



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

August 8, 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 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. Keese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, approved 6 – 0, to approve the May 2, 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 April 2023 is \$4541.00, May 2023 is \$4,541.00, and June 2023 is \$480.00.

Mr. Howard noted that after speaking with Community First Bank, no minimum balance is needed to keep the account open.

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for April 2023 is \$288,733.99, May 2023 is \$290,026.23, and June 2023 is \$365,687.03.

Mr. Keese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Becker, approved 6 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank for April, May and June of 2023 and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for April, May and June of 2023.

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 instructed staff liaison, Mrs. Jennifer Adams, to send a letter of thanks to Naturaland Trust for their donation and reimbursement of funds from the William Lyles Estate Conservation Easement Grant.

Fundraising & Public Relations Reports

Mr. Keese had no updates related to fundraising and public relations.

Mr. Smith noted that Upstate Forever has offered their help and guidance in regards to fundraising for OCCB and suggested that the Board form a Fundraising Committee and review the materials Upstate Forever provided the Board via email.

Mr. Smith added that the Oconee County Taskforce on Agriculture final report actually offered different funding ideas for land conservation in Oconee County.

Mr. Keese inquired if there was a need to form an entity separate from Oconee County Council for fundraising purposes.

Short discussion between Board members followed related to fundraising.

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the forming a Fundraising Committee for the OCCB.

Ms. Jones, Mr. Smith and Mr. Keese all volunteered to serve on the Fundraising Committee.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

Grants Status

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

Discussion Items

Ethics Training

Mr. Smith informed the Board that County Attorney, David Root, will distribute an Ethics Training video presentation in the next several weeks and all Board and Commission members are highly encouraged to participate.

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

Mr. Becker provided the Board with an overview of the revisions made to Policy 003 Grant Procedures, noting there were no policy changes, just improvements on the presentation of the policy.

Mr. Becker and Mr. Howard noted to the Board that these policies have been reviewed by County Attorney, David Root.

Mr. Howard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 6 – 0, to rescind existing Policy 003.

Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, approved 6 – 0, to approve the adoption of revised Policy 003.

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Mr. Smith confirmed Mr. Keese's statement that the OCCB will no longer award fee simple purchase of land grants.

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

Mr. Becker provided the Board with an overview of the revisions made to Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests, noting there were no policy changes, just improvements on the presentation of the policy.

Ms. Jones pointed out a punctuation error to the Board found within Policy 005.

Mr. Becker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 6 – 0, to rescind existing Policy 005.

Mr. Keese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Howard, approved 6 – 0, to approve the adoption of revised Policy 005.

Adjourn:

Mr. Keese made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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