



**MINUTES**  
**Spartanburg County**  
**Legislative Delegation**  
**Monday, August 6, 2007**  
**5:00 p.m.**

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, August 6, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building. Representative Bob Walker presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Present  
Senator John Hawkins – Present  
Senator Jim Ritchie – Absent  
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present  
Representative Harold Mitchell – Absent  
Representative Doug Smith – Absent  
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Present  
Representative Scott Talley – Present  
Representative Keith Kelly – Present  
Representative Joe Mahaffey – Present  
Representative Ralph Davenport – Present  
Representative Bob Walker – Present  
Representative Mike Anthony – Present

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were mailed in advance to the local news media and other interested parties.

Invocation was rendered and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Mike Anthony.

**1. APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

Representative Scott Talley moved to approve the May 7, 2007 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. The motion was seconded and carried.

**2. JERRY KIEHL, VETERANS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR – VETERANS’ CLINIC AND UPDATED REPORT**

Mr. Kiehl did not appear to present the information as he had requested.

**3. BETH SUMMER-STRAIT, SPARTANBURG MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

The Mental Health Association was founded in Spartanburg County in 1944. Carolina Counseling was founded in 1936. This year, the two agencies merged to become one – known now as the PACE Center: Prevention, Advocacy, Counseling, and Education. The two agencies did not lose anything, but truly gained in the merge. The merge included the education and advocacy work of the mental health association with the actual direct service counseling piece of Carolina Counseling, which now, are both representing a much stronger agency. PACE will have an official kick-off grand opening of the new agency Tuesday, August 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the new location on Main Street in Spartanburg across from the Herald Journal. Both offices have been moved into one building working as one cohesive unit. Ms. Summer-Strait is the new executive director of the joint agency – The PACE Center. PACE continues to serve both Spartanburg and Union Counties primarily, but now with the new services PACE is able to offer, the Center can reach throughout the Upstate with the Counseling, Education and Advocacy work.

**4. MRS. RITA ALLISON – INTRODUCTION OF DR. GARRY WALTERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Mrs. Rita Allison introduced Ms. Julie Carullo. Julie is the governmental affairs special projects member of the State Commission on Higher Education.

Mrs. Allison also introduced Dr. Garry Walters, who has moved to South Carolina from Ohio and is entrenched to the work of the State Commission on Higher Education.

Dr. Walters has attended many meetings and has observed that South Carolina is strong in higher education. The three research universities are very much on the move and in focus. The technical college system has well deserved national reputation. Dr. Walters has had a chance to hear from the presidents of the comprehensive teaching universities and feels they are extremely focused on undergraduate education and connected to the community. Data indicates South Carolina is a national leader in graduation rates.

Dr. Walters has observed that South Carolina needs to draw students based on the

tremendous strengths that are available here in Higher Education because that really matters. It matters in perception in keeping and attracting people to the state. It matters in morale because South Carolina is a state with a lot of successes. He has talked to the Commission about one of our first mottos should be “No lying.” South Carolina should be talking about all the positives in education.

The second observation that Dr. Walters has noticed is that just because South Carolina has a lot of strengths doesn't mean there isn't a lot of work yet to do. Compared to the nation, South Carolina is under educated and needs more research and innovation, as well as training and support for business and services. Higher education needs to remember that even if we are strong in South Carolina, we are vulnerable because the world is very much aware that knowledge is now the show of the economy, and, everybody is trying to invest more in knowledge and become more competitive to stay ahead and alive.

Dr. Walters's second conclusion, which is very much a tentative one, is that the commission work with the state political leaders, business and community leaders, and obviously higher education leaders to develop an action plan for Higher Education. This doesn't mean the typical higher education plan with thoughts of one word abstract concepts that takes another committee to figure out what the first one actually meant. Instead have a short term (three year) plan which should be very specific i.e., train more engineers in particular fields that are of strong interest to the state's industry; train more people in technology fields; as well as including a time frame for achievements; focus and build on areas of critical needs. Instead of having a very general plan, have a series of specific plans.

Dr. Walters final observation from a higher education perspective is that although there are so many strengths, there is very little working together across the higher education field. There is some strong collaboration among research universities. Obviously, the technical colleges already have a system, but listening to the budget presentation, Dr. Walters has heard a dozen different perspectives on most major issues. South Carolina needs to get together, be more coherent, more focused, get to the priorities, and discuss an action plan if people agree this is something that should be done.

Representative Mahaffey respectfully requested creating more education for medical doctors as there has been a poor job of estimating a demand for physicians. It wasn't long ago when people were projecting a sharp decline in a demand for physicians thinking that managed care would cause a reduction in the number of slots for graduate positions and residencies. Those turned out to be very wrong. The national association now calls for a significant increase. It is a great challenging area.

## **5. DR. SHEILA BREITWEISER, SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND BLIND - UPDATE**

South Carolina is one of the few states that have the deaf education training program and the blind education training program of visual impairments in the same community. Plus, the School for Deaf and Blind (SCSDB) not only has these two programs in this community, but also have access to the residential school thanks to support from the Department of Higher Education. There are so

many things that happen in this state for Deaf and Blind children because this school happens to be located in Spartanburg and because of the support given by the Delegation. The School is good for Spartanburg too. The employees are good citizens and pay taxes. The students are encouraged to learn about being good citizens and being cooperative.

