

## Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, March 11, 2023

FARM CAFE

### Members Present

Rex Blanton  
Tessa Moxley  
Kim Alexander  
Trent Smith  
Chris Talley  
Nate Duncan  
Charlie Whiten

### Staff Present

James Coley

### Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the makeup meeting for March to order at 6:03pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Approval of minutes-** February 12, 2024. Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.
6. **Presentations**
  - **Mission goals and vision**
  - **Members of the board and contact information.**

Ms. Alexander reviewed the context for the district meetings and went over the concerns that were discussed at the meeting that was held in district V last year.

  - **Partner organizations**
  - **Citizen initiated voting.**
7. **Public discussion** [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**

Mr. Donald presented about the agricultural industry in South Carolina.

- Problematic wildlife: Deer are losing habitat through development, which is pushing them into farmland and destroying crops. Hunters do not have places to hunt the deer to control the population.
- Bills passed:

- ag land preservation act: commissioner of ag on the conservation bank board. The program will seek out farmland in the state that needs to be preserved and send money to the bank to fund the easements. Funding is a big deal. Buys development rights from the farmer. Top scorers is farmland at threat of development, and in proximity to interstates and major highways.
- Senate bill in the House: stops local gov from annexing local farmland without farmer consent.
- Bills presented address transportation of farm goods.
- The State of SC has recognized that the loss of farmland is a big problem.
- State of SC has lost 281,000 acres of farmland to development in last 15 years.
- Concerns about food supply are growing.
- State of SC has the fastest growing population in the nation.
- Beef prices are rocketing.
- 1 mil more square feet needed in this area for broiler chickens.
- New poultry research center at Clemson University in construction now
- Clemson Vet school expected to be operable in 2026.
- Biggest problem is rural development (rural sprawl)

Ms. Alexander updated the ag ed teacher and the students who came from Walhalla on the status of their request for more contracted hours.

Discussion ensued about the local needs for gravel from the quarry. The crusher can't work fast enough to meet demand. Suggestions were made to purchase a second crusher using enterprise funds, or to offer residents a lower price than non-residents.

- 8. Adjourn:** Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.