



Oconee County Economic Development Commission

Minutes of Meeting

November 16, 2012

The Oconee County Economic Development Commission meeting was held November 16, 2012 at the Commission office, 502 East Main Street, Walhalla, SC.

In Attendance -

Commission Members:

- Kim Alexander, *District I*
- Harold Gibson, *District II*
- Hank Field, *District III*
- Sammy Dickson, *District IV*
- Gene Blair, *District V*

Ex-Officio Members:

- Scott Moulder, Oconee County Administrator
- Paul Corbeil, Council Economic Development Committee Chair
- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, President, Tri-County Technical College
- Dr. Michael Lucas, Superintendent, School District of Oconee County
- Jeanne L. Ward, President/CEO Oconee Medical Center
- Marvin Carmichael, Chief of Staff, Assistant to the President, Clemson University
- Robert C. Winchester, Director, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
- Art Holbrooks, Director, Planning Commission
- Jim Gadd, Executive Director, Oconee Alliance
- John Lummus, VP Economic Development, Tri-County Technical College

EDC Staff:

- Richard K. Blackwell, *Executive Director*
- Russell Johnson, *Project & Marketing Manager*

Guests:

None

News Media:

Ray Chandler, Reporter, Anderson Independent Mail
Mike Eads, Reporter, Daily Journal
Dick Mangrum, WGOG

Call to Order: Mr. Field, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Action to Approve the Agenda: Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's EDC Commission meeting as presented. Mr. Dickson moved the agenda be approved; Mr. Blair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the October EDC Commission meeting be approved as presented. Mr. Blair moved the Minutes be approved; motion seconded by Mr. Dickson. Motion carried.

Oconee County Update: Mr. Corbeil, Chair of the Oconee County Council Economic Development Committee, provided a short update that referenced the recent hiring of a Finance Director, the progression towards the formulation of a County Annual Report and the “fast track permitting” that is in place.

Oconee Alliance Review: Mr. Gadd, Executive Director, commented on the Junior Leadership program, the December speaker and the recent story on the Jocassee Gorges in National Geographic.

EDC Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Richard Blackwell, Executive Director, commented on recent activity and referenced the business development summary sheet. He also updated the Commission on Echo Hills site certification, recent transactions of industrial property in the county and gave a recap of some recent press noting positive economic development in the County. In closing, Mr. Blackwell invited members of the Commission to take part in the SC Institute if able.

Project and Marketing Report: Russell Johnson, Director of Projects and Marketing, provided an update on recent marketing advertisements the EDC has conducted and gave a slideshow on progress being made in constructing Phase I of Echo Hills.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Dr. Lucas, Superintendent of Oconee School District, gave a quick overview of some positive rankings and discussed the “SC Annual School District Report Card Summary.”

Mr. Field discussed canceling the previously scheduled December Commission Meeting and asked for motion to do so. Mr. Dickson made the motion to cancel the December meeting and Mr. Blair seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjourn: Mr. Dickson moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Mr. Blair. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard K. Blackwell