



**MINUTES**  
**CONSERVATION BANK BOARD**  
**February 13, 2018**  
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  
VACANT  
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. Frances Rundlett, Mr. Frank Ables, & Mr. Richard Cain [expect Ms. Jennifer Moss & Mr. Marvin Prater] 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.oconeesc.com/council](http://www.oconeesc.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 called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain approved 4 – 0, to approve the minutes from December 18, 2017 meetings as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Airey noted the deposits and expenditures on the report, giving a balance in account of \$613,735.46 [copy filed with these minutes]. Mr. Cain made a motion, approved unanimously to accept as presented the Treasurer's Reports for January 2018. Mr. Airey further noted due to Mr. Prater's absence, the Treasurer's Reports as presented are accurate. He further noted between this meeting and the next there is potentially a need to fill Mr. Prater's position if he is not able to fulfill his duties.

**2018 Meeting Schedule Establishment [*quarterly – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month*]**

Mr. Airey noted the meeting dates are typically the second Tuesday of the month and meet quarterly. The meeting dates schedule presented is as follows: April 10, 2018, June 12, 2018, August 14, 2018, October 9, 2018, December 11, 2018, & February 12, 2019. Mr. Ables noted he is not available on June 12, 2018. Mr. Airey amended the meeting schedule and removed June 12, 2018 and added June 5, 2018.

Ms. Rundlett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0, to approve the 2018 meeting schedule with the amendment as presented.

Mr. Airey inquired about teleconferencing and if this technique can be used to establish a quorum.

## Discussion Items

### Continued Discussion regarding Alternate Funding Sources

- Grant related information
- Potential funding through the County for the long term attainability of the OCCB
- Recycling initiative letter of support
- Present the idea to County Council to be considered as part of the budget process
- Letters of support from other groups in the community [non-profit organizations, Oconee County Soil & Water Conservation, Upstate Forever, etc.]
- Statement of support and have various individuals sign a petition in support of the statement
- Stakeholders to support these efforts

### Additional interested parties request for the OCCB / Update on which positions will be up for re-appointment

Mr. Airey noted the discussion items “Additional interested parties request for the OCCB” & “Update on which positions will be up for re-appointment” are basically the same and will be discussed together. The Clerk noted the positions that will be up for re-appointment are District 1, District 3, & one At-Large seat and further noted District 2 is vacant. Additionally, Mr. Marvin Prater with District 4 has served two terms and this position will be up for re-appointment. The positions that will be open at the end of this year will be District 1, District 3, District 4, one At-Large. Mr. Airey noted he knew of a few people that were interested in conservation and would be a good fit for the board.

### Discussion and/or action regarding Naturaland Trust

Mr. Chris Starker, Upstate Forever, addressed the Committee regarding Naturaland Trust highlighting the following:

- Submitted application on behalf of Naturaland Trust who currently owns the property
- Portion of the Todd family farm
- Original size of property was a couple hundred acres
- Different family members own part of the property
- One family member has sold a portion to Naturaland Trust and the purchase was funded by the SC Conservation Bank with the intention of donating this land to SC State Parks to add to the Oconee Station
- 53 acres
- Valuable cultural and historical significance
- Historical association with the original house and settlement from the military
- Association with the Eastern Band of the Cherokees and ensuing Native American population
- During the Revolutionary War, several Generals also encamped
- Upstate Forever will hold the easement on this property
- Requesting OCCB to pay the endowment, which is a request Upstate Forever submits to every land owner prior to entering a conservation agreement
- Once the easement is signed, the land will be conveyed to the parks
- Property is under the possession of a land trust
- Naturaland Trust holds property titles; Upstate Forever does not own property titles
- Upstate Forever holds easements; Naturaland Trust does not hold easements

Discussion continued.

**Old Business:**

None at this meeting.

**New Business:**

Mr. Ables inquired about the type of account that the OCCB funds are currently in. Mr. Airey noted the funds were in a checking account but would like to see them in a more productive account, such as a CD. Mr. Airey asked if there were any other boards/commissions using any other type of account to generate interest. Mr. Airey asked the Clerk to see if there were other types of accounts available to generate interest.

Mr. Airey reminded members to talk to people who might be interested in serving on the board and also noted the Clerk would be sending out the board/commission questionnaire. The Clerk noted to email completed questionnaires to [ksmith@oconeesc.com](mailto:ksmith@oconeesc.com) or they can be dropped off at the Clerk's office at Pine Street.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Katie D. Smith  
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison