

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 "Lyna" 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.