



# South Carolina House of Representatives Legislative Oversight Committee

## Chair Jeffrey E. “Jeff” Johnson

William H. Bailey  
Gary S. Brewer  
April Cromer  
Kambrell H. Garvin  
Leon Douglas “Doug” Gilliam  
Thomas Duval “Val” Guest, Jr.

William M. “Bill” Hixon  
Joseph H. “Joe” Jefferson, Jr.  
Wendell Keith Jones  
Roger K. Kirby  
Josiah Magnuson  
John R. McCravy, III

## First Vice-Chair Chris Wooten

Timothy A. “Tim” McGinnis  
Adam M. Morgan  
Travis A. Moore  
Russell L. Ott  
Marvin R. Pendarvis  
Marvin “Mark” Smith

Lewis Carter  
Director

Cathy A. Greer  
Administration Coordinator

Roland Franklin  
Legal Counsel

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## MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, July 2, 2024  
Upon Adjournment of the House  
Blatt Room 433

### Archived Video Available

- 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

- The Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Travis A. Moore on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, in Room 433 of the Blatt Building. Four subcommittee members (Chair Moore; Representative William M. Hixon; Representative Russell L. Ott; Representative Gary S. Brewer, Jr.) were present for all or a portion of the meeting. Representative Marvin R. Pendarvis was absent.

### Minutes

- 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.

### Approval of Minutes

## Approval of Minutes

- I. Representative Hixon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 25, 2024 meeting. A roll call vote is held and the motion passes.

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

## Discussion of the South Carolina Forestry Commission

- II. Prior to beginning the testimony, Chair Moore informs members that Dr. Nilesh Timilsina, Associate Professor of Forest Biometrics at Clemson University, will participate virtually at today's meeting to discuss forestry and artificial intelligence and that Division Director Randy Rollins and Fire Protection Chief Darryl Jones will also discuss artificial intelligence and its use in the forestry industry. Chair Moore reminds Darryl Jones, Randy Rollings, Division Director Doug Wood, Director of Administration Cathy Nordeen, and General Counsel David Jones that they were all 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. Krista Emory, Forestry's Human Resources Director, and Matt Schnabel, Forestry's Environment Education Coordinator, were sworn in along with Dr. Timilsina.
- III. Professor Timilsina begins his presentation on the use of artificial intelligence generally in forestry. Mr. Darryl Jones and Mr. Rollins followed that discussion with a presentation of AI technology currently used by the commission and the pros and cons of the technology.
- IV. Division Director Doug Wood begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:
1. Raising awareness of forestry and its benefits;
  2. Information services;

Throughout his presentation, members ask Division Director Doug Wood questions and he responds.

V. Environment Education Coordinator Matt Schnabel begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Forestry education and outreach;

Throughout his presentation, members ask Environment Education Coordinator Matt Schnabel questions and he responds.

VI. Division Director Doug Wood continues his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Providing creative services; and
2. Program metrics;

VII. Human Resources Director Krista Emory begins her presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Recruitment and employee screening;
2. Performance evaluation process;
3. Employee benefits and payroll;
4. Employee discipline;
5. Compliance;
6. Compensation issues;
7. Reporting;
8. Employee engagement;
9. Staff professional development; and
10. Recruitment challenges and retirement challenges.

Throughout her presentation, members ask Human Resources Director Krista Emory questions and she responds.

VIII. Director of Administration Cathy Nordeen begins her presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Financial services and accounting;
2. Procurement;
3. Auditing;
4. Budget request process; and
5. The budget.

Throughout her presentation, members ask Director of Administration Cathy Nordeen questions and she responds.

IX. General Counsel David Jones begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Development of the role of General Counsel;
2. Providing in-house legal services;
3. Serving as legislative liaison;
4. Agency land acquisitions;
5. Support for law enforcement officers;
6. Update on ArborGen.

X. Throughout his presentation, members ask General Counsel David Jones questions and he responds.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.