



## **Oconee County Economic Development Commission**

Minutes of Meeting

March 15, 2013

The Oconee County Economic Development Commission meeting was held March 15, 2013 at the Commission office, 502 East Main Street, Walhalla, SC.

### **In Attendance -**

#### **Commission Members:**

- Dave Eldridge, *District I*
- Vacant, *District II*
- Hank Field, *District III*
- Sammy Dickson, *District IV*
- Gene Blair, *District V*

#### **Ex-Officio Members:**

- Scott Moulder, Oconee County Administrator
- Paul Corbeil, Council Economic Development Committee Chair
- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, President, Tri-County Technical College
- Dr. Michael Lucas, Superintendent, School District of Oconee County
- Jeanne L. Ward, President/CEO Oconee Medical Center
- Marvin Carmichael, Chief of Staff, Assistant to the President, Clemson University
- Robert C. Winchester, Director, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
- Art Holbrooks, Director, Planning Commission
- Jim Gadd, Executive Director, Oconee Alliance
- John Lummus, VP Economic Development, Tri-County Technical College

#### **EDC Staff:**

- Richard K. Blackwell, *Executive Director*
- Russell Johnson, *Project & Marketing Manager*
- Kirsten Pratt, *Intern*

#### **Members of Council:**

Reg Dexter, Oconee County Council Member  
Archie Barron, Oconee County Council Member

#### **Special Guests:**

Bozo Richards, Citizen  
Jonathan Dix, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham's Office  
Gwen McPhail, Citizen  
Russ Price, Citizen  
Stan Gibson, Citizen  
Paul Cain, Citizen

#### **News Media:**

Ray Chandler, Reporter, Anderson Independent Mail  
Dick Mangrum, WGOG

**Call to Order:** Mr. Field, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Action to Approve the Agenda:** Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's EDC Commission meeting as presented. Mr. Dickson moved the agenda be approved; Mr. Blair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the February EDC Commission meeting be approved as presented. Mr. Blair moved the Minutes be approved; motion seconded by Mr. Eldridge. Motion carried.

**Oconee County Update:** Mr. Corbeil provided a quick synopsis of County issues that included the progression of the budget process and the upcoming discussions of diversifying the tax revenues.

**Oconee Alliance Review:** Mr. Gadd, Executive Director, was absent and no report was given.

**Special Presentation on Agribusiness:** Gwen McPhail provided the Commission an overall of progress being made to bring a Farmers Market to Hwy 123. She also noted the overall goals of the group and alignment with the Heritage Fair. Mr. Corbeil asked that this be presented at the upcoming Planning and Economic Development Committee Meeting before Council in April.

**EDC Executive Director's Report:** Mr. Richard Blackwell, Executive Director, commented on recent economic development activities. A quick update on product development related to Echo Hills, Golden Corner and AID was given. He noted a recent bit of good news regarding Seneca being selected as the 45<sup>th</sup> Top Micropolitan in the US by Site Selection Magazine. In closing, a video of the recent State of Oconee was shown.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Eldridge moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Mr. Dickson. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard K. Blackwell