

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

Minutes

4:00 PM, Monday July 12, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present

Rex Blanton
Debbie Sewell
Charlie Whiten
Tessa Moxley

Staff Present

Vivian Kompier

Media Present

None

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Sewell called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

2. **Approval of minutes from June 14** – Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction (Letter from Trixi Derosa-Davis was a phone call, not a letter), seconded by Mr. Rex Blanton and approved 4/0.

3. **Public Comment**
 - a. Mike Smith, Chair, Oconee County Planning Commission: work with state and federal agencies to attract agribusiness related grants and revenue sources and support efforts to establish a pilot program related to new agricultural technologies and products.

4. **Presentations to AAB**
 - a. **Andy Whitten, Young Farmers-Road safety and agriculture**
 - i. Mailboxes on the shoulders of roads are big issue for farm equipment transportation
 - ii. Education is needed

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1. Can we start a program to educate drivers on how to drive around farm equipment?
- iii. Mailboxes and vegetation on Highway 24 are too close to the road
 1. Safety issue
- iv. Secondary roads have to be taken because of weight limits on bridges, but secondary roads are too narrow.

Discussion: Ms. Sewell suggests a county-wide awareness campaign on road safety in regards to agricultural equipment. Mr. Blanton volunteered to research already existing programs within the state that have been implemented in regards to the issue.

Mr. Whiten made a motion to have the Agriculture Advisory board present the issue of road safety in regards to agricultural equipment transportation to the County Council, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 4/0.

Ms. Sewell volunteered to present the issue at the next Planning Commission meeting.

5. Discussion – Farmland conservation and preservation: Agricultural Advisory Board / Planning recommendations

- a. Mr. Blanton looked into conservation easements and grants
 - b. Ms. Sewell found a voluntary ag-district program in North Carolina that was county by county instead of at the state level
- 6. Agricultural Advisory Board meeting start time** – the board must get approval from Ms. Brock before voting to change the time. Mr. Blanton made a motion to have the August meeting at 4:00 PM; seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved 4/0.
- 7. Adjourn**— Mr. Blanton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 PM; seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved 4/0.