

# OCONEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

## Report to Oconee County Council *November 20, 2012*

Ordinance 2011-16 established the Oconee County Conservation Bank and its Board [CBB] in order to protect lands with significant natural, cultural and/or historic resources in Oconee County.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

The **CBB** is made up of seven members [one from each council district and two at large]; appointed for a maximum of two four-year terms and designed to represent key areas related to conservation to include forestry, farming, real estate, an attorney, etc.:

Mr. Shea Airey, District I, Chairman  
Mr. Rocky Nation, District III, Secretary  
Mr. Andy Lee, District II  
Mr. Marvin Prater, District IV

Mr. Richard "Lynn" Harwell, District V  
Mr. Ed Land, At Large Member  
**OPEN**, At Large Member  
Ms. Elizabeth G. Hulse, Staff Liaison

### **ACTIVITIES:**

As part of **CBB's** responsibilities we developed during many meetings and discussions five documents designed to both provide information to the citizens and the Board and also allow for objective review / recommendation of potential properties for conservation [*copies of each document provided*]:

- Conservation Group Listing
- Statement of Interest Form [v3]
- Application for Funding
- Criteria Worksheet
- Criteria Scoring Sheet

The **CBB** continues to meet monthly to focus the initiation of the application / scoring process. Options for funding continues to be a topic of discussion and has been identified as a major hurdle by the group as the establishing ordinance was written. The Committee is working diligently to identify community groups and/or businesses with grant funding available to assist in conserving the county's valuable resources; however, we believe that a commitment to conservation by the citizens necessitates further review of the funding restriction currently in place. The **CBB** is discussing public private partnership options. The **CBB** plans to forward a proposal or proposals to Council in the next quarter regarding these activities. The **CCB** board understands that any public funding (even if matching private donations, for example) would require an amendment to the ordinance as currently written.