



Oconee County Economic Development Commission

Minutes of Meeting

April 19, 2013

The Oconee County Economic Development Commission (OCEDC) meeting was held April 19, 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
Jonathan Dix, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham's Office
Elizabeth Feather, Upstate SC Alliance

News Media:

Ray Chandler, Reporter, Anderson Independent Mail

Call to Order: Mr. Eldridge, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum of appointed OCEDC Commissioners was present. Chairman Field was absent so Vice Chair Eldridge conducted the meeting.

Action to Approve the Agenda: Vice Chair Eldridge asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's OCEDC meeting as presented. Commissioner Blair moved the agenda be approved as presented; Commissioner Dickson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Vice Chair Eldridge asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the March OCEDC meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Dickson moved the Minutes be approved; motion seconded by Commissioner Blair. Motion carried.

Oconee County Update: Councilor Dexter provided a quick synopsis of County issues that included the progression of the budget process and the upcoming discussions around diversifying the tax revenues.

Oconee Alliance Review: Richard Blackwell, in the absence of Mr. Jim Gadd, commented that the last meeting of the Alliance was a good one as it consisted of a presentation from Sheriff Crenshaw. The next meeting will be centered on the topic of Sustainability as a presenter from Furman will be present.

MLBDC Update: Vice Chair Eldridge provided a quick update on progress being made on the entrepreneur front via the MLBDC. He noted the current discussions on expanding the MLBDC to include a stronger relationship with Tri-County Tech.

Special Presentation from the Upstate SC Alliance: Elizabeth Feather, research manager, provided an overview of a new "tool" at the disposal of the Oconee County Economic Development Commission that allows for greater in-depth analysis on workforce issues to respond to projects.

EDC Executive Director's Report: Mr. Richard Blackwell, Executive Director, commented on recent economic development activities. He highlighted the data center announcement and closure on the hotel project for Walhalla. He also gave an overview of the availability of industrial use buildings in the county. He also shared with the Commission the recent marketing activities to include a direct mail piece to economic development allies.

Mr. Blackwell made the Commission aware of Frank Lamson-Scribner, BASF, being selected as the "Ambassador" for economic development in Oconee County. In closing, Mr. Blackwell mentioned upcoming talks with the Oconee Alliance and will report back the result of that discussion.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Blackwell made the attendees aware of the Long Creek Business Map project.

Adjourn: Vice Chair Eldridge moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Commissioner Dickson. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard K. Blackwell