Report of the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting
November 14, 2016

A meeting of the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Committee was held on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at the 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 Lance Thompson and Committee Members Pam Creech and Michael Hughes. Other Board Members in attendance was Dan Gray. Danny Knight, Executive Director and Directors Esther Murphy, Jan Bitting and Mike Bessant were in attendance. Other staff members included Jeff Mishoe and Cecil Terry.

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Creech rendered the invocation. Mr. Hughes led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Thompson asked for any revisions to the Agenda as contained in the Agenda Packet.

Ms. Creech moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Hughes and the Motion was carried.

Mr. Thompson then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Murphy.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY-REVIEW OF TOP FIVE MATERIALS
Mrs. Murphy indicated that Ms. Creech asked staff to review the top five materials found in the waste stream and offer recommendations on how to divert this material from the landfill. She stated Kessler Consultants suggested alternatives on how additional waste could be diverted from the landfill. Mrs. Murphy said with the exception of disposal bans, many of the “key opportunities” identified by Kessler Consultants on how the SWA should move forward to divert additional waste from disposal are currently being performed at some level. These include: comprehensive and ongoing education and outreach, technical assistance to businesses and institutions, incentives, focus on large generators, textile recycling scrap metal and C&D debris material diversion, etc.

Mrs. Murphy informed the group the largest category of waste was food waste which consisted of meat and vegetable waste including coffee grinds and tea bags. She stated in August 2015 the SWA started its food waste composting program. Mrs. Murphy commented this program encouraged wholesale and retail food establishments as well as governmental agencies such as municipalities and schools to compost food waste materials. She stated as an incentive haulers received a reduced tipping fee for bringing in food waste $21.75 per ton as compared to $29.00 per ton charge for MSW. Mrs. Murphy indicated the area had one hauler of food waste material Smart Recycling who offers food waste recycling to its customer.
Mrs. Murphy stated she and Mr. Knight had discussed a pilot program whereby food waste would be collected at a recycling center. She commented staff had continued to promote the food waste composting program in various SWA publications. Mrs. Murphy commented there has been no paid advertising to promote the food waste program because of budget constraints.

Ms. Creech commented she read an article in Horry Electric’s monthly publication that area churches and organization were feeding the community. She realized the SWA did not have funding for advertising this program but suggested the SWA send a letter or call to reach out and inform the various organizations about diverting of food to the food waste composting program or donating it to an organization. Ms. Creech asked if the SWA had contacted Smart Recycling about promoting the food waste collection of their business.

Mr. Knight indicated there are two waste streams. He said the first involved Smart Recycling who collects food waste for composting and the other occurs when food, such as vegetables and fruits that have imperfections, are diverted to church and community food banks. He commented the area restaurants were diverting prepared food to the church and shelter homes. Mr. Knight indicated the SWA would not compost any meat. He stated the Smart Recycling and other hauler promote their own business services.

Mr. Hughes asked if any of the area restaurants donate their food to any the school programs. He commented that one organization used K&W Cafeteria for summer food programs. Mr. Hughes asked if there was some ways to incorporate these programs with area churches to help divert the food from the landfill. Ms. Creech suggested contacting the area churches and introducing the SWA’s recycling programs to them without incurring any advertising cost. Mrs. Murphy indicated staff would pursue Ms. Creech’s suggestion.

Mrs. Murphy indicated the second item was low grade paper which consisted of contaminated paper and grades such as napkins, paper towels, paper plates and tissues. She commented this paper was not recyclable in traditional programs, due to the makeup of the material being fragile but was compostable.

Mrs. Murphy stated the third category consisted of all other garbage which included items such as diapers, pet waste, disposal gloves, products that are composite of material such as frozen juice can, binders, Pringle’s can, chip bags. She indicated these items are not recyclable; staff routinely promotes and encouraged citizens to use more environmentally friendly options such as cloth diapers instead of disposal diapers.

Ms. Creech asked if there were any machinery that helped recycle products and keep out of the landfill other than mandating. Mr. Bessant indicated he and Mr. Knight discussed building an addition to the MRF facility to recycle mixed waste materials from the malls and hotel/motels. He stated he did not know of any equipment that would help. Mr. Bessant commented the problem would be with the
contamination unless the business was a hotel with no food waste but the materials could be processed through the MRF. Mr. Knight commented an optical sorter would help remove plastic and film and the equipment would reduce labor. He indicated the fee study would target several programs. Ms. Creech commented getting the optical sorter would decrease the cost of labor and pull more material out of the waste stream. She informed the group she wanted to tour a facility that used and optical sorter. Mr. Bessant commented there was Pyatt Facility in Fayetteville, NC. Ms. Creech asked staff if there was any equipment on the landfill that could help with recycling. Mr. Bessant commented the banning of materials from the landfill would help the recycling efforts especially a high volume item such as cardboard.

Mrs. Murphy stated the fourth category consisted of the garbage bags and films. She indicated the type plastic bag described in this category was for general disposal of household waste or food storage. Ms. Creech indicated in Pennsylvania yard waste disposal used paper bags. Mrs. Murphy informed the group she would discuss this during the blue bag ban portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Murphy indicated the final category was other recyclable paper which included recycled telephone books, catalogs, paperboard, chipboard, brown paper bags, mail, paperback books, blueprints and other printed materials. Mrs. Murphy commented this material was currently collected through the SWA recycling programs. Ms. Creech asked about the glass recycling program and if there was a need to expand this program to process the finer glass used in sandblasting. Mr. Knight commented there were not vendors for the material but the glass aggregate was used on the roads at the landfill.

"BLUE BAG ORGANIC" BAG DISCUSSION

Mrs. Murphy commented that Ms. Creech brought back a blue bag from the BioCycle Conference in Orlando, Florida and asked staff to research it. Mrs. Murphy explained these bags were for a food waste composting program. Regarding Ms. Creech’s comments about the paper bags she had seen in Pennsylvania for yard waste. Mrs. Murphy indicated many municipalities such as, Charleston County used the paper bags for yard waste and indicated plastic bags were not allowed. Ms. Creech asked if the SWA could buy bags wholesale and give them away to Horry County residents. Mrs. Murphy indicated these bags were available at most large home improvement stores. Mr. Hughes asked how large were the bags. Mrs. Murphy replied the bags were 30-gallons. She commented that banning plastic bags from yard waste produced a better product.

Mr. Knight said if the Committee wanted staff to obtain a copy of Charleston County’s yard waste ordinance and forward it to the Board for their information and review The Committee concurred.

Ms. Creech moved that staff bring the Charleston County yard waste ordinance to the next board meeting for their information and review. There was a second by Mr. Hughes and the Motion carried.
COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE
The group discussed the date for the January 2017 committee meeting. Mrs. Murphy asked if the committee meeting could be held at the beginning of the week to give staff a chance to complete the minutes. Mr. Thompson indicated the next committee meeting would be January 16, 2017 at 10:00am.

Ms. Creech commented that SWA’s lobbyist should be more proactive, especially in regard to the update of the Solid Waste Management Act. Mr. Knight suggested to Ms. Creech that she bring this recommendation up for Board action at the next Board Meeting. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:05am.