

**MINUTES OF RESCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
March 31, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2025, at 11:00 A.M., at the Authority's Administrative Office, 1886 Highway 90, 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 the following Board Members: Robert J. Kemp, Chairman; Pam J. Creech, Vice Chairman; Amos C. Berry, Sr., Treasurer; and Board Members Dr. Albert G. Hayward and Wayne Fox. Board Members W. Norfleet Jones, and Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. were not in attendance.

Horry County Administrator Barry Spivey and Casey Shea represented the public in attendance. There were no members of the media present.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Danny Knight, Executive Director; Ed Marr, Assistant Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Stephanie Todd, Director; Richie Stetter, Director; and staff members Chris Calhoun, Jamie Suggs, Drake Morris, Cindy Keith and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and Ms. Creech rendered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Fox led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Knight asked Chairman Kemp if he might address the Board. He expressed his regret for wearing a hat due to a minor injury.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Fox and the Motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Kemp asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 25, 2025. Chairman Kemp said there was an error in the final paragraph of page 22 in reference to the recommendation that the 100 Acre Site be considered as a Class 3 facility rather than a Class 2 facility.

Chairman Kemp stated that all three sets of minutes would be approved at the same time unless there was an objection. There was no objection.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2025 Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting as amended, the minutes of the Budget Workshop held February 27, 2025 and the minutes of the Budget Workshop held on March 18, 2025. There was a second by Mr. Fox and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Kemp stated there was no Public Input.

Recycling and Corporate Affairs Update – Mrs. Murphy offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included on pages 32 – 37.

POP Art 2025 Update – Mrs. Murphy reported the recipient of the 2025 POP Art award was Beth Avant, a seventh-grader from Black Water Middle School. She said that Beth had been chosen as the SWA grand prize winner. Mrs. Murphy stated that Beth’s design was entitled “There’s Mush-Room to Grow, Keep Trash on the Low”. Mrs. Murphy stated that Beth was recognized at the originally scheduled March Board Meeting. Mrs. Murphy said that Beth did a fantastic job using plastic material this year.

Statement of Economic Interest – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the deadline for submitting their Statement of Economic Interest to the State of Ethics Commission was 12 PM on March 30, 2025.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the February “Caught Green Handed” recipients were Lynn and Ralph Atkinson. She stated the Atkinson’s were recyclers at the Ketchuptown Recycling Center and they were thankful to be recognized.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following items which were included as pages 37 – 54 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting reported that overall tipping fees had increased 8.84% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Bitting said that Solid Waste revenue was at 68.30% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 65.33% of budget projection and Yard Waste revenue was at 66.86% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting said that Recyclable Sales were at 82.38% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated the C&D Processing Facility saved 24 days of airspace and the Material Recycling Facility saved 63 days of airspace. Mrs. Bitting reported for the month, revenue over expenses was \$318,875.35. She said the SWA’s year-to-date revenue over expenses was \$3,535,498.78. She reported revenues were at 65.32% of budget and expenses were at 56.42% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting reported at the Budget Workshop that personnel cost was currently at 57.23% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting provided an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste was up by 1.46%, Yard Waste was slightly below at 1.34%, and Mixed Construction was 0.41% more than the same time last year.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 55 – 75 in the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Tuesday, March 4th. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the March Driver of the Month was Shawn Groves who works for Bri-Darra Landscaping.

Household Hazardous Waste Update – Mrs. Todd stated that on February 26, 2025, staff held the sixth HHW pack and ship event, where the SWA disposed of 4 tons of batteries and 10.1 tons of paint. She said the total amount of material picked up this year was 83.87 tons at a cost of \$61,217.66 slightly under 17 tons totaling \$11,687.02.

