



Oconee County Economic Development Commission

Minutes of Meeting

August 16, 2013

The Oconee County Economic Development Commission (OCEDC) meeting was held August 16, 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, 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

Special Guests:

Bozo Richards, Citizen
Walker Smith, Cong. Duncan's Office

News Media:

Ray Chandler, Reporter, Anderson Independent Mail
Dick Mangrum, WGOG
Norm Cannada, The Journal

Call to Order: Mr. Field, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Eldridge 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 Eldridge. Motion carried.

Oconee County Update: Mr. Scott Moulder provided a quick synopsis of County issues that included a sewer update, jail project summary, broadband overview and an update on merger discussions with the Oconee Alliance.

Oconee Alliance Update: No update was given but Chairman Field publically thanked Mr. Jim Gadd for the years of work and noted that Oconee County will miss him but is stronger because of his work here.

OCEDC Product and Marketing Update: Mr. Russell Johnson provided the Commission an update on recent marketing activities which included a published newsletter, ad in Business Facilities Magazine, an ad in Southern Business & Development Magazine, an ad in Business Expansion Magazine. Mr. Johnson also noted the continued op-ed series in The Journal and some recent press about the COE Optics announcement. He also shared two videos to the Commission that highlighted BASF and the Governor visiting Oconee County.

EDC Executive Director's Report: Mr. Richard Blackwell, Executive Director, commented on recent economic development activities, recruitment trips, site certification at the county-owned sites, the new budget and the positive news from several recent retention visits.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Commissioner Dickson asked that the September meeting be moved to Sept. 13. Chairman Field asked for a motion related to this. This motion was made by Commissioner Dickson and seconded by Commissioner Blair. The motion to move the meeting was carried. The next meeting of the OCEDC will be September 13th.

Adjourn: Chairman Field moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Commissioner Dickson. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard K. Blackwell