



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

May 2, 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. 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.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. McCurry made a motion, seconded by Mr. Howard, approved 6 – 0, to approve the April 4, 2023 regular minutes as presented.

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 March 2023 is \$4541.00.

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for March 2023 is \$287,529.64.

Mr. McCurry made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank for March 2023 and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for March 2023.

Mr. Howard noted that he did try to inquire about the minimum balance needed in the account at Community First but was informed by the bank that his name needed to be added to the account.

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.

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Becker, to approve keeping the minimum fund balance, plus a \$500.00 buffer, in the Community First Bank account, transferring the remaining funds to the Local Government Investment Pool account.

Short discussion regarding funds in the Community First Bank account followed by Board members.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

Fundraising & Public Relations Reports

Mr. Smith noted Mr. Keese usually provides updates to the Board concerning fundraising and public relations but he is absent from the meeting.

Mr. Howard noted that he plans to attend the Chattooga Conservancy Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, July 29, 2023 at Chattooga Belle Farm and thought it would be nice to have a few Boards members attend to advocate on behalf of the OCCB.

Grants Status

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

Mr. Smith provided the Board with an update regarding the transfer of the Whetstone Hill property to the United States Forest Service from Naturaland Trust, noting the reimbursement amount is a total of \$70,000.00, \$66,100.00 being the original grant amount and \$3,900.00 being a donation to the OCCB.

Mr. Smith noted that this rescission of funds from Naturaland Trust to the OCCB would need to be approved by Oconee County Council per County Attorney David Root.

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, authorizing Mr. Smith to meet with County Attorney David Root to review the rescission agreement with Naturaland Trust and, when in final form, execute the rescission agreement and present to Oconee County Council for approval.

Mr. Smith inquired as to if the Board would like any other members to accompany him in meeting with Mr. Root for the review and revisions of the rescission agreement.

After a short discussion, the Board agreed that Mr. Smith would be the only Board member to meet with Mr. Root to discuss the rescission agreement.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

Discussion Items

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

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

Mr. Smith updated the Board with the sub-committee's revisions of Policy 003 Grant Procedures and Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests, noting that Mr. Root, County Attorney, replied with extensive revisions of his own.

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Mr. Smith suggested that the Board take time to review these revisions and plan to discuss at the August 8, 2023 OCCB meeting.

Ms. Jones asked for details about fundraising and public relations.

Mr. Smith provided details of past ideas related to fundraising, noting that no real fundraising plan has ever been established.

Adjourn:

Mr. Becker made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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