

## **INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE\***

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

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### **List of Updates:**

- **Budget;**
  - **Legal;**
  - **Emergency Management.**
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### **Budget:**

**Education** – Our staff will be meeting with Molly Spearman’s transition team early next week to discuss the FY15-16 Executive Budget and to assess what Spearman’s priorities will be during her administration.

### **Legal:**

**Same-Sex Marriage Cases** – Yesterday, the Attorney General filed a motion for a stay at SCOTUS in the *Condon* case (Charleston) after the Fourth Circuit denied the stay. Our motion will be heard by Chief Justice Roberts, our circuit’s assigned justice to hear emergency orders, who can decide either to grant a temporary or permanent stay by himself or to defer to the opinion of the whole Court. If SCOTUS takes no action, then same-sex marriage will be legal in SC tomorrow at noon. Also yesterday, Judge Childs issued an opinion in the *Bradacs* case (Lexington) preventing the State from not recognizing same-sex marriages. Because of the *Bradacs* decision, Charleston Probate Judge Condon began issuing marriage licenses today, and the first same-sex couple was married on the steps of the Charleston Courthouse this morning – this occurred even though Judge Condon is a defendant in the *Condon* case where Judge Gergel ruled that same-sex marriages were not to occur until noon tomorrow, Thursday. The Attorney General’s Office reported that it will not intervene in probate judge matters.

### **Emergency Management:**

**Langley Pond dam (Aiken County)** – There are no major changes. The water level of the pond is down approximately 3.75 feet. Aiken County remains at OPGON 4 with no staffing requirements needed at the EOC. Although the danger has decreased, there is still a concern at the point of the leak, and therefore the dam’s official status remains at Potential Failure. The group has received funding approval from the county to contract for a siphoning process to help lower the pond level further. All local and state support (including DHEC and EMD) remain involved if needed. No additional state assistance has been requested.

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**Good luck to Team Haley in Mumbai and Chennai on Thursday!**

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