

Agricultural Advisory Board Agenda

August 14, 2023

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Moment of silence**
- 3. Invocation**
- 4. Pledge of allegiance**
- 5. Approval of minutes**
July, 2023
- 6. Public discussion session** [*3 minutes per person*]
- 7. Presentations** – [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required]
 - **Issac Quaye**
 - **Agricultural II Zoning District**
 - **September meeting – District 2 - Mountain Rest**
 - **Meeting Items through December 2023**
- 8. Adjourn**



Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

When & Where

6:00 PM

Monday, August 14, 2023

Council Chambers

415 S Pine St Walhalla SC
29691

Staff contact

846-638-4218

planninginfo@oconeesc.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Alexander, Chairman, District I	Trent Smith, District II
Rex Blanton, District III	OPEN, District IV
Charlie Whiten, District V	Joshua Owens, At-Large
Tessa Moxley, Secretary, At-Large	Chris Talley, Ex-Officio

Minutes
6:00 PM, Monday, July 10, 2023
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members Present

Joshua Owens

Charlie Whiten

Rex Blanton

Tessa Moxley

Kim Alexander

Trent Smith

Chris Talley

Staff Present

James Coley

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Approval of minutes-** May 8, 2023. Mr. Owens made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved 6/0.
6. **Presentations**
 - **Mission goals and vision**
 - **Members of the board and contact information**
 - **Partner organizations**
 - **Citizen initiated zoning**
7. **Public discussion Session** [*3 minutes per person*] *If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting the Planning Department at planninginfo@oconeesc.com or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record*
8. **Discussion** regarding establishment of an “Agricultural 2” zoning district and other matters related there to.
 - **Public Comment**
 - i. Joshua Owens regarding forestry industry. 30% of farmland on the 2017 census is woodland. 100,00 acres in Oconee County. 23 billion dollar industry in south carolina. We are losing the market. Canton Paper Mill just closed. In the last two years, several lumber, chipping, and pulp mill businesses in the region have closed down.

Mr. Owens expressed concern that without financial incentives to manage the forest, they will deteriorate, and Oconee County forests will decrease in value, leading farmers to be forced into selling the land instead of being able to sell the timber on the land. It will take years to regenerate the market. The pulp market will move to South America if nothing is done, because there is a big market for it there.

- ii. Ms. Alexander suggests that we invite Mr. Gilbert to the August meeting, as well as any loggers and the largest landowners in the county that can make it to the meeting. Mr Smith agreed to speak Mr. Holland about attending the meeting.
 - iii. Discussion ensued about the forestry industry in general, who owns the market, and what may be available to the growers in Oconee County.
 - Proposal to include an Ag District II, the only additional restriction being that there can be only 1 dwelling per 5 acres instead of 1 dwelling per 1 acre.
 - i. General discussion is in opposition, the reason being that it is already difficult getting farmers to zone their land with the 1 to 1 restriction. There is a consensus that there is no point to creating a greater land restriction because farmers will be even less likely to zone their land.
 - Discussion/vote
 - i. Mr. Whiten made a motion to make forestry the main topic of discussion at the August meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith and approved 6/0.
 - ii. Mr. Owens made a motion to leave the agriculture zoning as it currently stands, seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved 6/0.
 - iii. Ms. Moxley made a motion for the Ag Advisory board to present to Council a request to have the Planning Department re-implement an Impact Fee Study, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.
- 9. Adjourn:** Ms. Whiten made a motion to adjourn at 7:06pm, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 6/0.



Wood Innovations



Mass Timber Momentum

The USDA Forest Service is catalyzing the growth of the mass timber industry. In the U.S., 600 projects have been built and 10 manufacturing plants are operating.

[Read More](#)

Wood Innovations Program

To learn about Wood Innovations projects across the country, visit the [Wood Innovations Project Search](#) page.

News & Announcements

2023 Wood Innovations Grants and Community Wood Grants Funded Projects

[**Press Release: USDA Announces \\$43 Million Investment to Advance Innovation in Wood Products and Wood Energy Economies through Investing in America Agenda**](#)

[**Press Release: USDA invests nearly \\$34M to strengthen wood products economy, forest sector jobs, sustainable forest management**](#)

Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity

The Wood Innovations Grants Program, launched in 2015, stimulates, expands, and supports U.S. wood products markets and wood energy markets to support the long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands. National focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports hazardous fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. The Notice of Funding Opportunity closed on March 23, 2023. The next application period will be in Fall 2023. More information and recent recipients are located at [Wood Grants | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

Community Wood Grant Program

The Community Wood Grant Program, launched in 2020, provides funding for grants to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The Forest Service expects renewable wood energy systems installed under this program to use the most stringent control technologies. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology. The Notice of Funding Opportunity closed on March 23, 2023. The next application period will be in Fall 2023. More information and recent recipients are located at [Wood Grants | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance to Facilities that Purchase and Process Byproducts of Ecosystem Restoration Projects

Project funding may be used to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility in close proximity to federal or Indian lands that need ecosystem restoration and will generate byproducts. The emphasis is on areas of unnaturally severe high fire or insect or disease infestation with high or very high priority for ecological restoration. This program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The next application period will be in Fall 2023.

