



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

April 4, 2023

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

MEMBERS

Mr. Andrew Smith, Chair, District II
Ms. Emelyn Jones, At Large
Mr. Ryan Keese, Secretary, District, III
Gordon Becker, District I

Mr. Taylor Howard, 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. McCurry and Mr. Keese 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]. 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. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Election of Officers - Treasurer

Mr. Smith called for a volunteer and explained the duties of the Treasurer to the Board.

Mr. Taylor Howard volunteered to be Treasurer.

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Taylor Howard as Oconee County Conservation Bank Board Treasurer.

Mr. Smith provided an overview of the bank accounts to Mr. Howard.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Howard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approved the February 7, 2023 regular minutes as presented.

Mr. Becker inquired as to if he can vote to approve minutes from previous meetings when he was not a board member.

Mr. Smith noted that he believed this was permissible.

Ms. Adams, staff liaison, noted that a recording of the meetings could be found on YouTube and compared to the minutes if necessary.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Becker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve the March 14, 2023 regular minutes as presented.

Ms. Jones commented that her first name was spelled wrong.

Ms. Adams noted this correction would be made before posting the official minutes.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Howard read the Treasurer's Report for the Community First Bank and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] and noted they are accurate as presented [copies filed in backup]. He further noted the balances on the reports are as follows:

Community First Bank for January 2023 is \$4541.00 and February 2023 is \$4541.00.

Mr. Becker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 5 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank for January of 2023 and February of 2023.

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for December 2022 is \$284,205.40.

Mr. Smith noted interest on this account goes from July 1 through June 31 yearly.

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for January of 2023 is \$285,308.97 and February of 2023 is \$286,349.18.

Mr. Becker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023.

Mr. Becker inquired about the determination of funds in each of the OCCB bank accounts.

Mr. Smith provided details regarding the monies in each account and what expenditures come out of which accounts.

Short discussion followed by Board members regarding both accounts.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Fundraising & Public Relations Reports

Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Keese is not in attendance to give this report.

Mr. Howard inquired if the Board is able to be proactive with fundraising.

Lengthy discussion followed by Board members related to fundraising.

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Grants Status

Mr. Smith explained the OCCB Grants Disbursed and Expenses Chart [copy filed in backup] to the new Board members.

Mr. Smith went on to provide background information regarding the recent OCCB ordinance change relating to Fee Simple and Conservation Easements.

Mr. Walker informed the Board that there have been no changes in the OCCB Grants Disbursed and Expenses chart.

Discussion Items

Discussion and/or action regarding revision of Policy 003 Grant Procedures

Mr. Smith offered background information regarding Policy 003 Grant Procedures.

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the newly revised Policy 003 Grant Procedures.

Mr. Smith proposed that the Board form a sub-committee to further revise Policy 003 Grant Procedures.

Short discussion followed by the Board related to revision Policy 003 Grant Procedures.

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve forming a sub-committee to further revise Policy 003 Grant Procedures.

Mr. Smith noted that this motion was considered a privileged motion and did not require a second.

Mr. Smith discussed the formation of the proposed committee with Board members.

Mr. Howard and Mr. Becker both expressed their interest in serving on the proposed sub-committee.

Motion to form a sub-committee for revisions to Policy 003 Grant Procedures approved 5 – 0.

Discussion and/or action regarding revision of Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Becker, to adopt newly revised Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests.

Mr. Smith provided background information on Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests.

Short discussion followed by Board members related to Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests.

Mr. Smith suggested that Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests be sent to the newly formed sub-committee.

Mr. Howard made a motion, approved 5 – 0, to send Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests to the sub-committee for revisions.

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Report on monitoring and reporting research

Mr. Smith noted that the OCCB Ordinance does not require eligible recipients to send the Board their monitoring reports.

Mr. Smith also noted he was investigating if other local conservation banks required monitoring reports and if any other local governments have conservation banks, noting he was unable to get an answer for either question.

Mr. Howard stated he is in favor of requiring monitoring reports from eligible recipients.

Mr. Becker noted that he does not believe obtaining monitoring reports from eligible recipients would be a problem and that an ordinance or policy change would not be necessary.

Mr. Smith noted that County Attorney, David Root, would be able to advise the Board as to if monitoring reports could be required.

Short discussion followed by the Board regarding OCCB funded conservation easements.

Adjourn:

Mr. Howard made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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