

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
April 22, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 3:00 P.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; W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary; and Board Members Dr. Albert G. Hayward and Wayne Fox. Board Treasurer Amos C. Berry attended the meeting via conference call. Board Member Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. was not in attendance.

Craig Fortner of Garrett & Moore, SWA Environmental Liaison, Bo Ives, Sal Salvatore and Amelia Wood 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; Stephanie Todd, Director; Richie Stetter, Director; and staff members Trina Cooke, Chris Calhoun, Kendra Dickerson, Drake Morris, Cindy Keith and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Hayward led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Ms. Creech 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 March 31, 2025. Chairman Kemp said there was an error in the third paragraph of page 8 in Old Business section. He stated the 100 Acre Site was a Class 3 facility not a Class 2 facility and asked that the minutes be corrected. **Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the March 31, 2025 of the Regular Board Meeting as amended. There was a second by Mr. Fox and the Motion was carried.**

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Kemp stated that Ms. Amelia Wood asked to speak regarding the SWA Proposed Expansion. Ms. Wood expressed gratitude to the Board for giving her the opportunity to speak regarding the Proposed Expansion.

Ms. Wood said in 2019, she requested information from the Army Corps of Engineers and they provided her with digital material including notes from their discussions with SWA staff. Ms. Wood stated that she wished to speak about the project description for the Oak Tree Site, specifically permit number 2004-1R-401. She indicated that she wanted the SWA to locate the appropriate covered material to support the day-to-day operations of the existing municipal solid waste landfill. She stated in addition to new

landfills for building and demolition materials in compliance with the plans the SWA had for which they were granted permission to borrow money or expand the area. Ms. Wood stated that she hoped staff would obtain a copy of the information and study it because she believed it would be highly informative.

According to Ms. Wood, the Army Corps of Engineers stated that the applicants' reliance on the Solid Waste Authority data served as the basis for the specific restrictions on the permit. She said that it stated that the information provided was used to support the SWA's decision that issuing this permit was against the public.

Ms. Wood indicated one of the special requirements for the permit was to acknowledge the permit and its commitment was to carry out and implement the following conditions. She stated it was a determining factor in a favorable and timely decision of this permit, and that the permit recognizes that failure to do so would be grounds for modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit. Ms. Wood stated that the Solid Waste Authority filled the wetlands first in violation of the permit's requirements, and that this action cannot be reversed. She stated that the Solid Waste Authority had promised as a particular condition of this permit that the excavated area would not be used as a waste disposal cell for the duration of the life of the landfill.

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 12 – 18.

UCS Training Meeting Update – Mrs. Murphy said on April 1st and 2nd the Unincorporated Collection System held training meetings. She reported that 76 out of 84 site attendants attended the training. Mrs. Murphy said that she, Mr. Suggs and Mr. Cox reviewed the SWA operations handbook with site attendants discussing procedures, safety, use of personal protective equipment and scavenging from the centers. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that Corporal Zink of the Horry County Police Department was also in attendance to provide an update on their operations at the recycling centers.

FY2026 SC DES Grant Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on FY2026 SCDES Grants. She said that staff submitted applications for two grants: one was the Solid Waste General Recycling Grant and the other was the Used Oil Grant. Mrs. Murphy said that staff requested a total of \$38,070 in funding. Mrs. Murphy said she would inform the Board of any grant funding that may be awarded.

Earth Day 2025 – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Earth Day Event held earlier that day. She said that she and Ms. Kendra Dickerson oversaw the SWA Earth Day Event at Collins Park in downtown Conway. Mrs. Murphy expressed gratitude to the City of Conway and Keep Horry County Beautiful for their participation at the event. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that there were a number of individuals, including several camps that were on spring break from Horry County Schools who attended the event. Mrs. Murphy said that it was a great turnout. Mrs. Murphy expressed her gratitude to Mr. Ives and Chairman Kemp for stopping by the event.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the March “Caught Green Handed” recipients were Ms. Amiyah Eaton and Mr. Greg Ison. She stated they were recyclers at the Socastee Recycling Center and they were thankful to be recognized.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Cooke offered an update of the following items which were included as pages 19 – 35 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Cooke reported that overall tipping fees had increased 9.45% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Cooke said that Solid Waste revenue was at 76.46% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 75.37% of budget projection and Yard Waste revenue was at 77.86% of budget.

Mrs. Cooke said that Recyclable Sales were at 93.75% of budget. Mrs. Cooke stated the C&D Processing Facility saved 28 days of airspace and the Material Recycling Facility saved 71 days of airspace.

