

Agricultural Advisory Board Agenda

September 11, 2023



1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of allegiance
5. Approval of minutes
August, 2023
6. Presentations [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required]
 - Mission goals and vision
 - Members of the board and contact information
 - Partner organizations
 - Citizen initiated zoning
7. Public discussion session [*3 minutes per person*]
8. Discussion regarding establishment of an “Agricultural 2” zoning district and other matters related there to.
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion/ vote
9. Adjourn

Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

When & Where

6:00 PM

September 11, 2023

**Mountain Rest Post Office
9601 Highlands Highway
Mountain Rest SC 29664**

Staff contact

846-638-4218

planninginfo@oconeesc.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Alexander, Chairman, District I

Rex Blanton, District III

Charlie Whiten, District V

Tessa Moxley, Secretary, At-Large

Trent Smith, District II

OPEN, District IV

Joshua Owens, At-Large

Chris Talley, Ex-Officio

Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, August 14, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present

Joshua Owens
Charlie Whiten
Rex Blanton
Tessa Moxley
Kim Alexander
Trent Smith
Chris Talley

Staff Present

James Coley

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Approval of minutes-** July 10, 2023. Mr Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Smith and approved 6/0.
6. **Public discussion Session** [*3 minutes per person*] *If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting the Planning Department at planninginfo@oconeesc.com or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record*
7. **Presentations** [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required]
 - Mr. Owens made a motion to add the Department of Forestry to the presentations, seconded by Mr. Smith and approved 6/0.
 - **Victor Wyatt-**
 - i. US forest service-department of agriculture. Manage the Sumter National Forest.
 - ii. Trey Cox-point of contact with the forestry commission for management by private owners.
 - iii. Canton Mill closure had a dramatic ripple effect on the market. "A managed forest is a healthy forest".
 - iv. Federal grant programs are available for individuals willing to start up and/or expand a sawmilling operation.

1. Marcus Taylor-wood innovations and grant expert
 2. Workshop coming up-how to submit a grant proposal. No set date yet.
- **Isaac Quaye-voluntary Ag Districts**-Mr. Quaye was not present. Ms. Alexander spoke briefly on the topic. If you want to protect agriculture this is a proven way to do so.
 - i. Ms. Alexander made a motion to postpone Mr. Quaye's presentation until October. The motion was approved 6/0.
 - **Agricultural II Zoning District**
 - i. The Planning Commission voted it down, but has been added back on the agenda due to public comment
 - **September meeting-District 2- Mountain Rest**
 - i. Ms. Moxley requested that the Forest Service send an agent to this meeting, as District 2 has a number of folks who manage timber, as well as a small sawmill operation
 - **Meeting items through December 2023**
8. **Adjourn:** Mr. Whiten made a motion to adjourn, 6:26pm, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.

Agriculture Advisory Board

The mission of the Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board is to aid and advise the county on all matters related to agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in the county are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county is both maintained and developed.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 1, 6-21-2016)

Meeting Documents:

2023 ▼

Date	Agendas	Backup Material	Minutes
01-09-2023	Agenda	Backup Material	N/A
02-13-2023	Agenda	N/A	N/A
03-13-2023	Agenda	N/A	N/A

Responsibilities and Duties:

1. To serve in an advisory role to Council on any matter concerning agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are both supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in Oconee County are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county are both maintained and developed.
2. To formulate plans and recommend their implementation to County Council, including, but not limited to, ways to bolster agri-business, agri-tourism, and agriculture in general.
3. To make policy recommendations, through the Planning Commission, and to County Council regarding agricultural land use.
4. To coordinate policy development with other jurisdictions and agencies to better promote the agricultural industry as a whole.
5. To serve as an educational and public awareness forum for agriculture related topics.

The Agricultural Advisory Board reports directly to County Council, and/or committees as appropriate and necessary in order to carry out the foregoing functions.

Representatives:

Kim Alexander	District 1
VACANT	District 2
Rex Blanton	District 3
Ashley Townsend	District 4
Charlie Whiten	District 5
Joshua Owens	At-Large
Tessa Moxley	At-Large

Staff Liaison:

Planning & Zoning Staff	864-638-4218
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DIVISION 12. - AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Sec. 2-420.4. - Establishment.

There is hereby established the Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board (the "board"), purposed to aid and advise the county on all matters related to agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in the county are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county is both maintained and developed.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 1, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.5. - Membership.

The board shall consist of seven voting members and one, non-voting, ex officio member, appointed by the council in accordance with the following requirements and recommendations:

- (1) The board shall consist of eight members, selected and appointed by a majority vote of council, with one member selected from each of the five council districts, two members selected at-large, without regard to district of residence and one member selected as the ex officio, without regard to district of residence. Council may receive recommendations for the two at-large seats and single ex officio seat from the county agricultural advisory board.
- (2) Each board voting member's primary residence shall be located in Oconee County; and
- (3) Council shall endeavor to appoint, but not require candidates to be appointed from, the following:
 - a. A member of the Bee Keepers' Association;
 - b. A member of the Fruits and Vegetable Growers (Clemson Extension);
 - c. A member of the Oconee Cattlemen's Association;
 - d. A member of the Oconee Poultry Growers; and
 - e. An Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner or designee.
- (4) All appointed board members shall have a demonstrated background, experience, and interest in agriculture and actively participate in at-least one of the following areas of agriculture:
 - a. Agri-tourism;
 - b. Certified organic farming;
 - c. Poultry farming;
 - d. Cattle farming;

