



# MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

November 15, 2022

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

## **MEMBERS**

Mr. Andrew Smith, District II  
Ms. Emily Hitchcock, Chair, At Large  
Mr. Ryan Keese, Secretary, District, III  
Ms. Laura Havran, Treasurer, District I

Vacant, District IV  
Mr. Scuddy Walker, Vice Chairman, District V  
Mr. Scott McCurry, At Large  
Ms. Jennifer C. Adams, 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 all members present [Mr. Andy Smith and Mr. Scott McCurry absent] and Jennifer C. Adams, 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](http://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**

Ms. Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Havran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keese, approved 4 – 0, to approve the September 13, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Havran read the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] and noted they are accurate as presented. She further noted the balances on the reports are as follows:

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for September 2022 is \$281,478.48, October 2022 is \$282,252.60; Community First Bank for September 2022 is \$4041.00, October 2022 is \$4041.00.

Mr. Keese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, approved 4 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank for September and October of 2022 and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for September and October of 2022.

## **Fundraising & Public Relations Reports**

Mr. Keese and Ms. Havran noted there were no updates regarding fundraising at this time.

Mr. Keese noted there were no updates regarding the Donation Report [copy filed in backup] at this time.

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Ms. Hitchcock noted that Mr. Rex Blanton was in attendance at the meeting and extended him an invitation to address the board.

Mr. Rex Blanton, Oconee County Agriculture Advisory Board District III Representative, noted to the that the Agriculture Advisory Board is looking into creative ways to help fund the Conservation Bank Board.

Mr. Keese and Mr. Blanton provided the Board with some background information related to Mr. Blanton's residence in Seneca.

Ms. Hitchcock encouraged Mr. Blanton to apply for a Conservation Easement for his property with the Board, noting that any of the Board members would be happy to help with the required forms.

### **Grants Status**

Mr. Walker informed the Board that there have been no changes in the OCCB Grants Disbursed and Expenses chart [copy filed in backup].

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Status of OCCB vacant seats**

Ms. Hitchcock noted that District IV has a vacancy on the Board.

Ms. Havran noted that she has spoken with Mr. John Elliott, Oconee County Council District I Representative and Council Chair, about a possible replacement for her in 2023.

Ms. Havran went on to inform Mr. Keese and Mr. Walker that she will be stepping down from the Conservation Bank Board and that this meeting will be her last.

Short discussion between Board members followed related to Ms. Havran's resignation, current Board openings and Board policies and forms.

### **Agriculture Task Force Report**

Ms. Hitchcock provided an update related to the Agriculture Task Force to Board members.

Mr. Blanton provided additional comments to Ms. Hitchcock and Board members regarding agriculture.

### **Next Meeting:**

Ms. Hitchcock noted the next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2022, in the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

### **Adjourn:**

Ms. Havran made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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