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*Jennifer L. Dobson  
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*Cathy A. Greer  
Administration  
Coordinator*

**Post Office Box 11867  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-  
6811**

**Room 228 Blatt Building**

*Charles L. Appleby, IV  
Legal Counsel*

*Lewis Carter  
Research Analyst/Auditor*

*Riley E. McCullough  
Research Analyst*

### **Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee**

Thursday, March 4, 2021  
1 hour after adjournment  
Blatt Room 110

#### **Archived Video Available**

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

#### **Attendance**

- I. The Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chairman William M. (Bill) Hixon, on Thursday, March 4, 2021, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. The following members of the Subcommittee were present for either all or a portion of the meeting: Chairman Hixon, Representative Adam M. Morgan; Representative Russell L. Ott; and Representative Marvin R. Pendarvis.

## Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings. It is the practice of the Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes for its subcommittee meetings.
- II. Representative Pendarvis makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the prior Subcommittee meeting.

Rep. Pendarvis' motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Hixon	✓		
Rep. Morgan	✓		
Rep. Ott	✓		
Rep. Pendarvis	✓		

## Discussion of the S.C. Department of Commerce

- I. Chair Hixon swears in Mr. Robert M. (Bobby) Hitt III, Secretary of Commerce and Mr. Christopher Huffman, Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Commerce.
- II. Secretary Hitt introduces agency leadership present at the meeting:
  - a. Ms. Jennifer N. Fletcher, Deputy Secretary;
  - b. Ms. Ashley Teasdel, Director of Business Services;
  - c. Mr. Nelson Lindsay, Director of Global Business Development;
  - d. Ms. Karen B. Manning, General Counsel; and
  - e. Ms. Alex Clark, Director of Marketing and Communications.
- III. Secretary Hitt provides brief comments related to an overview of the Department of Commerce including information on mission; vision; agency head duties and background; organizational structure; agency successes; and agency history.
- IV. Mr. Huffman provides a finance overview of the agency: state recurring appropriations; filled and vacant positions at the agency; cash and available funds; expenditures by fiscal year; and operating costs by fiscal year.
- V. Subcommittee members ask questions relating to the following:

- a. Agency head employment background;
- b. Palmetto Railways;
- c. Business and local government requests;
- d. Expenditures of Coordinating Council;
- e. Topics of future agency presentations;
- f. State recurring appropriations;
- g. Locate SC;
- h. Impact of continuing resolution on agency operations;
- i. State funding allocated to the agency;
- j. Business services;
- k. Recruitment of companies: barriers; and transparency;
- l. Ready SC and workforce development;
- m. State's competitive advantages and disadvantages; and
- n. Electronic waste

Secretary Hitt and Mr. Huffman respond to those questions.

- VI. Agency representatives share a video presentation on how South Carolina is just right for business.
- VII. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.