Shakeup at South Cove Park

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Veteran superintendent challenges dismissal

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WALHALLA — An Oconee County employee is out of a job following complaints of poor management practices at South Cove Park.

Sean McGuffee, a longtime county employee, was dismissed as park superintendent at South Cove. He is challenging the termination.

McDuffee appealed his dismissal before a grievance committee typically made up of five county employees. County Administrator Scott Moulder said Thursday that the committee has completed its hearing and submitted a recommendation.

Moulder said he is not at liberty to discuss the committee's recommendation.

During a recent public appearance, Moulder was asked what was going on at South Cove Park.

At the time, Moulder mentioned problems that had surfaced with personnel and that the park was under restructuring.

Moulder said all he could say about the matter is that there were "poor management practices of the operations and staff."

Phil Shirley, director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, said that he's been living in a camper at the park to oversee changes in operations.

He said complaints from the public were among the red flags that triggered a complete review of activity at the park.

McGuffee, who had been employed for more than 10 years by the county, did not return a phone call from The Journal on Thursday.

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