

Agricultural Advisory Board Agenda

April 8, 2024



1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of allegiance
5. Approval of minutes
 - March 11, 2024
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*]

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.
8. Adjourn

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Alexander, Chairman, District I	Trent Smith, District II
Rex Blanton, District III	Vacant, District IV
Charlie Whiten, District V	Nathaniel Duncan, At-Large
Tessa Moxley, Secretary, At-Large	Chris Talley, Ex-Officio

Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

When & Where

6:00 PM

April 8, 2024

Farm Center
2063 Sandifer Blvd.
Seneca SC 29678

Staff contact

846-638-4218

planninginfo@oconeesc.com

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

District 3



MONDAY
APRIL 8
2024
AT 6:00PM

The Farm Center

2063 Sandifer Blvd Seneca, SC 29678

Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, March 11, 2023

FARM CAFE

Members Present

Rex Blanton
Tessa Moxley
Kim Alexander
Trent Smith
Chris Talley
Nate Duncan
Charlie Whiten

Staff Present

James Coley

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the makeup meeting for March to order at 6:03pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Approval of minutes-** February 12, 2024. Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.
6. **Presentations**
 - **Mission goals and vision**
 - **Members of the board and contact information.**

Ms. Alexander reviewed the context for the district meetings and went over the concerns that were discussed at the meeting that was held in district V last year.

 - **Partner organizations**
 - **Citizen initiated voting.**
7. **Public discussion** [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

Mr. Donald presented about the agricultural industry in South Carolina.

- Problematic wildlife: Deer are losing habitat through development, which is pushing them into farmland and destroying crops. Hunters do not have places to hunt the deer to control the population.
- Bills passed:

- ag land preservation act: commissioner of ag on the conservation bank board. The program will seek out farmland in the state that needs to be preserved and send money to the bank to fund the easements. Funding is a big deal. Buys development rights from the farmer. Top scorers is farmland at threat of development, and in proximity to interstates and major highways.
- Senate bill in the House: stops local gov from annexing local farmland without farmer consent.
- Bills presented address transportation of farm goods.
- The State of SC has recognized that the loss of farmland is a big problem.
- State of SC has lost 281,000 acres of farmland to development in last 15 years.
- Concerns about food supply are growing.
- State of SC has the fastest growing population in the nation.
- Beef prices are rocketing.
- 1 mil more square feet needed in this area for broiler chickens.
- New poultry research center at Clemson University in construction now
- Clemson Vet school expected to be operable in 2026.
- Biggest problem is rural development (rural sprawl)

Ms. Alexander updated the ag ed teacher and the students who came from Walhalla on the status of their request for more contracted hours.

Discussion ensued about the local needs for gravel from the quarry. The crusher can't work fast enough to meet demand. Suggestions were made to purchase a second crusher using enterprise funds, or to offer residents a lower price than non-residents.

- 8. Adjourn:** Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.

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

