



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

June 5, 2018

Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

MEMBERS

Mr. Shea Airey, Chairman
Mr. Frank Ables, Vice Chairman
Ms. Jennifer Moss, Secretary
Mr. Marvin Prater, Treasurer

Ms. Frances Rundlett
Mr. Richard Cain
Mr. Ernie Lombard
Ms. Katie D. Smith, Staff Liaison

The Oconee County Conservation Bank Board [OCCB] met at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with Mr. Shea Airey, Mr. Frank Ables, Ms. Jennifer Moss, Mr. Marvin Prater, Ms. Frances Rundlett & Mr. Ernie Lombard [expect Mr. Richard Cain] and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council acting as staff liaison.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

No members of the media were present.

Call to Order

Mr. Shea Airey called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rundlett approved 5 – 0, [Mr. Lombard abstained, copy of form filed with these minutes] to approve the minutes from February 13, 2018 meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Prater noted the Treasurer's Reports as presented are accurate. He further noted the balance on all three reports is \$613,735.46. Ms. Moss made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 6 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Reports for January, February, and April 2018.

Amend 2018 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Airey noted for several years the OCCB has been meeting on a quarterly basis and at that time was not taking a lot of applications and there was not a need to meet frequently. However, we are taking applications now and Mr. Airey opened up discussion regarding how often the OCCB should meet.

Discussion continued to include:

- Meet every other month
- No Tuesday night meetings
- Schedule that is set now is every other month

Mr. Airey noted the schedule is every other month and noted that no action needed to be taken since the schedule would remain the same.

The Clerk noted the dates for the meeting that were approved at the February 13, 2018 meeting are as follows:

- April 10, 2018
- June 5, 2018,
- August 14, 2018
- October 9, 2018
- December 11, 2018
- February 12, 2019

No action was taken. The meeting dates are the same and did not change.

Discussion Items

Continued Discussion regarding Alternate Funding Sources

- OCCB was passed in 2011 without County funding
- Early on, members of the OCCB pursued private grants
- Duke grant
- Individual donors
- Gave first grants last year
- Pursued private donations
- Businesses & individuals who support Conservation
- Providing funding to the OCCB from the County on some level
- Obtain letters of support from individuals, families, businesses in the community, etc.
- Members of OCCB have started collecting letters of support
- Continue to generate letters of support and bring to the next OCCB meeting
- Asking that in the future if the recycling revenues increase, OCCB would receive a portion of this revenue
- Recycling is through the convenience centers
- One incentive would be to support recycling and look for additional ways to increase
- Recycle at home?
- Receive education regarding recycling
- Received letters of support from members of the OCCB

Mr. Airey ended the discussion asking all members to bring letters of support to the next meeting.

Discussion and/or action regarding Naturaland Trust

- Oconee Town project
- Received full application from Naturaland Trust
- Receive applications during the first part of the year and review applications during the second part of the year
- Received application from Naturaland Trust during the first part of the year
- Property is already protected and preserved
- Preserving area around Oconee Station
- Review application and complete scoring sheet on your own to bring to the next meeting in August and will complete scoring sheet as a whole

- Regardless of how property is scored, potentially would not award any grants until later in the year

Discussion regarding types of accounts available to generate interest

The Clerk noted she had received documentation from Community First Bank regarding different types of accounts [copy filed with these minutes] and also noted they could speak with Mr. Greg Nowell, Oconee County Treasurer, for further information regarding generating interest. Mr. Airey asked Mr. Prater, OCCB Treasurer, to speak with Mr. Nowell regarding this discussion. Discussion continued.

New Business: Statement of Interest from Ms. Moore

- RE: TMS: 290-00-04-010

Mr. Airey noted the Statement of Interest form is a document where someone expresses a general interest in submitting a full application. If the OCCB decides to take action in regards to the Statement of Interest form it is merely to invite the applicant to apply.

Discussion followed to include:

- Applicant is Ms. Peggy Moore from Westminster, SC
- Property size is approximately 37 acres; open pasture
- Hwy 24 and Oakway community
- Prime soils on the property
- View of the Blue Ridge mountains
- Does not have an eligible OCCB recipient name and address
- OCCB recipient is the third party non-profit that has to jointly apply with; landowner has to complete this process with them

Mr. Jason Davis, United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] Natural Resource Conservation Service [NRCS], addressed the OCCB highlighting the following:

- Currently working with Ms. Moore on this project
- Ms. Moore's third party non-profit sponsor is Oconee Soil & Water Conservation District
- Currently working with Ms. Moore to get appraisals, surveys, etc. to complete easement process
- Meets the requirements with NRCS and Agriculture Conservation Easement Program [ACEP] regarding soil requirements and meeting resource concerns
- One drawback regarding Ms. Moore's property is that it is 37 acres which does not disqualify thru NRCS, however, thru the ranking process at the Oconee Soil & Water Conservation District, they like to have 50 acres minimum
- Legislation in the State House in regards to the State Conservation Bank Board and are restructuring what they are giving priority to
- Ms. Moore has already enrolled in the USDA Cost Share Programs thru Conservation Stewardship Programs
- Adjoining landowners are family
- Area of the County that is growing

Ms. Moss made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rundlett, approved 6 – 0, for Ms. Peggy Moore to submit a full application to the OCCB.

Mr. Airey asked the Clerk to contact Ms. Moore and let her know that the motion passed for her to submit a full application to the OCCB.

Old Business:

None at this meeting.

New Business

None at this meeting.

Mr. Airey reminded members to continue to work toward retrieving as many support letters as possible and also noted members can write letters themselves. He further noted if members own a business, they can also write a letter on behalf of the business.

Mr. Airey also noted at the August meeting the OCCB will work on scoring the Naturaland Trust property and to complete scoring on their own and bring to the this meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

Adjourn:

Mr. Ables made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison



OCONEE CONSERVATION
BANK BOARD RECUSAL
FORM

OCCB Member Name:

Ernie Lombard

[Please Print]

OCCB Member Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Meeting Date:

6/5/2018

Item for Discussion/Note:

OCCB approval of minutes for
the February 13, 2018 meeting

Reason for Recusal



I was not present for original meeting/discussion



I have a personal/familial interest in the issue.

Other:

Katie D. Smith
Katie Smith
Clerk to Council