



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

November 17, 2020

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

MEMBERS

Mr. Andrew Smith, Chair, District II
Ms. Emily Hitchcock, Vice Chairman, At Large
Mr. Ryan Keese, Secretary, District, III
Ms. Laura Havran, Treasurer, District I

Mr. Marvin Prater, District IV
VACANT, District V
VACANT, At Large
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 all members present [except Mr. 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]. 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. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Keese made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hitchcock, approved 4 – 0, to approve the minutes from September 15, 2020 meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havran read the Treasurer's Reports for Community First Bank and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] and noted they are accurate as presented. She further noted the balances on the reports are as follows:

Community First Bank for September 2020 is \$16,755.00 and October 2020 is \$16,755.00;

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for September 2020 is \$410,162.72 and October 2020 is \$410,235.53.

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 4 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for both Community First Bank and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for September 2020 and October 2020.

Discussion Items

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the topics indicated below, with various opinions expressed, to include but not limited to:

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Continued discussion regarding the Duke Energy report

Mr. Smith addressed the Board utilizing three handouts entitled “Report to Duke Energy – Oconee County Conservation Bank”, “Oconee County Conservation Bank Income and Expenditures”, and “Statement of Financial Position” [all copies filed with backup materials]. The Board discussed the report, noting corrections and additions that need to be made.

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keese, approved 4 – 0, to accept the report to Duke Energy with corrections by the Chair as discussed.

Discussion from the OCCB Procedures Committee

Ms. Hitchcock noted the Committee has continued to meet and the documents are almost complete for the Board to review, which included the application, criteria worksheet, evaluation score sheet, and the policy. The Committee will send the draft of the application form and policy to the eligible recipients, which would be Naturaland Trust, Upstate Forever, and Oconee Soil & Water Conservation District, for their comments and the recipients to send comments back to the Board by the end of November. She noted the Committee could evaluate and consider the comments received before bringing the draft to the Board for consideration and approval.

Update regarding Elaine Morris project

Mr. Smith noted the Board approved a grant for \$12,500 and have been sent the appropriate closing documents for review to Mr. Root, County Attorney, and himself. He noted they are going to close in November 2020.

New Applications Submitted by the November 1st Deadline

Peggy Moore application – TMS # 290-00-04-010 & 290-00-04-029

Mr. Smith noted the first application was from Peggy Moore submitted by Oconee Soil & Water Conservation District. Mr. Keese noted he has a personal/familial interest in this matter and recused himself from the discussion [recusal form filed with these minutes].

The Board reviewed the application and discussed the corrections that need to be made. The Board asked Mr. Martin to submit additional items.

Naturaland Trust / Burrell’s Place application – TMS # 042-00-01-004

Mr. Smith noted Naturaland Trust owns this property. He noted this property was bought in June and the ordinance limits the Board to using funds for acquiring interest in land including the closing costs. He further noted the application is essentially for a reimbursement of purchase Naturaland Trust has completed. Mr. Smith noted this application is not what the Board could fund because it is not for the acquisition of an interest in land.

Discussion continued to include:

- OCCB funds shall be used only by the eligible OCCB recipient for the acquisition of interest in land including closing costs
- Ordinance changes
- Reimbursement of funds through the SC Conservation Bank
- Fund restoration

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Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 4 – 0, to notify Naturaland Trust that at this time we do not have the authority to recommend a grant for the purposes set forth in their application.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

Adjourn:

Ms. Havran made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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OCONEE CONSERVATION
BANK BOARD RECUSAL
FORM

OCCB Member Name:

Ryan Keese

(Please Print)

OCCB Member Signature:

RYAN KEESE

Meeting Date:

11.17.2020

Item for Discussion/Note:

Peggy Moore

Reason for Recusal

I was not present for original meeting/discussion

I have a personal/familial interest in the issue.

Other:

Katie D. Smith
Katie Smith
Clerk to Council