- e. Fruits and/or vegetable farming;
 - f. Bee keeping;
 - g. Silviculture and forestry operations;
 - h. Aquaculture;
 - i. Agri-business; or
 - j. Another agricultural pursuit, as that term is commonly understood.
- (5) Interested candidates for the board will be requested to complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council. Council is not required to select a member from the submitted questionnaires; members of council may directly solicit a candidate for any appointment by the board. However, all potential candidates, whether those submitting questionnaires on their own or those solicited for appointment by members of council, must complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council before being appointed to any county board or commission by any member of council.
- (6) All appointments to the board will be made upon recommendation by a council member and an affirmative vote by full council.
- (7) The ex officio member shall have expertise in relevant agricultural technologies, programs, and policies as well as providing expert analysis and opinion to the voting members of the board. The ex officio member is a non-voting member and the ex officio member's attendance at meetings does not count towards quorum.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 2, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.6. - Term of members.

- (a) The length of the regular term served by each member shall be four years, beginning on January 1 of the year of appointment.
- (b) For the purposes of implementing the standards of this section and thereby establishing a reappointment/replacement schedule of the membership of the board to staggered terms, the following shall apply:
 - (1) All members appointed by council district shall serve for the same length as the remaining term of the council member who appointed them, after which the term of such board members shall be equal to and coincide with the term of the council member appointing or reappointing them, with all terms or parts thereof beginning January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.
 - (2) The first at-large member appointed by council after adoption of the restatement of this section shall serve for four years, and the second such at-large member shall serve for two years, after which the term of each such at-large member shall be four years following

appointment/reappointment, with all terms or parts thereof beginning January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.

- (3) In the event the regular term of a member in good standing expires prior to reappointment or replacement by council, said member shall continue to serve until his or her replacement is appointed and qualified. The date of reappointment or replacement, however, in no way alters the scheduled length of the term.

(c) Removal.

- (1) A member who is absent from three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend at least 50 percent of the regularly scheduled meetings of the board within any 12 calendar month period without adequate excuse, such as documented illness, shall be reported by the chairperson of the board to council and is subject to replacement by council.
- (2) Any member may be removed or replaced at will by majority vote of council upon the motion of the appointing council member, at any time, unless appointment is required by or regulated by state or federal law.
- (3) Should any voting member of this board move or establish residence outside the county where such member was residing at the time of the appointment to this board, such relocation shall constitute a resignation by the member, and a replacement member shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term of such resigned member.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 3, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.7. - Organization, meetings, officers.

- (a) *Officers.* The board shall organize itself, electing one of its members as chairman and one as vice chairman, whose terms must each be for one year. The chairman and vice chairman shall have the right to vote. The board may appoint a secretary, who may be a member of the board or an employee of the county. If the secretary is a member of the board, he or she shall also have the right to vote. Vacancies in such offices by reason of death, resignation, or replacement shall be filled for the unexpired term of the officer whose position becomes vacant, in the same manner as the original election or appointment.
- (b) *Meetings.* The board shall establish a meeting schedule during its first meeting of the calendar year. The board shall meet at least once per month.
- (c) *Bylaws.* In addition, the board shall duly adopt such bylaws as may be necessary for the orderly performance of its duties and functions. Any bylaws which may be adopted by the board for the orderly performance of its duties shall comply with all provisions of the general law of the State of South Carolina and of the ordinance codified in this section, and of all other ordinances of Oconee County, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act.
- (d)

Staff liaison. The board shall have a staff liaison to be designated by the county administrator. The staff liaison may serve as secretary should that be the wish of the board. It is the responsibility of the staff liaison to notify the clerk to council regarding resignations and/or vacancies on any board. It is also the responsibility of the staff liaison to monitor the appointment schedule and inquire and report to the clerk to council if current members wish to be considered for reappointment or replacement.

(e) *[Freedom of information compliance.]* The board shall comply with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") and the requirements set forth in the Code of Ordinances and subsequent ordinances concerning freedom of information and the conduct of public meetings.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 4, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.8. - Powers and duties.

The responsibilities and duties of the board shall be as follows:

- (1) To serve in an advisory role to council on any matter concerning agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in the county are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county is both maintained and developed;
- (2) To formulate plans and recommend their implementation to council, including, but not limited to, ways to bolster agri-business, agri-tourism, and agriculture in general;
- (3) To make policy recommendations, through the planning commission, to council regarding agricultural land use;
- (4) To coordinate policy development with other jurisdictions and agencies to better promote the agricultural industry; and
- (5) To serve as an educational and public awareness forum for agriculture related topics.

The board shall report directly to council, or other appropriate advisory boards, commissions, and/or committees as appropriate and necessary in order to carry out the foregoing functions.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 5, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.9. - Salaries and funding.

Members of the board shall not receive any salary or reimbursements related to serving on the board.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 6, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)



**PETITION FOR REZONING
PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-8.6 (SUBSEQUENT REZONING)
OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES**

"I hereby certify that I own the lot, parcel, or tract of land currently designated by TMS # _____ - _____ - _____ (the "Parcel"). The Parcel is currently zoned in the _____ District, and I hereby request that the Parcel be rezoned to the _____ District, and that all appropriate Oconee County records, including the Oconee County Official Zoning Map, be amended to reflect this rezoning request.

In support of my request, I state the following:

(Attach pages if necessary.)

I acknowledge that the Oconee County Council, Oconee County Planning Commission, and Oconee County staff must take into consideration all relevant information in evaluating this petition, that the final decision rests entirely with the Oconee County Council, and that the approval of this petition is not guaranteed.

Date

Signature

Print Name

