



Oconee County Economic Development Commission

Minutes of Meeting

February 15, 2013

The Oconee County Economic Development Commission meeting was held February 15, 2013 at the Commission office, 502 East Main Street, Walhalla, SC.

In Attendance -

Commission Members:

- Dave Eldridge, *District I*
- Vacant, *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*
- Kirsten Pratt, *Intern*

Members of Council:

Reg Dexter, Oconee County Council Member
Archie Barron, Oconee County Council Member

Special Guests:

Bozo Richards, Citizen
Andrew Allen, URS
Ryan Page, URS
Jonathan Dix, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham's Office

News Media:

Ray Chandler, Reporter, Anderson Independent Mail
Dick Mangrum, WGOG

Call to Order: Mr. Field, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present. Chairman Field recognized Jonathan Dix from Senator Graham’s office and thanked him for attending the meeting.

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. Eldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

EDC Vice Chairman Vote:

Chairman Field asked for nominations for the role of Vice Chairman of the EDC. Mr. Dickson nominated Mr. Eldridge to serve the unexpired term vacated by Mr. Harold Gibson rolling off the EDC Commission board. Chairman Field seconded the motion. The nomination of Mr. Eldridge for Vice Chair passed on a voice vote.

Special Presentation on “Sewer South”: Andrew Allen and Ryan Page from URS presented the plan for “Sewer South.” This was for information-only.

Oconee County Update: Mr. Moulder noted a recently held meeting for County Council that will served as their “Strategic Planning” where some of the top goals where around economic development and infrastructure. Mr. Moulder then gave a quick update on a few initiatives - Sanctuary Pointe, “Sewer South” Project and sewer modeling, Pioneer Water in the Golden Corner Commerce Park and the build-out of the substation.

Oconee Alliance Review: Mr. Gadd, Executive Director, noted the continued emphasis on the “plan by choice” implementation and he noted the success of the Junior Leadership Program. Lastly, he made the Commission aware of the next meeting on March 14th.

EDC Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Richard Blackwell, Executive Director, commented on recent economic development activities. Mr. Blackwell mentioned the Work Ready Communities initiative and how the application had been submitted. A quick update on product development related to Echo Hills, Golden Corner and AID was given. Lastly, he gave an overview of contacts made during a recent trip with the SC Dept. of Commerce and SC Power Team to New York/New Jersey.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Blackwell gave an in-depth presentation EDC Business Plan (hand-out) for the remaining of 2013. No discussion.

Adjourn: Mr. Eldridge moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Chairman Field. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard K. Blackwell