

INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE*

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

One SC:

State agencies arranged a single elimination basketball tournament on Saturday, March 12, 2016, to benefit the One SC Flood Relief Fund. Ten teams (108 state employees) participated from DMH, DOC, DOR, LLR, A Healthier State House, DOT, DHEC, DEW, DSS and DJJ. Overall, the tournament raised over \$1,000, with DHEC raising the most at \$646.00. Bridget Butler from DAODAS organized the tournament.

Farm Bailout Bill:

Today, Senate Finance passed out H.4717, the Farm Aid bill, favorably as amended. The vote was 14-3 with Sens. Peeler, Grooms, and Fair voting against (Sens. Davis, Bryant, and Martin were not in attendance but they would have been NO votes as had they been in the room). Three amendments were adopted: 1) convert the Farm Aid board to an advisory committee at the Department of Agriculture, and sunset it after two years; 2) ensure grants are only made to farmers based on losses caused by the October flood, and require the Department of Agriculture to use current resources to administer the program; and 3) require the advisory board to submit its grant criteria to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means for approval, and ensure farmers receive the technical assistance necessary to complete a grant application.

In a meeting with staff earlier this morning, Sen. Davis committed to putting his name on the bill as it moves to the Senate floor.

FOIA Reform Bill:

Today, Senate Judiciary gave favorable report to Rep. Newton's FOIA Reform Bill by a vote of 17-1 (Bright-Matthews). Recall that this bill includes many of the McMaster-Medlock proposals. Lt. Governor McMaster's letter asking to remove the legislative exemption for FOIA is ready to be signed and printed and can be sent at any time.

Coal Ash Legislation:

The Coal Ash bill that the Governor signed into law on March 2, 2016, prohibited coal ash from being placed in South Carolina landfills unless they were Class 3 landfills (containing protective ground liners). The bill contained four exceptions to the prohibition, including an exception if the coal ash was going to subsequently be "placed into beneficial reuse" (such as making concrete and other allowable uses). This exception is in line with federal exceptions to coal ash dumping. The bill states that "beneficial reuse" is subject to applicable regulations at DHEC. DHEC has made us aware that they plan to send out a notice of regulation development in the coming weeks related to the "beneficial reuse" of coal ash.

**This document is a transitory and temporary record created for short-term internal purposes that includes informal materials that do not record decisions.*

Commerce & DEW:

Beth spoke to Grey Parks at DEW, and they have meetings scheduled with both Crane Merchandising Systems and Giti Tire next week to discuss their hiring needs. Initial contact with both companies was made by Cheryl Stanton early last week, and these are follow-up conversations with their broader teams. The Crane meeting will take place via a WebEX video conference call, and the DEW team will visit the Giti site in Chester for that meeting. Grey will follow-up with Beth following these meetings to discuss their plans going forward.

DSS Program Improvement Plan:

We learned today that DSS has been placed under a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) by the federal agency ACF. ACF provides federal grant funds to DSS. CAPTA (federal statute) requires healthcare providers to report infants experiencing drug withdrawal symptoms and fetal alcohol syndrome to DSS, and it requires DSS to create a safety plan for each child. ACF has reviewed DSS's policies regarding these infants and has determined that they are not robust enough to comply with CAPTA. DSS has 30 days to submit a remediation plan to ACF and has one year (April 4, 2017) to implement this plan. If they do not, they risk losing CAPTA grant funds from ACF. DSS has received a press inquiry from Reuters on this issue, so we anticipate press coverage.

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Beware the Ides of March...