

# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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## MINUTES

6:00 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017  
 COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
 OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present: Ms. Sewell  
 Mr. Hollifield  
 Ms. Alexander  
 Mr. Land  
 Ms. Willoughby  
 Mr. Marshall

Staff Present: Gregory Gordos, Senior Planner – Community Development

Media Present: none.

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hollifield made a motion to approve the minutes from March 13, 2017 meeting. Ms. Sewell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

### 3. Discussion of Creating a Letter of Support to FARM Center

Ms. Sewell asked about the status of the FARM Center in their negotiations with Oconee County. Board discussion followed on the cost of a driveway encroachment off of US-123, potential contract contents, and support for the proposed facility.

The Board inquired about the status of the letter of support (a draft document was provided as part of the Backup information).

Mr. Danny Howard was invited to speak before the Board. He recognized the Charleston area as having the first agricultural advisory body and recommended using this group as a template. Mr. Howard also referenced the past work of Greenville County and their planning staff.

Mr. Marshall made a motion to table the agenda item until the next scheduled meeting. Ms. Willoughby seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**4. Discussion on Creating an AAB Mission Statement, AAB Proclamation, and potential AAB Partnerships**

Mr. Marshall introduced the matter before the Board, noting that the documents were provided as Backup information and emailed prior to the meeting. The draft documents were previously created and distributed by Mr. Blanton at the March 13, 2017 meeting. It was agreed that in Mr. Blanton's absence other members of the Board could review and revise the drafts if needed.

Ms. Sewell stated that she should review the draft letter to outside agencies (potential AAB Partnerships)

Mr. Marshall stated that he would review the draft AAB Mission Statement.

Mr. Hollifield commended the draft AAB Mission Statement created by Mr. Blanton. Discussion followed on the conciseness of a future mission statement (possibly one sentence) and the needs of the Oconee County Council by this Board.

Ms. Alexander joined the meeting and updated the Board on the progress of comparable agriculture center facilities in the region, stating that the County cannot wait too long on a FARM Center based on competition. Ms. Alexander requested permission to conduct a survey of economic impacts at upcoming agriculture-related events in the region. Discussion followed on the Heritage Fair, Walhalla Oktoberfest growth, facility needs, and other family-friendly events.

Mr. Marshall made a motion to permit Ms. Alexander to draft an economic impact study survey on behalf of the Agricultural Advisory Board. A draft would be presented at a future AAB meeting. Mr. Hollifield seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**5. Old Business**

None presented.

**6. New Business**

Ms. Sewell suggested the creation of a slogan for the Agricultural Advisory Board or the agriculture community at large in Oconee County for use at farmers markets and other events. Ms. Alexander asked Mr. Gordos if the Oconee Economic Alliance (OEA) could be asked for assistance. Mr. Gordos confirmed that he would reach out to Mr. Richard Blackwell and Ms. Janet Hartman, as they were scheduled to provide a presentation to the Planning Commission on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Gordos stated he would update the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

Discussion followed on Council, OEA support for the FARM Center, and what other roles the Board could play in promoting agriculture in Oconee County outside of FARM Center support.

Ms. Alexander requested an update on zoning overlays on Highway 11. Mr. Gordos stated there is not currently a zoning overlay in that region but that the Planning Commission has been tasked by the County Council to study the concept of corridor planning county-wide.

**7. Board Correspondence with Outside Agencies**

None presented.

**8. Adjourn**

Mr. Marshall motioned to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.