The SCSDB is very excited about the new housing under construction across the street from the school. Forty-eight units are being built for deaf citizens from around the state. This is a Spartanburg Housing Authority project, but the SCSDB is providing assistance. There will be fourteen (14) units built for blind people with low income with additional housing.

The SCSDB provides services to about three-hundred-fifty (350) public school students through an agreement with seventy-two (72) school districts all across the state. Last year the SCSDB served over eight hundred (800) infants and toddlers around the state through services and outreach centers.

The SCSDB has taken over the Department of Corrections production of Braille books. Through this program all eighty-five school districts provide children with their Braille and large print books.

The initiatives, undertaken in the State of South Carolina, have really come from support in the Upstate. Dr. Breitweiser doesn't think there is another state of the 50 that can touch all the initiatives going on to support people with disabilities, particularly sensory disabilities.

## **6. MAYOR PAUL BELL, CITY OF WODRUFF – UPDATE ON CITY OF WROODUFF BUSINESS AND ISSUES**

Mayor Bell stated that the citizens of the City of Woodruff and the community of Woodruff thank the Delegation for everything that has been done for the County.

In the time that Mayor Bell has been on Council, especially in the last three years, the City has completed approximately \$1.5M of community development block grants on sewer and housing in the Pine Ridge area. During this period of time Woodruff: has had feasibility studies completed on the sewer system and on the old high school building that is currently being used for City Hall; has maintained a balanced budget; managed to lower property taxes five mills; and, had what was commonly referred to as the “big dig” at McKinney Park that was about to take in the new play station. It cost three and one half times more than originally thought, but the City was able to pay for it without any bonds issued or borrowing.

The City believes that Woodruff is poised to become the jewel of Spartanburg County. Highway 101 has been completed. There are three major highways through the City, the railroad, and, easy access to 385 and Interstate 26. Woodruff has a great school system, fire department, and police department. However, Woodruff is lacking in a few items which are Parks and Recreation, but is addressing those issues.

Mayor Bell thanked the Delegation for the help and to remember that when Representative Kelly comes before the state with a plea for money that Woodruff has been good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**7. REPRESENTATIVE RALPH DAVENPORT, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)**

No report

**8. REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT TALLEY, COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (CTC)**

No report

**9. REPRESENTATIVE LANNY LITTLEJOHN, SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

No report. However, the Chamber president plans to present their specific problematic issues to delegation members all across the state at a later date.

**10. REPRESENTATIVE KEITH KELLY, SPARTANBURG CHILDREN'S SHELTER**

No report

**11. SENATOR JOHN HAWKINS, SPATS**

No report

**12. REPRESENTATIVE JOE MAHAFFEY, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

No report

**13. REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD MITCHELL, PARD**

No report

**14. SENATOR GLENN REESE, POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

An application and policy is in the process of being drafted to present for approval at the next Delegation meeting. The application will be filled out by the person requesting a state roadway be named after a deserving honoree.

## APPOINTMENTS

### **15. SPARTANBURG COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

Terms of Tammy Devine (District 2); At-Large member Hubert Dobson (District 5); and, At-Large member Deloris H. Oliver (District 7). Applications received: DeLoris H. Oliver (District 7); Tammy Devine (District 2); and, Hubert C. Dobson (District 5).

Representative Lanny Littlejohn moved to nominate all three applicants for re-appointment. The motion was seconded by Representative Scott Talley. The motion carried by acclamation.

### **16. GLENN SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of Jeff W. Chandler. Applications received: Dan T. Eubanks and Jeff Chandler.

Representative Keith Kelly moved to carry the Glenn Springs Fire District appointment over until the next meeting.

### **17. MAYO FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of David H. Blanton. Application received: David H. Blanton

Senator Glenn Reese moved to nominate David H. Blanton. The motion was seconded and carried by acclamation.

### **18. ARKWRIGHT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Resignation of E. R. Thomas. Application received: None

The Arkwright Fire District Commission appointment was carried over until the next meeting as no applications have been received.

### **19. ELECTION COMMISSION**

Resignation of Joe Hines. Application received: Michael Moton, Robert Kenneth McCraw, Jr. and David Michael Collins, Jr.

Representative Joe Mahaffey moved to nominate David Collins. Representative Keith Kelly seconded the motion. Senator Glenn Reese moved to nominate Robert McCraw, Jr. There were no other nominations. Votes were taken with David Collins receiving 55.661% of the vote, and Robert McCraw, Jr. receiving 17.893% of the vote. Therefore, David Collins' name will be forwarded to the Governors office for confirmation to serve on the Election Commission.

## **20. SPARTANBURG COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Terms of Terry Cash, Donna Turner Williams, and Jim Crook. Applications received: Susan G. Clary, Ingo Angermeier, Emerson Fort Wolfe, Jr. and Katherine A. Dunleavy.

Representative Davenport moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting. Representative Kelly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **21. DRAYTON FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Terms of T. Mitchell Shook and David Keith Comer, Sr. Application received: T. Mitchell Shook.

Representative Scott Talley moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting.

## **22. STARTEX FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of William M. Allison. Application received: William M. Allison

Representative Joe Mahaffey moved to nominate William M. Allison for re-appointment. Senator Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **23. BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of Jeff Moss. Application received: Joe N. Williams

Representative Ralph Davenport moved to nominate and elect Joe N. Williams by acclamation. The motion carried.

## **24. OLD BUSINESS**

## **25. NEW BUSINESS**

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Doug Smith, Delegation Chairman

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Attested:  
Carol Crowe