More information and recent recipients are located at [Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance Grants](#).

Temporary Bridge Funding Opportunity Program (Updated August 1, 2023)

The intent of this funding opportunity is to support the establishment of temporary bridge rental/loan/cost-share programs with States and federally recognized Indian Tribes to protect water resources and reduce water quality degradation during forestry-related operations. This program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. A rolling application period will be used. The program is open and available for response with applications due on August 31, 2023 and December 31, 2023. Funding decisions will be made within 30 days of the due dates. More information and recent recipients are located at [Temporary Water Crossing | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

- **Instructions** – [Temporary Bridge Funding Opportunity](#)
- **Application** – [Temporary Bridge Funding Opportunity](#)

Success Stories

Wood Innovations Grants are making a difference across the country. From funding for advanced computer numerical control systems that can produce state-of-the-art prefabricated mass timber building materials, to renewable energy systems that run on wood chips, these grants are helping address critical issues like climate change and helping sustain local economies.

Success stories include

- [Supporting America's Forests by Creating and Expanding Markets for Sustainable Wood Products and Wood Energy](#) (PDF, 246 KB)
- [Expanding Forest Utilization Means Healthy Forests, Stronger Markets](#) (PDF, 384 KB)
- [TimberLab and Fire-Safe CLT Exterior Walls](#) (PDF, 2.34 MB)

- [The University of Arkansas Vision Grows Mass Timber Influence](#) (PDF, 1.29 MB)
- [Fire Tests Lead to Code Changes Supporting Visible Mass Timber Use in Tall Buildings](#) (PDF, 720 KB)
- [Blue Forest - Fighting Fire with Finance](#) (PDF, 1.26 MB)
- [Blue Mountain Lumber Products Mill Upgrades Benefit Forest Restoration](#) (PDF, 1.87 MB)
- [Northern Forests to Timber Cities: Connecting Dense Cities to Healthy Forests](#) (PDF, 1.57 MB)
- [Wood Energy Heats Up Alaska](#) (PDF, 1.84 MB)
- [CNC Machines Putting Mass Timber on the Cutting Edge](#) (PDF, 1.89 MB)
- [America's Forests with Chuck Leavell Celebrates the Importance of U.S. Forests](#) (PDF, 1.96 MB)
- [Woody Biomass Heating System Continues to Warm Students and Staff at Holderness](#) (PDF, 2.53 MB)
- [Building a Worldwide Market for End Grain Wood from National Forest Service Lands](#) (PDF, 1.84 MB)
- [University of Idaho Arena Charts a Future for Mass Timber](#) (PDF, 2.31 MB)
- [Biochar Initiative Sweeping Across the Great Plains](#) (PDF, 2.58 MB)
- [U.S Biochar Initiative Is Building a Sustainable Future from the Soil Up](#) (PDF, 2.55 MB)
- [WoodWorks Makes It Easier to Design, Engineer, and Construct Commercial and Multifamily Wood Buildings](#) (PDF, 1.52 MB)
- [Mass Timber Showcased in New Nez Perce Clearwater Forest Supervisor's Office](#) (PDF, 2.35 MB)
- [Clemson University's Wood Utilization + Design Institute \(WU+D\)](#) (PDF, 3.52 MB)
- [Wood Innovations Team](#) (PDF, 1.71 MB)
- [National Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team](#) (PDF, 1.71 MB)
- [Ampine Sustainable Particleboard Reduces Wildfire Risk](#) (PDF, 1.38 MB)
- [Menominee Tribal Enterprises Increases Energy Independence and Reduces Carbon Footprint](#) (PDF, 1.34 MB)
- [Gundersen Health System: Saving Energy and Breathing Easier](#) (PDF, 1.53 MB)

Building with Wood

The Forest Service is revolutionizing the United States building sector by supporting the introduction of mass timber products, such as cross-laminated timber (CLT). By building

stronger markets for innovative new wood products, we are supporting sustainable forest management, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and putting rural America at the forefront of an emerging industry.

