

Press Release
December 6, 2012

OCONEE FOREVER MAKES DONATION TO CONSERVATION BANK

There is nothing like money in the bank, especially for a good cause. On December 6, Oconee Forever, a conservation outreach and education group of Oconee County residents, presented the Oconee County Conservation Bank (OCCB) with a check for \$1,200.00.

Shea Airey, chairman of the OCCB, accepted the donation, noting that it was the first major donation received by the Conservation Bank. The donation consisted of the proceeds from Oconee Forever's spring bicycling and barbeque event, Rally in the Valley, that Oconee Forever members matched.

Oconee Forever is associated with Upstate Forever, a conservation organization headquartered in Greenville, whose mission includes the protection of important conservation lands in Oconee County. A recent significant achievement of Upstate Forever includes the grant awarded by the State Conservation Bank for the protection of the Chau Ram property in Westminster.

The OCCB was created in 2011 by the Oconee County Council as an independent government body whose mission is to leverage available funds to protect important conservation lands in Oconee County. Receipt of funding will allow the OCCB to provide grants and financial assistance to landowners in order to conserve working farms, scenic areas, important wildlife habitat and historic sites. According to Airey, the OCCB has spent the months since its creation establishing the criteria and forms necessary to process and award grants to Oconee County landowners for the protection of conservation properties. Airey stated that "the OCCB will now focus on funding its mission and thanks Oconee Forever for stepping up with this significant start up donation."

Persons interested in donating to the OCCB may do so by mailing their tax deductible contribution to: Oconee County Administrative Offices, ATTN: Conservation Bank, 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, 29691.

PHOTO CUTLINE: Alice Wald, left, of Oconee Forever presents a \$1,200 donation from that group to Shea Airey, chairman of the Oconee County Conservation Bank at its December 6 meeting.



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OF YOUR NEWSPAPER**

The Oconee County Conservation Bank Board has established January through June 2013 for receipt of both the Statement of Interest and Application for Funding forms. All forms received between January and June will be reviewed by the Board beginning July 2013.

Forms may be obtained on the Oconee County Council Webpage or by contacting the Clerk to Council at 864-718-1023 or via email at bhulse@oconeesc.com.



Beth Hulse

From: Beth Hulse
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 2:41 PM
To: Beth Hulse; classadmgr@upstatetoday.com
Subject: Conservation Bank Application Process
Attachments: 010313 - Conservation Bank Application Cycle 2013.doc

Please run at your earliest convenience.
Thanks.

Elizabeth G. Hulse

Clerk to County Council

Oconee County Administrative Offices

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Beth Hulse

From: Beth Hulse
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 2:41 PM
To: Andrew; Beth Hulse; Chad Dorsett; Greenville News (localnews@greenvillenews.com); Kevin; LaDonna Becker (ladonna@dailyjm.com); Michael Eads (meads@dailyjm.com); Ray Chandler; Westminster News / Keowee Courier (westnews@bellsouth.net); WGOG (dickmangrum@wgog.com); WSPA TV - Channel 7 (assignmentdesk@wspa.com)
Subject: Conservation Bank Application Process

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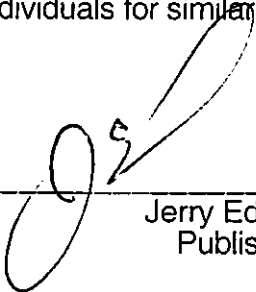
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COUNTY OF OCONEE

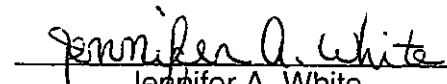
IN RE: Oconee County Council
 Conservation Bank Board
 Statement of Interest and
 Application for Funding forms

BEFORE ME the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State and County above named, this day personally came before me, Jerry Edwards, who being first duly sworn according to law, says that he is the Publisher of **THE JOURNAL**, a newspaper published Tuesday through Saturday in Seneca, SC and distributed in **Oconee County, Pickens County** and the Pendleton area of **Anderson County** and the notice (of which the annexed is a true copy) was inserted in said paper on January 4, 2013 and the rate charged therefore is not in excess of the regular rates charged private individuals for similar insertions.



Jerry Edwards
Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
4th day of January A.D. 2013



Jennifer A. White
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 05/18/2014

