

**A Report of the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting
September 9, 2025**

A meeting of the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. at the Solid Waste Authority's Administrative Office in Conway, South Carolina. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices setting forth the date, time, and place of the meeting were mailed to the news media.

Present were Committee Chairman Pam J. Creech, and Committee Members Bo Ives and Wayne Fox. Board Chairman Robert J. Kemp, Danny Knight, Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Ed Marr and Directors Esther Murphy, Jan Bitting and Stephanie Todd were in attendance. Other staff included Trina Cooke, Jamie Suggs, Katherine Bell, Kendra Dickerson and Monica Collier. There were no members of the public or media in attendance.

Ms. Creech called the meeting to order and Mr. Ives rendered the invocation. Mr. Fox led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECYCLING DISCUSSION

Ms. Creech said that she had been researching recycling policies in other counties and states to identify any strategies that could improve or enhance SWA's current approach. She stated that most of what she discovered was already being implemented by the SWA. Ms. Creech said that while most countries mandate and strictly enforce recycling, the SWA, along with the state and county, was not currently being addressed. Ms. Creech said that efforts are being made to educate the public about recycling through schools, media outreach, and television appearances.

Ms. Creech raised a question regarding how recycling centers could make the process of recycling more convenient for county residents. She also praised the recycling staff for doing a great job.

Ms. Creech asked Mr. Marr if he was aware that speed bumps are being made from recycled tires. Mr. Marr responded that he was not aware and asked if she was referring to molded speed bumps. She replied yes that she had seen quite a few.

Ms. Creech indicated that tires were one of the SWA's biggest challenges and asked if staff could explore products made from recycled tires.

Ms. Creech asked whether the County permits speed bumps made from recycled tires. Mr. Ives responded that the County does not and only permits asphalt speed bumps.

Mr. Marr stated that under the newly passed tire ordinance, a portion of the funding was allocated to market research. He added that tires can be recycled into a variety of other products. Mr. Marr indicated that the state has not yet determined the amount of funding to be allocated, but there was a clear intention to move forward with some of the work.

Mr. Ives asked about the difficulty of removing metal. Mr. Marr explained that, based on his research, it was a multi-stage process that varies depending on the intended product. General discussion ensued regarding tires.

Ms. Creech stated that the SWA should incorporate information about batteries into its education program to help ensure they are kept out of the landfill.

Ms. Creech stated that she was unsure if batteries were accepted at all recycling facilities. Mrs. Murphy confirmed that all centers do, in fact, take batteries.

Ms. Creech asked whether people noticed the signage at the recycling centers. Mrs. Murphy responded that signage was in place, but she would need to review it to ensure its clarity. Mrs. Murphy indicated that the staff conducts a yearly assessment of the signage and apply updates when necessary.

Mrs. Murphy reported that the recycling centers accept car batteries and virtually all other types of batteries, with the exception of lithium batteries, which must be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility at the landfill. General discussion followed.

Ms. Creech inquired with Mrs. Murphy about the status of the SWA mascot. Mrs. Murphy replied that the mascot was expected to arrive sometime next month.

Ms. Creech inquired if contests could be added to the recycling program to make it more engaging and enjoyable.

Mr. Ives inquired about the current routes for cardboard collection and asked whether SWA has been experiencing a decline in customers. Mr. Marr stated that staff were continuing their efforts to maintain customers.

Mr. Ives asked whether someone should be specifically assigned to seek out new business opportunities. Mrs. Murphy responded that this responsibility falls under the roles of Recycling Coordinators Kendra Dickerson and Victoria Johnson. She explained that they regularly travel throughout the area during the week, and when they notice new construction sites, they attempt to make contact before the businesses are completed. She added that staff occasionally obtain copies of Horry County building permits to identify upcoming commercial projects.

Mr. Ives asked what types of incentives could be provided to increase participation in recycling efforts. Mrs. Murphy explained that the SWA runs a Spotlight on Environmental Awareness program, which recognizes businesses or groups committed to protecting the environment. She said that staff had not presented an award in some time but stated that one was scheduled to be presented later this month. Mr. Ives said Keep Horry County Beautiful offered valuable input to Mrs. Murphy on potential recipients. Mrs. Murphy stated that the organization has a new Board and was adjusting to its responsibilities.

Mrs. Murphy said another effort the SWA used to recognize participating businesses was by placing advertisements in the local newspaper. She said the ad highlights businesses that have participated in the cardboard recycling program by listing each business by name. Mrs. Murphy stated this serves as a way to publicly recognize their contributions and enhance their presence in the community.

Mrs. Murphy said she would explore ways to recognize businesses, similar to how residents are

acknowledged through the “Caught Green-Handed” program, perhaps by recognizing businesses that demonstrate exceptional performance within their local community.

