South Carolina House of Representatives Legislative Oversight Committee

Chair Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson   **First Vice-Chair Chris Wooten**

William H. Bailey	William M. "Bill" Hixon	Timothy A. "Tim" McGinnis
Gary S. Brewer	Joseph H. "Joe" Jefferson, Jr.	Adam M. Morgan
April Cromer	Wendell Keith Jones	Travis A. Moore
Kambrell H. Garvin	Roger K. Kirby	Russell L. Ott
Leon Douglas "Doug" Gilliam	Josiah Magnuson	Marvin R. Pendarvis
Thomas Duval "Val" Guest, Jr.	John R. McCravy, III	Marvin "Mark" Smith

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MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 26, 2024
Upon Adjournment of the House
Blatt Room 433

Archived Video Available

I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.7, 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 Chair Travis A. Moore on Tuesday, June 26, 2024, in Room 433 of the Blatt Building. Three subcommittee members (Chair Moore; Representative Russell L. Ott; Representative Gary S. Brewer, Jr.) were present for all or a portion of the meeting. Representative William M. Hixon and Representative Marvin R. Pendarvis were absent.

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.

Discussion of the South Carolina Forestry Commission

I.   Prior to beginning his testimony, Chair Moore reminds the Forestry Protection Chief Darryl Jones and Deputy State Forester Tom Patton that they were sworn in previously, and that they remain under oath. Chair Moore asks if there are any additional agency representatives who may address the subcommittee today or at future meetings that have not been placed under oath.

II.   Forestry Protection Chief Darryl Jones begins his presentation on forest protection to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1.   Responding to wildfires;
2.   Preventing wildfires;
3.   Burning notifications;
4.   Enforcing forest law;
5.   Educating the public about prescribed burning;
6.   Responding to disasters;
7.   Administering federal property and assistance programs; and
8.   Successes and challenges of the Forestry Protection Division.

Throughout his presentation, members ask Forestry Protection Chief Darryl Jones questions and he responds.

III.   Deputy State Forester Tom Patton begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1.   Regional operations;
2.   Regional salary, fringe, and operating expenses;
3.   Wildfire operations;
4.   Assistant regional foresters;
5.   Unit foresters;
6.   Sector fire management officers;
7.   Frontline firefighters and tractor plow operators;
8.   Wildland fire occurrence and fire response allocation;
9.   Project foresters;
10.   Facilities management; and
11.   Challenges facing regional operations.

Throughout his presentation, members ask Deputy State Forester Tom Patton questions and he responds.

Approval of Minutes

IV.   Representative Brewer makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting. A roll call vote is held and the motion passes.

Rep. Brewer's motion to approve meeting minutes.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Brewer	✓		
Rep. Hixon			✓
Rep. Pendarvis			✓
Rep. Ott	✓		
Rep. Moore	✓		

V.   Randy Rollings, Forestry's Director of Information Technology, begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Network structure;
2. Deployment of hardware and software;
3. Information Technology support and communications;
4. Ensuring compliance;
5. Long-range planning
6. Program metrics; and
7. Challenges.

Throughout his presentation, members ask Randy Rollings questions and he responds.

Adjournment

I.   There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.