



OCONEE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
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OconeeSC.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Rex Blanton, Chairman, District 3	Tessa Moxley, At-Large
Kim Alexander, District 1	Nate Duncan, District 2
Gary Wilson, District 4 - Absent	Charlie Whiten, District 5
David McMahan, At-Large - Absent	Absent - Chris Talley, Ex-Officio

STAFF

Elise Dunaway
Ed Halbig

Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, October 13, 2025
Oconee County Council Chambers

1. Call to order – called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Moment of silence
3. Invocation – led by Mr. Whiten
4. Pledge of allegiance – led by Mr. Duncan
5. Minutes approval – motion made by Mr. Whiten to accept the minutes as written second by Mr. Blanton. Approved unanimously.
6. Public Comments - None
7. Discussion –

Farmland protection – Mr. Richard Carr provided an excellent presentation clearing up questions about conservation easements last meeting.

More clarification about conservation easements after his presentation.

Protection of farmland with a deed restriction and private trust. This is very strong and even if they don't qualify for the money for the conservation easement. Using this method protects any size farm just as much as 30 acre or 1000+ acre. Also having land in an easement with an entity like the farm bureau adds an extra layer of protection because of their access to resources like lawyers when things like eminent domain happen, although it is not 100%.

Farm center – completed a successful heritage fair, had 8000 attendees.

Motion made by Ms. Moxley for Mr. Blanton to coordinate with David Rothel for a collaborative public meeting on December the 8th at the farm center second by Ms. Alexander. Approved unanimously.

Farm signage – still making drafts for wording on the sign.

Timber industry – timber is hurting bad; the idea was proposed earlier and now revisited; to build wood pellet fueled power generation to help the power grid and the timber industry.

8. Adjourn - Motion made by Ms. Moxley to adjourn second by Mr. Whiten. Approved unanimously.