Landfill Fire Update – Mrs. Todd stated that during the originally scheduled March Board Meeting, staff who responded to the landfill fire that occurred on Sunday, March 23rd, were recognized. She said that two Horry County Fire & Rescue units were on site. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that staff had the fire under control. She said that approximately two acres of land were burned by the fire. Mrs. Todd said that staff believed lithium batteries were the source of the fire. She informed the Board that the SWA staff response team consisted of Chris Calhoun, Chris Ownes, Josh Nesbit, Mike Small, Eric Dudgeon, Timothy Grissett, Lamont Grissett, Davis Paul and Davon Doggett. Mrs. Todd said that staff did a great job extinguishing the fire.

Ms. Creech stated that the Board appreciated the excellent work done by the SWA response team. She said that she was concerned about the hazardous chemical released when lithium batteries caught fire. Ms. Creech said in the case of an explosion, she would prefer staff members wear some kind of mask to prevent them from inhaling smoke.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd stated that the amount of material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in February 2025 as compared to February 2024 had increased by 153.25%.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported that February 2025 saw a 7.44% decrease in the amount of recyclables received at the MRF as compared to February 2024.

Mrs. Todd provided a comparison of the fiber market and stated that cardboard prices have decreased and mixed paper prices increased for the month February 2025.

Mrs. Todd said that prices for HDPE was at a national three (3) year high. She said that mixed paper and OCC remained stable for January and February.

Mrs. Todd reported Mixed Paper and OCC prices were stable and were predicted to remain for the next several months. Mrs. Todd said that prices for plastics and aluminum have increased but aluminum was going to start to have a downward trend. She said that steel prices had a slight increase. Mrs. Todd stated the most recent shipment of HDPE-N sold for \$2,052 per ton, while UBC's sold for \$2,060 per ton.

Chairman Kemp mentioned that the MRF rejects were up and asked if there was anything the Board could do to help.

Ms. Creech questioned if the SWA's high reject rates was because the waste was wet. Mr. Marr stated that there had been 14 inches of rain a few months ago, and a lot of material that came in was rejected because it was not marketable. Mr. Marr stated the amount of rejects that they were looking at may have come from that time period. He said he would check to be certain.

Executive Director /Assistant Executive Director – Mr. Knight presented the following update which was included on page 95 in the Board Packet.

SC Forestry Commission Support – Mr. Knight informed the Board that the South Carolina

Forestry Commission established a staging area at the SWA and the 100 Acre property. He said that they were utilizing water from one of the lakes. Mr. Knight expressed gratitude for their presence, stating that the Forestry Commission worked well with the SWA staff.

Alternative Analysis – Mr. Knight provided Board Members an update on the Alternative Analysis, advising them to read the information which was included in the Board Packet. He stated that Mr. Marr would be collaborating with the Corps of Engineers to provide information for the future landfill, and said he believed that Beam & Associates would do a good job. Mr. Knight stated that Craig Fortner and Vance Moore would take over and finish their portion of the project once Beam & Associates have completed theirs.

Chairman Kemp inquired as to whether the project was still on schedule and whether Mr. Knight was at ease with the process. Mr. Knight stated yes and expressed his confidence.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Corporate Planning Committee Meeting – Chairman Kemp said the Corporate Planning Committee met earlier in the day. He said the Committee Report for that meeting would be included in the April Board Packet.

OLD BUSINESS

Future Waste Management Options – Mr. Knight provided an update on the Future Waste Management Option. He said it was presented at the Budget Workshop.

Chairman Kemp stated it was staffs' recommendation to proceed with Option 3 as presented at the February 27, 2025 Budget Workshop which included the development of the Green Space Site, Oak Tree Site and the 100 Acre Site as a Class 3 Facility.

Mr. Berry moved to approve staff's recommendation to proceed with Option 3 as presented at the February 27, 2025 Budget Workshop, which included the development of the Green Space Site and the Oak Tree Site as Class II facilities at a cost of \$53,849,000 and the 100 Acre Site as a Class III facility at a cost of \$85,405,500 for a total cost of \$139,254,500. There was a second by Ms. Creech. There being no further discussion, the Motion was carried.

