



Oconee County Economic Development Commission

Minutes of Meeting

June 21, 2013

The Oconee County Economic Development Commission (OCEDC) meeting was held June 21, 2013 at the Commission office, 502 East Main Street, Walhalla, SC.

In Attendance -

Commission Members:

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

Ex-Officio Members:

- X Scott Moulder, Oconee County Administrator
- √ Paul Corbeil, Council Economic Development Committee Chair
- X Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, President, Tri-County Technical College
- X Dr. Michael Lucas, Superintendent, School District of Oconee County
- X Jeanne L. Ward, President/CEO Oconee Medical Center
- X Marvin Carmichael, Chief of Staff, Assistant to the President, Clemson University
- √ Robert C. Winchester, Director, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
- X 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*

Members of Council:

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

Special Guests:

Bozo Richards, Citizen
Sandra Magee, Tri-County Technical College
Terry Ballenger, Blue Ridge Electric
Josh Kay, Santee Cooper

News Media:

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

Call to Order: Mr. Field, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m. A quorum of appointed OCEDC Commissioners was present.

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

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the May OCEDC meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Blair moved the Minutes be approved; motion seconded by Commissioner Dickson. Motion carried.

Special Presentation from the Santee Cooper: Mr. Josh Kay from Santee Cooper made a special presentation concerning their economic development efforts and provided a overview of a new spec building loan program they conduct within their served territories.

Oconee County Update: Councilor Corbeil provided a quick synopsis of County issues that included the progression of the budget process and the nearing completion of the county-wide broadband project. Councilor Reg Dexter commented on the "sewer south" project and some not-too-distant good news forthcoming on Golden Corner Commerce Park.

Oconee Alliance Update: Jim Gadd made a few comments about the success of the Junior Leadership program in 2013 and some recent talks with partners about addressing littering issues facing the county. Mr. Gadd also noted that on July 11th at the next Alliance meeting their will be a legislative update.

EDC Executive Director's Report: Mr. Richard Blackwell, Executive Director, commented on recent economic development activities and the renaming of Echo Hills. He highlighted the progression on various projects and the success of recent BRE visits. In closing, he mentioned the completion of a new boundary survey for GCCP and pending certification for Echo Hills.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Blackwell mentioned talks continue about a possible merger of the economic development groups in Oconee into one group. A vote by the Oconee Alliance will occur in July and a more substantial update for the OCEDC will be given in August.

Chairman Field asked for a motion to cancel the July meeting of the OCEDC. This motion was made by Commissioner Dickson and seconded by Commissioner Blair. The motion to cancel the July meeting was carried. The next meeting of the OCEDC will be August 16th.

Adjourn: Chairman Field moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Commissioner Dickson. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard K. Blackwell