



**MINUTES**  
**CONSERVATION BANK BOARD**  
**September 5, 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  
Mr. 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 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](http://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 9:01 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Becker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, approved 6 – 0, to approve the August 8, 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:

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for July 2023 is \$367,371.46.

Community First Bank for July 2023 is \$480.00.

Mr. Keese joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Mr. McCurry made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, approved 6 – 0 [Mr. Keese did not vote, as he was not present for the readings of the treasurer's reports], to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank for July of 2023 and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for July of 2023.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**

## **Fundraising & Public Relations Reports**

Mr. Smith noted to the Board that he has been in communication with Ms. Andrea Cooper with Upstate Forever to set up a meeting to discuss the potential for funding from the re-licensing of the Duke Power Plant.

Ms. Jones asked about the possibility of obtaining name tags for Board members to wear when attending different functions in the community to help bring awareness to the OCCB.

Ms. Adams, staff liaison, noted that she would check on the possibility of obtaining name tags for Board members.

## **Grants Status**

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

Mr. Smith noted to the Board that reimbursement Naturaland Trust for the Whetstone Hill property was received and deposited.

## **Discussion Items**

Ms. Adams informed the Board that newly revised Policy 003 Grant Procedures and Policy 005 Transfer of Property Interests have been posted to the OCCB webpage.

Mr. Smith asked members of the Fundraising Committee to schedule a date to meet to continue fundraising discussions.

Mr. Keese stated that last year, on two separate occasions, he was asked by Mr. Riley West with the South Carolina Landbank and Upstate Forever to arrange a landowner event with the HWY 11 and HWY 24 corridor farming community to help educate landowners about conservation easements.

Mr. Keese noted that this meeting would also be in conjunction with Oconee County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Short discussion followed by Board members related to the possibility of arranging a landowner event to discuss land conservation.

Mr. Smith asked the Board about cancelling meetings if no discussion items are on the OCCB agenda.

Short discussion by Board members followed related to meeting cancellations.

## **Adjourn:**

Mr. Howard made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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