

# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218

## AGENDA

6:30 PM, Monday October 14th, 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment (3- minutes per person)
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Agricultural Element of the Comprehensive Plan - Goals, Objectives, and Strategies
5. Ag & Art
6. Agricultural Communication and updates
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

Anyone wishing to submit written comments to the Agricultural Advisory Board can send their comments to the Planning Department by mail or by emailing them to the email address below. Please Note: If you would like to receive a copy of the agenda via email please contact our office, or email us at [achapman@oconeesc.com](mailto:achapman@oconeesc.com).

# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

## Minutes

6:30 PM, MONDAY, September 9, 2019  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

### Draft Minutes – Monday, September 9, 2019

#### Members Present

Sandra Gray  
Edward Land  
Rex Blanton  
Doug Hollifield  
Debbie Sewell  
Vickie Willoughby

#### Staff Present

Adam Chapman  
Vivian Kompier

#### Media Present

Caitlin Harrington - The Journal

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Blanton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. **Public Comment** - None
- **3. Approval of 8/12/2019 Minutes** – Ms. Sewell made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Land and approved 6/0.
4. **Agriculture Element of the Comprehensive Plan** –
  - Public Comment (3-minutes per person)** – None
  - Discussion/Vote** –
    - 8.1.1.9 – Ms. Sewell made a motion to accept the changes, Ms. Gray seconded and was accepted 6/0.
    - 8.1.1.10 – Mr. Land made a motion to accept the changes, Ms. Sewell seconded and was approved 6/0.

8.3.1.9 – Mr. Hollifield mad a motion to change the wording to “Demonstrate the use of agriculture as a method of mitigating climate change.” Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 6/0.

Page 8-7 – Ms. Sewell made a motion to add Apiculture. Sentence should read “equine, apiculture, and aquaculture” Seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.

Mr. Land made a motion to send the Agriculture Element to Planning Commission, Ms. Sewell seconded and was approved 6/0.

Mr. Land made a motion to send Mr. Blanton to present the Agriculture Element to the Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Hollifield and approved 6/0.

## **6. Old Business –**

- September 10, 2019. 4:00pm meeting at Chattooga Belle.
- Heritage Fair September 24 – 28, 2019. A motion was made by Mr. Land to have Mr. Blanton speak at the Farmers Appreciation Dinner, seconded by Ms. Sewell and approved 6/0. Dinner is free to all farmers and gets a ticket to the fair.
- Farm Bureau annual meeting at Westminster Middle School

## **7. New Business –**

- A motion was made by Ms. Sewell directing staff to research poultry setbacks. Seconded by Mr. Land and approved 6/0.
- Mr. Land said that we need to recognize and support the FFA and Agriculture teachers.

## **8. Adjourn –** The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Anyone wishing to submit written comments to the Agricultural Advisory Board can send their comments to the Planning Department by mail or by emailing them to the email address below. Please Note: If you would like to receive a copy of the agenda via email please contact our office, or email us at [achapman@oconeesc.com](mailto:achapman@oconeesc.com).

## E. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The table of goals, objectives and implementation strategies (GOIS) summarizes the actions that will be undertaken in the coming decade to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the Agriculture Element. The Agricultural Advisory Board of Oconee County will be a driving force and an accountable agency for all goals, objectives, and strategies below.

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Completion
<b>Goal 8.1. Support and Protect the Agricultural Industry in Oconee County.</b>		
<b>Objective 8.1.1. Recognize important agricultural land as a valuable natural resource to protect for future generations.</b>		
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.1.</u> Advocate use of “Best Management Practices” in farmland and forest operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Commission</li> <li>• Soil &amp; Water Conservation Commissions</li> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Clemson Cooperative Extension (CCE)</li> <li>• State Forestry Commission</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.2.</u> Encourage and support collaboration between landowners and public and private agencies in the development of ecologically and economically sound plans for preservation and restoration of farmland and forests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.3.</u> Work with SCDOT and other state and regional agencies to ensure projects for infrastructure facility maintenance and expansion will not be detrimental to the continuation of agriculture and silviculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SCDOT</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Planning Commission</li> <li>• Oconee Economic Alliance(OEA)</li> </ul>	2021
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.4.</u> Limit non-agricultural development in productive and prime agricultural areas to densities and development patterns that are consistent with the continuation of economically viable agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• OEA</li> </ul>	2021
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.5.</u> Support state legislation that links incentives to continue farming (such as state income tax credits or differential assessment for property taxes and affirmative supports for the business of agriculture) with controls preventing conversion of the recipient's agricultural land to non-farm uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Legislative Delegation</li> </ul>	2025