Piggyback II Update – Mr. Knight stated that he would provide an update on Piggyback II at the April Board Meeting. He said that the process was nearly completed and he was waiting for DES to review and ensure that everything was on schedule as planned.

Chairman Kemp asked Mr. Knight if Piggyback II was on budget and on schedule. Mr. Knight replied it was on budget.

Sale of Property Request – Mr. Marr informed the Board that a real estate agent had made a request for his client that was interested in purchasing the property on Highway 501. He said that it was the 501 Rhonda Loop property and that he believed it was the location of the old recycling center. Mr. Marr stated that if the Board wanted to proceed with the sale, he would want to start the process. He stated that an appraisal and a bid would need to be conducted on the property. Mr. Knight informed the Board that the property would need to be appraised before being submitted to County Council for approval.

Chairman Kemp asked what size was the property. Mr. Marr stated that he believed the three properties added together would make up roughly four acres. General discussion ensued.

Mr. Fox made a Motion to move forward with the sale of the property on Highway 501. Ms. Creech seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion, the Motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Out-of-County Recyclables Request – Mr. Marr informed the Board that Ray Funnye from Georgetown County had contacted him to inquire about the SWA's interest in supporting their recycling program. He said that Mr. Funnye stated that finding employees to manage their program was very challenging. Mr. Marr stated that Mr. Funnye was experiencing trouble processing materials for the county's small recycling business. Mr. Marr said that a few months ago, he, Chris Calhoun and Josh Nesbit visited the facility to examine the materials and stated the material, was just as described. Mr. Marr stated that Mr. Funnye inquired as to whether the SWA would process the material at the SWA MRF.

Mr. Marr suggested with the Board's approval, to take some of Georgetown County's material and run it through the facility to measure the amount of rejects. If the material passed inspection, Mr. Marr said that he would bring information to the Board about their interest and whether they would accept the material. Mr. Marr advised the Board that 20 tons of material would be coming to the facility per week. He said that it would not cause any additional time or effort for staff to process the material. Mr. Marr advised the Board that as part of the Georgetown County proposed plan, the material would generate \$2,200 annually.

Ms. Creech asked whether the SWA would retain a large number of rejects. She said that prior issues with Charleston County was the reason she was concerned. She said when considering mandatory recycling, she did not believe it would be a suitable place to start. Mr. Marr informed the Board that this was different than Charleston County in terms of volume. He said that the materials from Charleston was from unmanned recycling sites. Mr. Marr stated that he was considering the proposal as it would bring in revenue to the MRF.

Chairman Kemp said that he agreed with Ms. Creech and inquired as to whether returning the rejects was feasible. He stated that the SWA does not want to take up more airspace than it has to. Chairman Kemp said that he liked the idea of generating revenue and he liked the idea of cooperating with the adjacent county.

Mr. Knight informed the Board that it would be a trial and error process and that they could return it to their landfill if it did not work. General discussion ensued.

Mr. Fox made a Motion to test the pilot program with Georgetown County for three to four months. Dr. Hayward seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion, the Motion was carried.

Roundtable Discussion – Ms. Creech informed the Board that a representative from the Smith Detector Detecting System, which was used to identify lithium batteries, was in attendance. She said that they have a scan and she wrote down the exact scan of the X-ray system and two other places that can be checked. Ms. Creech stated following the meeting, she would give the information to Mr. Marr.

Chairman Kemp informed the Board that last week he attended the CRA Conference in Wilmington. He said there were 50 exhibitors and possibly 400 people in attendance. Chairman Kemp said that he visited the DES display and received positive feedback. He said that he discussed mandatory recycling with a

few vendors but overall, it was a very interesting trip.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Ms. Creech moved, seconded by Mr. Fox to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the March Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Minutes approved on April 22, 2025.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: _____ (L. S.)
Robert J. Kemp, Chairman

ATTEST:

W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

Pam J. Creech

Wayne Fox

Albert G. Hayward, Dr.

Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.