Economic Development expands mission statement

WALHALLA — In response to a call from the Oconee Council, local economic development board members have expanded the agency's mission.

Prior to Friday's board action, the Oconee Economic Development Commission (EDC) had said its goal was to "Improve the Quality of life for citizens of Oconee County by providing a diversified economy that attracts industrial growth and fosters industrial retention."

County Council members said limiting the agency's focus to industry was no longer good enough.

The newly adopted statement reads: "The Economic Development Commission will improve the quality of life for citizens of Oconee County by encouraging a diversified economy that attracts industrial and commercial investment and fosters retention of existing business and industry."

Apparently the expanded wording was good enough for Council Chairman Reg Dexter and Paul Corbeil, chairman of the Planning and Economic Development Committee of Council, both of whom attended the EDC session.

A release issued by the EDC said both men, "expressed their appreciation to the Commission for the quick response to Council's suggestion."

Prior to Friday's action, EDC members discussed recent statements by members of the County Council directing the commission to broaden its goals to include encouragement of retirees to relocate as well as helping small businesses and promoting tourism along with industrial recruitment and retention.