



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

November 12, 2024

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

MEMBERS

Ms. Emelyn Jones, Chair, At Large
Mr. Andrew Smith, Vice Chair, District II
Mr. Ryan Keese, Secretary, District, III
Mr. Gordon Becker, District I

Mr. Taylor Howard, Treasurer, District IV
Mr. Scuddy Walker, District V
Ms. Jessica Fry, At Large
Mrs. Jennifer C. Adams, 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 [Ms. Fry absent] and Jennifer C. Adams, 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

Ms. Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Becker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 5 – 0, to approve the September 10, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Howard read the Treasurer's Report for the Community First Bank and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] and noted they are accurate as presented [copies filed in backup]. He further noted the balances on the reports are as follows:

Community First Bank for August 2024 is \$35,480.00, September 2024 is \$35,180.00, and October 2024 is \$35,180.00.

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for August 2024 is \$355,077.12, September 2024 is \$356,634.76, and October 2024 is \$358,159.04.

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, approved 5 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank for August, September and October of 2024 and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for August, September and October of 2024.

Mr. Keese joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Fundraising and Public Relations Report

None for this meeting.

Grants Status

Mr. Walker informed the Board that there have been no changes in the OCCB Grants Disbursed and Expenses chart [copy filed in backup].

Mr. Smith inquired about the balance of the Community First bank account, noting there was still \$35,000.00 in the account for the closing of the Fall Creek Headwaters property.

Mr. Chris Starker, Upstate Forever Land Conservation Manager, informed the Board that the Fall Creek Headwaters property was set to close the first week in December.

Discussion Items

Discussion regarding Stevenson Century Farms Application for Funding

Ms. Jones noted that a new application for funding [copy filed in backup] has been received for Stevenson Century Farms.

Presentation by Chris Starker / Land Conservation Manager with Upstate Forever

Mr. Chris Starker and Mr. Andrew Stevenson, property owner of Stevenson Century Farms, provided the Board with details regarding the Stevenson Century Farms property, while offering answers to all Board member inquiries surrounding the property and the request for funding.

Discussion regarding procedures for Grant Process Cycle / Stevenson Century Farms site visit opportunity

Ms. Jones noted a site visit is needed before the next meeting of the OCCB, which is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

After a short discussion by the Board, it was decided that Mr. Becker, Mr. Walker and Mr. Smith would coordinate a time with Mr. Starker and Mr. Stevenson to visit the Stevenson Century Farms.

Ms. Jones went on to provide an overview of how the OCCB grant cycle works and what documents Board members need to have completed by the December 10, 2024 OCCB meeting.

Mrs. Adams, staff liaison, informed the Board that Council consideration of approval regarding the Stevenson Century Farms request for funding could possibly be placed on the January 21, 2025 County Council agenda, if the Board approves the application at their December 10, 2024 meeting.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Keese, seconded by Mr. Howard.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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