Ms. Creech stated that, as the Recycling Division prepares to participate with the County on upcoming projects, she hoped to see an increase in recycling rates that would have an impact. She also stressed the importance of allocating additional funding to the recycling budget to support these efforts. Mr. Knight stated that the upcoming budget was approaching and confirmed that related matters would be addressed at the time.

UCS SITE ATTENDANT MONTHLY RECOGNITION DISCUSSION

Ms. Creech highlighted that site attendants serve as the front line of communication with the public. She recommended that they actively engage with residents by discussing recycling practices and encouraging greater participation in recycling efforts. She stated that the SWA should implement a monthly recognition program for site attendants to acknowledge their contributions and promote continued dedication to doing a great job.

Mr. Fox asked whether recognition practices were implemented in the past. Mrs. Murphy said that the SWA currently maintains a recognition program that incorporates all employees, not just site attendants. She stated that staff members are eligible for service awards and the Employee of the Year award. She said within the Employee of the Year program, there’s a dedicated category for site attendants. Mrs. Murphy stated that on a quarterly basis, the UCS Department recognizes a Site Attendant of the Quarter.

Ms. Creech inquired about any effective practices currently in place within the recycling department. She asked Mrs. Murphy had she observed any programs or if there were specific areas the Board should consider prioritizing in the upcoming budget to enhance recycling efforts. Mr. Marr stated that staff, particularly within the operations team, were actively examining incoming waste streams to identify additional materials that could potentially be diverted from the landfill. He said that a Waste Characterization Study was scheduled to be conducted on the C&D landfill at the end of the month, which is expected to provide further insight into potential diversion opportunities. Mr. Marr reported that the MSW Characterization Study had already been completed, and staff now have a clear understanding of the volume and composition of materials currently being processed.

Mr. Marr stated that staff were actively encouraging both public and private businesses with collections programs to increase recycling efforts.

Ms. Creech inquired about the status of recycling in Georgetown. Mr. Marr responded that Georgetown had not made a recent delivery, as their initial priority was addressing a pile of material outside their facility was due to delays. He said that they had since caught up. Mr. Marr said that the SWA had not received a load from Georgetown in some time, but approximately 150 tons were delivered during the first few weeks of the program. Mr. Marr stated that Georgetown did not require assistance from the SWA, but he was confident they would reach out if the need arises.

Mr. Fox asked whether the SWA receives any recycling from the City of Loris. Mrs. Murphy responded that recycling does not come specifically from the City of Loris. Mr. Knight stated that the City of Loris was eligible to submit a grant application.

Mrs. Murphy responded to Mr. Ives' suggestion about incentivizing businesses to recycle, saying that the approach was previously implemented. Mrs. Murphy reminded the Board of the program that offered businesses a reduction in tipping fees, contingent upon the volume of recyclable materials they delivered to the MRF. She stated that the incentives did not achieve the desired outcome.

Ms. Creech asked whether scholarship recipients are given a specific topic when required to submit a written paper. Mrs. Murphy responded that applicants are provided with two essay questions to address as part of the scholarship process.

Mr. Fox asked whether there were a significant number of private waste haulers operating in the County that could offset the amount of waste going to the recycle centers. Mrs. Murphy stated that scenario may work but commented on the amount of municipal residents utilizing the centers on holidays, weekends, etc., which then increases the amount of waste at the centers. Mrs. Murphy explained that individuals frequently use recycling centers to dispose of garbage, regardless of their eligibility. She said that as curbside collection expands, the volume of garbage delivered to recycling centers was expected to decrease.

Ms. Creech asked whether the recycling equipment at the MRF was functioning effectively. Mr. Marr responded that the MRF equipment was performing well, with bypass rates remaining below 10%. He stated that issues typically arise during rainy conditions, when wet cardboard tends to clog the system. Overall, he stated that the MRF was operating successfully.

FOOD WASTE DISCUSSION

Ms. Creech inquired whether any businesses would be willing to participate in programs reducing food waste. Mrs. Murphy stated that under the current SWA grant program, past recipients funding food waste recycling programs were unable to maintain their programs over the long term.

Mr. Ives asked how many active programs are currently in place at the recycling centers. Mrs. Murphy stated that the Solid Waste Authority operates five food waste drop-off sites. Mrs. Murphy stated that the current pilot program was scheduled to end on December 31st. She stated that she began compiling a chart comparing this year's performance to last year's. Mrs. Murphy said that she plans to meet with County officials who fund the program's operations at recycling centers to discuss potential next steps beyond December 31st. She stated that she plans to share the compiled data with the Committee in November.

Mr. Knight said staff would review the items discussed and determine the most effective course of action moving forward.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned 4:15 P.M.