Mrs. Cooke reported for the month, revenue over expenses was \$398,001.09. She said the SWA's year-to-date revenue was \$3,933,598.87. Mrs. Cooke said that The Store revenue for the month was \$17,211.88. Mrs. Cooke stated that C&D incoming tonnage increased from 1267.38 tons in February to 1620.23 tons in March. She said that staff was doing a fantastic job of having materials sent to the facility.

At this point, Mr. Berry left the meeting.

Mrs. Cooke informed the Board that the Finance Department was working on a new credit card processor and online bill pay system. She stated that the final touches were being added and it should be operational in the coming weeks.

Chairman Kemp stated that depreciation exceeded the budget and inquired as to whether staff had made the necessary adjustments. Mrs. Cooke commented, that they had. Chairman Kemp asked if the increase in recycling was due to Georgetown County. Mr. Marr commented that it was a seasonal impact coming into the facility.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 36 – 53 in the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the April Driver of the Month was Bobby Pheil who works for the City of Myrtle Beach.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd stated that the amount of material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in March 2025 as compared to March 2024 had increased by 752.43%.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported that March 2025 saw a 1.79% increase in the amount of recyclables received at the MRF as compared to March 2024.

Mrs. Todd reported that a detailed review of the percentage of rejects discussed at last month's Board Meeting revealed that, during the time the glass crusher was down, 14 loads of glass was transported to the landfill from the MRF and was recorded as rejects rather than aggregate or sand. She said when the glass load tickets were fixed, the actual percentage of MRF rejections for February was 9.51% and March was 8.32%.

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

Mrs. Todd stated that OCC sold for \$139 per ton in March and \$147 per ton in April.

Mrs. Todd said with the exception of HDPE-N (natural), which sold for \$2,180 per ton, that plastic prices had decreased. She said staff had five loads of mixed paper to sell in the upcoming week. Mrs. Todd stated due to the lack of clarity caused by the tariffs; recycling markets were extremely unpredictable.

Ms. Creech asked whether there was anything specific that DES looked at differently during the SWA monthly inspections. Mrs. Todd stated that DES takes pictures and documents everything they inspect which was part of the report.

Ms. Creech expressed her gratitude to Mrs. Todd for her excellent performance in passing the SWA landfill monthly inspections. Mrs. Todd stated that the staff does a fantastic job, and she was grateful for all they do.

Executive Director /Assistant Executive Director – Mr. Knight presented the following update which was included on pages 54 – 59 in the Board Packet.

Horry County Budget Workshop Update – Mr. Knight provided an update on the April 10th, Horry County Council Budget Workshop. Mr. Knight said that he took the opportunity to talk about recycling. He stated that he also requested to speak at the May 13th I&R Committee Meeting to discuss mandating recycling. Mr. Knight said that everything went well.

Chairman Kemp stated that after watching the meeting, he expressed gratitude to Mr. Knight and said that he did a good job with reporting.

Ms. Creech informed the Board that Mr. Knight did a fantastic job, and assured him that they would continue their discussion about recycling. Mr. Knight informed the Board that Wayne Beam of Beam and Associates had spoken with the Association of Counties and that they would follow up with him.

Mr. Knight stated that Mr. Beam also discussed statewide issues with the Municipal Association. Mr. Knight advised the Board that he hoped to meet with the Association of Counties at some point in the future.

Recognition of Luke Fortner – Mr. Knight asked Mr. Fortner to come forth. Mr. Knight informed the Board that their packets contained a list of accomplishments achieved by Mr. Fortner's son Luke Fortner.

Mr. Fortner expressed gratitude to Mr. Knight for his pleasant remarks. Mr. Fortner said he was a very proud parent and provided an overview of his son's achievements.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Corporate Planning Committee Meeting – Chairman Kemp said the Corporate Planning Committee met on March 31, 2025. Chairman Kemp said there was a lot of work being done. He inquired whether Mr. Jones had anything to add. Mr. Jones indicated he did not.

OLD BUSINESS

Piggyback II Update – Mr. Knight provided an update on the Piggyback II Project. He said this was the final report for the new landfill construction. Mr. Knight stated that the project was \$193,000 under budget. Mr. Knight reported that all was well.

Chairman Kemp expressed gratitude to Mr. Knight and the SWA staff for doing an amazing job. Chairman Kemp also acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Fortner and his staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Roundtable Discussion – Ms. Creech made a Motion to amend the 2026 Budget to change the employee raise from 7% to 5%. Mr. Jones seconded the Motion. Chairman Kemp asked whether the Board Members understood the motion. There was no response. **There being no further discussion, the Motion was carried with Chairman Kemp voting in opposition.**

Ms. Creech expressed gratitude to Mrs. Todd for researching personal protective equipment to ensure employee safety. Ms. Creech also expressed her gratitude to Mr. Marr for exploring battery detection.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Ms. Creech to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the April Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Minutes approved on May 27, 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.