



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

June 8, 2017

Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

MEMBERS

Mr. Shea Airey, Chairman
Mr. Frank Ables, Vice Chairman
Ms. Jennifer Moss, Secretary
Mr. Marvin Prater, Treasurer

Ms. Frances Rundlett
Mr. Richard Cain
Mr. Jason Davis
Ms. Katie D. Smith, Staff Liaison

The Oconee County Conservation Bank Board [OCCB] met at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with Mr. Shea Airey, Ms. Jennifer Moss, Mr. Jason Davis, Ms. Frances Rundlett, Mr. Frank Ables, Mr. Richard Cain [came in late] & Mr. Marvin Prater [was not present] and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council acting as staff liaison.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

No members of the media were present.

Call to Order:

Mr. Shea Airey, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Moss made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables approved 5 – 0, to approve the minutes from May 9, 2017 & the minutes from May 23, 2017 meetings as presented.

Mr. Cain came in at this time.

Discussion and/or action regarding Powell Property

Mr. Airey gave a brief description of last meeting. He noted Mr. Eddie Martin, District Manager with Oconee Soil & Water Conservation District, spoke about the background of the project and there were a few items that were needed.

Mr. Davis made a visit to the property and gave a brief description of his observation:

- Typical beef cattle, cow, calf operation
- Mixed forest pasture setting
- Esthetically pleasing landscape
- Crossroads community
- Can access property off of Hwy. 59
- Few small woodlot areas

Mr. Airey noted Mr. Martin spoke at the last meeting on behalf of the Oconee Soil & Water Conservation District which is the non-profit partner that is bringing Mr. Powell's project to the OCCB for consideration. He noted that the farm would be part of entering the Conservation easement with the Soil & Water Conservation District promising to uphold high conservation standards moving forward. The District would be holding that responsibility to make sure Mr. Powell and his successors and heirs would continue to use the property in a way that is sustainable.

Items that were needed from last meeting that were turned in:

- General map of the property in proximity to a town
- Statement of Interest
- Photo evidence of a scenic view
- Notarized statement

Ms. Rundlett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moss, approved 6 – 0, to approve to present Mr. Powell's project to County Council on June 20, 2017 agenda.

Mr. Airey asked the Clerk to let board members know when they are on the agenda for the County Council.

Mr. Airey asked Ms. Moss to create a record of process for each project. He asked for a summary of when the application was turned in, meetings they were discussed at, decision that was made, facts that were presented, etc. Mr. Airey also noted the Clerk would be able to help Ms. Moss if needed.

Mr. Airey also noted that a file or folder with each of the projects would be helpful. The Clerk noted there was one already in place.

Discussion and/or Action regarding Moore Property

Mr. Airey noted the Statement of Interest form had been received from Mr. Keevan Moore and has not been updated. He did not have an eligible OCCB non-profit sponsor listed and would need to peruse a sponsorship.

Mr. Airey noted he would contact Mr. Moore to see if he would like to proceed with the OCCB.

New Business:

A Statement of Interest form came in from the Elaine Morris family [copy filed with these minutes] but wasn't able to make it on the agenda due to the date it was received. Mr. Airey noted he knew Ms. Morris personally and has worked with her as an attorney. In terms of voting or consideration, Mr. Airey noted he would recuse himself if it comes to a vote. The property size is only about 25 acres but is surrounded by public land. Her land borders forest land that is adjacent to the State Forestry Center in Tamassee. This property would unlikely get funding at the state level. The OCCB sponsor on this project is Upstate Forever.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moss, approved 6 – 0, for a full application to be submitted on behalf of Elaine Morris.

Mr. Airey asked the Clerk to contact Upstate Forever and let them know the vote passed for a full application to be submitted and ask them to submit a full application on behalf of the Morris family.

Discussion followed to include:

- Three applications submitted in the last two months
- Three different parts of the County and three different types of property
- Research the type of criteria to best serve citizens in Oconee County
- Ranking system
- What is being funding, how it is being funded, how much is needed to be funded
- Case by case and comparing
- Scoring
- Fundraising opportunities

Old Business:

None at this meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

Adjourn:

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moss, approved 6 – 0, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison