 - i. The timber industry in the surrounding area is extremely low due to lack of mills to haul to, as well as prices being too low to make any money hauling long distances. without being able to manage the forests, the pine beetles come in and cause more damage,

resulting in sick forests.

- Education
 - i. Discussion ensued on FFA's efficacy on channeling kids into agricultural careers.
 - ii. There is a lack of support for students participating in agricultural work studies when the work study requires that they miss school meetings.
 - iii. Each school in the county emphasizes different areas of agriculture.
 - iv. Hands-on learning for agricultural careers is the most effective.
 - v. Concerns were expressed about the switch to year-round school in Oconee county. Spring and summer are peak farming times and reducing break time in the summer reduces the amount of farm time for kids looking for experience and/or working on family farms.
- Road conditions
 - i. Campbell road looks like a one lane road right now. the lines are extremely faint and there is a lot of overgrowth

8. Adjourn: Ms. Moxley made a motion to adjourn at 6:49pm, seconded by Mr. Smith and approved 5/0.