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Completion
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.6.</u> Seek grants and take advantage of state and federal programs to assist with the purchase of development rights and agricultural easements on prime agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.7.</u> Ensure that the impacts to adjacent farms and forest land is part of the deliberation and decision making for proposed public projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2021
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.8.</u> Work with the state Real Estate Licensing commission to add an “Agricultural Disclosure Act” to ensure that potential home/land/business purchasers are made aware that agricultural activity is occurring on land adjacent to the purchaser’s property of interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• State Real Estate Licensing Commission</li> <li>• Legislative Delegation</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.9.</u> Activate vacant and underutilized County owned property to facilitate a program that invites entrepreneurs, non-profits, residents, and other groups to begin entry-level agricultural businesses, community gardens, and pilot programs for engaging residents in the agricultural processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• NGO</li> <li>• Not-for-Profit organizations</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Ag. organizations</li> <li>• School Board</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.1.1.10.</u> Create a staff position of Agricultural communication and coordination to coordinate and communicate with farmers, foresters, local governments, agricultural groups, and the public on agricultural and forestry matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2023
<b>Objective 8.1.2. Enhance agricultural operations and opportunities.</b>		
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.1.</u> Work with state and federal agencies to attract agribusiness-related grants and revenue sources and support efforts to establish pilot programs related to new agricultural technologies and products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee Economic Alliance</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.2.</u> Provide appropriate assistance to expand non- traditional and specialty agribusiness opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	2021
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.3.</u> Ensure the ability of a farm to have a farm-related business onsite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Planning Commission</li> </ul>	2021

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Completion
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.4.</u> Promote the establishment of new farm enterprises through support of training for interested persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• School Board</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.5.</u> Allow agricultural products processing facilities to locate in areas with convenient access to farms, but ensure that they do not negatively impact rural character or scenic vistas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee Economic Alliance</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.6.</u> Support South Carolina right-to-farm laws and consider adopting a county right-to-farm policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	2021
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.7.</u> Promote farm stands and farmers markets in rural and urban areas and local food hub(s) with adjoining counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• FARM Center</li> </ul>	2023
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.8.</u> Consider adopting a Voluntary Agricultural and Forestal Areas program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Planning Commission</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.1.2.9.</u> Encourage and support programs that educate and engage residents of all ages in aspects of farming and agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Agriculture Advisory Board</li> <li>• Organizations such as FFA and the Oconee Cultivation Project</li> <li>• FARM Center</li> </ul>	2023
<b>Goal 8.2. Protect Oconee County's Forest Resources.</b>		
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.1.</u> Maintain an accurate inventory of important forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> </ul>	2023

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Completion
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.2.</u> Coordinate and plan infrastructure and development to protect forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• SCDOT</li> <li>• US Forestry Commission</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.3.</u> Support efforts to permanently preserve important forestland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• US Forestry Service</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.4.</u> Work with the Forestry Commission to educate citizens about wildfire hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> <li>• Rural fire departments</li> <li>• US Forestry Commission</li> <li>• CCE</li> </ul>	2021
<u>Strategy 8.2.1.5.</u> Consider adopting the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, or relevant portions, to help mitigate wildfire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Rural fire departments</li> </ul>	2025
<b>Goal 8.3. Ensure continuing access to healthy, fresh food.</b>		
<b>Objective 8.3.1. Eliminate food deserts and ensure access to healthy food.</b>		
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.1.</u> Integrate food system policies and planning into County land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Local food banks</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County School Board</li> </ul>	2030
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.2.</u> Encourage residents to supplement personal food sources with gardening and fresh food preservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service</li> <li>• Oconee County School Board</li> </ul>	2025
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.3.</u> Recruit, support, and incentivize businesses that provide healthy food choices in all areas of the County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• CCE</li> </ul>	2027
<u>Strategy 8.3.1.4.</u> Revise land use policies to require healthy food access as a part of development standards, prohibit private restrictions that limit gardens, and community gardens, in residential areas when economic incentives are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• OEA</li> </ul>	2023

<p>offered by the County to a developer .</p>		
<p><b>Goals/Objectives/Strategies</b></p>	<p><b>Accountable Agencies</b></p>	<p><b>Time Frame for Completion</b></p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.5.</u> Work collaboratively with non-profits and other entities to address the needs of vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly, children, homeless).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Local non-profits</li> <li>• Faith-based community</li> <li>• Farmers’ markets</li> </ul>	<p>2023</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.6.</u> Support new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> </ul>	<p>2023</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.7.</u> Revise the zoning code to require healthy food access as a part of development standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Planning Commission</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> </ul>	<p>2025</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.8.</u> Work collaboratively to ensure that regional emergency preparedness programs include food access and distribution and are working toward the goal of establishing regional capacity for feeding the population for 2 to 3 months in an emergency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• SC Emergency Management</li> <li>• Private organizations</li> <li>• NFPO</li> <li>• Disaster relief organizations</li> </ul>	<p>2030</p>
<p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.9.</u> Demonstrate the use of agriculture as a method of mitigating climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oconee County</li> <li>• School Board</li> <li>• CCE</li> <li>• Agricultural groups</li> <li>• Private organizations</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Conservation groups</li> <li>• Local non-profits</li> <li>• Faith-based community</li> <li>• Farmers’ markets</li> <li>• Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Local food banks</li> <li>• SC Forestry Commission</li> </ul>	<p>2023</p>

