



## **Oconee County Economic Development Commission**

### Minutes of Meeting

October 18, 2013

#### **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 Administer
- √ Paul Corbeil, Council Economic Development Committee Chair
- X Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, President, Tri-County Technical Chair
- X Dr. Michael Lucas, Superintendent, School District of Oconee County
- √ Jeanne L. Ward, President/CEO Oconee Medical Center
- X Marvin Carmichael, Chief of Staff, Assistant to the President, Clemson University
- √ Robert C. Winchester, Director, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
- X Jim Gadd, Executive Director, Oconee Alliance
- X John Lummus, VP Economic Development, Tri-County Technical College
- √ David Stokes, Dir., Community Development
- √ Dr. Michael Thorsland, School District of Oconee County

##### **EDC Staff**

- √ Richard K. Blackwell, Executive Director
- √ Russell Johnson, Project & Marketing Manager
- √ Megan Ballenger, Admin. Assistant

##### **Members of Council**

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

##### **Special Guest**

Bozo Richards, Citizen	Lori Sons
Jonathan Dicks, Senator Graham's office	Robert Halfacre
Jennifer Miller, Upstate Alliance	Emeile Hegarty, Upstate Alliance
Matthew Tringali	

##### **Media**

Dick Mangrum, WGOG  
Ray Chandler, Anderson Independent Mail  
Norm Cannada, The Journal

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Field, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum of appointed OCEDC Commissioners was present.

**Action to Approve the Agenda:**

Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's OCEDC meeting as presented. Commissioner Dickson moved the agenda be approved as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Blair. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the September OCEDC meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Eldridge moved the minutes be approved; motion seconded by Commissioner Blair. Motion carried.

**Special Presentation- Upstate SC Alliance Update:**

Jennifer Miller informed the commission on recent meetings and an overall progress report. She also made the Commission aware of upcoming events on the calendar. She then had question and answer time afterwards.

**Oconee County Update:**

Mr. Moulder informed the group of Oconee County's focus on promoting a positive message through social media and the radio ads. He also briefly discussed recent product development activities.

**TCEDC Update:**

Commissioner Dave Eldridge provided an update regarding recent training programs that have increased exposure and successes. He stated over 400 people have completed the program thus. He commented on recent meetings to discuss putting an incubator at the Seneca Commerce Center.

**Summary of 2013 AOP Showcase:**

Mr. Russell Johnson reviewed the recent showcase event. Overall, a good event with a high turnout and positive cash flow. He then commented on the recent Worklink hiring event that is being held monthly, alternating between counties.

**Oconee Alliance Update:**

Mr. Robert Halfacre, Chair, thanked the group for their ongoing support with all that has happened in the last few months. He commented that at the next council meeting, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a presentation and request made about the merger. He also discussed the newspaper article concerning the merger between the OCEDC and Oconee Alliance and how it is being perceived as a good thing within the business community.

**OCEDC Update:**

Mr. Richard Blackwell, executive director, reviewed recent exposure for the OCEDC and displayed ads in economic development trade publications. He then provided an update on business development activities, briefed the commission on product development, commented on the Ulbrich expansion and reviewed other organizational updates in the handouts. In closing, he noted he is excited about the good things happening with all the projects and how well they are progressing and the strong activity.

**Old Business:**

Commissioner Gene Blair said the turnout for "Steak in Oconee" was good and the whole event was a success.

**New Business:**

Mr. Blackwell invited everyone to the November OCEDC Meeting that will be held on 11/15/13 at 9:00 am and the "Holiday Hello" will be on December 6, 2013 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Commissioner Blair informed every one of the upcoming "State of Oconee" that will be in February 2014.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Field moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 am.