- New building codes and 11 U.S. manufacturing facilities are operational to supply cross-laminated timber (CLT) and mass plywood for institutional, commercial, and multi-family wood buildings.
- Over 1,000 buildings have been constructed or are in design with mass timber. 289,000 architects, engineers and developers have been trained in wood structural design and mass timber construction.
- Foundational [Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\)](#) and [Environmental Product Declarations \(EPDs\)](#) have been established to measure environmental benefits of wood construction as documented in the [Wood Handbook](#).

Renewable Wood Energy

The Forest Service is committed to expanding renewable energy by promoting the use of ‘wood waste’ or ‘wood residues’ across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. Wood energy creates local jobs in rural and urban areas along each stage of the supply chain. Above all, wood energy supports sustainable forest management, which helps reduce damage caused by uncharacteristic wildfires, insects, disease, and invasive species.

- Wood energy can take many forms in both solid and liquid forms. Solid wood is often used to provide chips and pellets for heat, combined heat and power or electricity. Wood can also be used to produce liquid biofuels and biochemicals.

Project Report Templates

- [Progress Report](#)
- [Final Accomplishment Report](#)
- [Final Summary Report](#)

Related Content

Fire

Forest Inventory & Analysis

Forest Management

Forest Products Laboratory

Forest Products Week

National Bioenergy Day

National Utilization & Marketing Staff Directory

Sustainability and Climate

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WOOD INNOVATIONS FUNDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Contact Marcus Taylor, Wood Innovations Coordinator for the USDA FS Southern Region, for more information:

marcus.taylor@usda.gov 540.553.5476

	Community Wood Grant	Wood Innovations Grant
Project Length:	2 – 3 years, not to exceed 5 years	
Application:	Opens mid-October, applications due mid-December	
Eligible Applicants:	Local, state, and tribal governments; businesses, companies, corporations (for profit); institutions of higher education; non-profits; special purpose districts (public utility districts, fire districts, conservation districts, school districts, and ports.)	
Individual Award Ceiling:	\$1-1.5 million <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal funds pay for up to 35% of total capital costs needed to bring project to operable status.• Will consider up to 50% of total capital costs for proposals that warrant special consideration (e.g., high unemployment or other priorities). Applicant must obtain approval for special consideration from a Forest Service Coordinator before proposal submission.	\$300,000
Match Requirement:	No formal match required. Leveraging is required – applicant must provide remainder of funds (min. 65%) from non-federal sources.	100% match required. For every \$1 of Forest Service funds requested, applicant must provide \$1 of non-federal match.
Intent:	Support shovel ready projects to install a thermally led community wood energy system or build a new or expand an existing innovative wood product facility.	Stimulate, expand, and support U.S. wood products and wood energy markets.
Program Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expand thermally led community wood energy or innovative wood product opportunities2. Improve forest health; and3. Stimulate local economies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands.2. Reduce the costs of forest management on all land types.3. Promote economic and environmental health of communities.



Forest Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

	Community Wood Grant	Wood Innovations Grant
Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use or retrofit an existing sawmill facility where the average annual unemployment rate exceeds the national average.• Located where markets are needed for low-value wood.• Will aid forest restoration.• If installing/upgrading a wood-fired boiler, project using most stringent control technology and located where limited access to natural gas pipelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create or expand markets for wood and biomass generated by forest health and hazardous fuels projects in U.S.• Involve wood products or wood industry partners.• Support commercial building markets or other markets that use innovative wood products.• Bundle or address multiple wood energy or wood products projects.• Commit to utilizing domestically sourced timber for mass timber construction projects.• Support development of domestically sourced timber and U.S. manufacturing of mass timber and other wood products.• Purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the US.
Allowable Use of Funds:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costs to install a thermally led community wood energy system or build or expand an innovative wood product facility as long as those costs don't fall under any of the specific prohibitions.• Purchase of stationary equipment – be aware of federal interest.• Architecture and engineering design, inspections, legal work, and permitting costs associated with real property.• Infrastructure improvements, such as site prep or road improvements in advance of construction, that do not significantly increase value of real property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fairly broad. See examples of eligible projects. Previously funded project can be viewed at https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation• Purchase stationary wood energy equipment – be aware of federal interest.• Architecture and engineering design, inspections, legal work, and permitting costs associated with real property.• Applied research and demonstrations considered.

Contact Marcus Taylor, Wood Innovations Coordinator for the USDA FS Southern Region, for more information:

marcus.taylor@usda.gov 540.553.5476