

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
May 26, 2026**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on May 26, 2026, 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; Wayne Fox, Secretary; Amos C. Berry, Sr., Treasurer and Board Members Bo Ives and Dr. Albert G. Hayward.

Lt. Joe VanVoorhis and Sgt. Eric Zink from the Horry County Police Department, 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; Jan Bitting, Director; Stephanie Todd, Director; Richie Stetter, Director and staff members Trina Cooke, Kendra Dickerson, Chris Calhoun, Josh Nesbit, Drake Morris, Katherine Bell, and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Hayward to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ives moved to amend the agenda to recognize the Environmental Scholarship Recipients at the beginning of the Board Meeting. He stated that this change would prevent the students from having to wait, and that the Executive Session would convene immediately following the staff's recognition of the students. **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 April 28, 2026, however, there were none.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting. There was a second by Ms. Creech and the Motion was carried.

Chairman Kemp asked Mrs. Murphy to come forth for the presentation.

2026 Environment Scholarship Recipients – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that on page 14 of the Board Packet, staff wished to recognize the SWA 2025–2026 Environmental Scholarship Recipients. She reported that there were seven recipients this year, six of whom were able to attend the meeting. Mrs. Murphy stated that the Recycling Coordinators typically attend school award ceremonies to present each scholarship recipient with a certificate and a medal; however, scheduling conflicts prevented that from occurring in some cases. Mrs. Murphy said that she had three medals and three certificates, along

with additional items, to present at the meeting, and that the remaining awards would be presented later that afternoon along with the recipients' scholarship checks.

Mrs. Murphy requested that each scholarship recipient come forward as his or her name was called. The recipients were as follows:

Emma Grace Hamilton
Conway High School

Lily Grace Mishoe
Loris High School

Mackensie Stanley
Socastee High School

Arianna Johnson
Aynor High School

Abigale Vanasse
Scholars Academy

Hayes Hamilton Clark
Green Sea Floyds High School

Each recipient formally expressed appreciation and extended their gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to be awarded a scholarship.

Chairman Kemp congratulated each scholarship recipient. He indicated that the SWA Committee's selection process was highly competitive and that the Committee was very selective in determining awardees. He further noted that the students' chosen fields of study were impressive and extended his best wishes for their future success.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion for an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter was made by Dr. Hayward. Mr. Fox gave a second, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 3:15 P.M.

MOTION TO COME BACK OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND BACK INTO OPEN SESSION

At 3:40 P.M., Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Board come out of Executive Session and back into open session.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

Chairman Kemp asked for the record to reflect that the Executive Session was held for the purpose of discussing a legal matter. He informed the group that no votes or action was taken in the Executive Session.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Kemp stated there was no Public Input.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/ UPDATES

Recycling and Corporate Affairs Mrs. Murphy offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included on pages 12–19 in the Board Packet.

2026 Recycling Student of the Year – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Recycling Student of the Year. She reported that staff received approximately six applications this year, and the selected recipient was Ms. Jolie Vu, a freshman at the Scholar Academy. Mrs. Murphy stated that Ms. Vu was unable to attend the Board Meeting. She then read a statement from Ms. Vu’s application, in which Ms. Vu wrote: “My goal is not to just recycle myself, but to help create a culture where recycling becomes a shared habit. By consistently practicing, the environment does not require changes just awareness, initiative, and a willingness to start with small steps.” Mrs. Murphy stated that Ms. Vu was a ninth-grade student and expressed her pleasure in recognizing her achievements.

SCDES Annual Progress Report Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the SCDES Annual Progress Report. She stated that, during the CRA Conference and the SC SWANA Conference, DES presented a review of the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. She reported that the state recycling rate decreased by approximately two percentage points. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that there was a slight decline in Horry County’s MSW recycling rate, from 30.53% in FY2024 to 29.02% in FY2025. Mrs. Murphy said that staff observed an increase in plastics and glass; however, there was a significant decrease in the amount of metal reported in the commercial/industrial sector. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that one of the county’s major metal recyclers did not submit data this year, which directly contributed to the reduction in reported metal tonnage.

Mrs. Murphy further stated that the total solid waste recycling rate, which included C&D recycling, decreased in Horry County from 28.43% in FY2024 to 22.85% in FY2025. She indicated that this decline reflected a broader statewide trend, as overall reporting decreased across South Carolina. Mrs. Murphy stated that the primary cause of the decline in Horry County’s rate was the absence of reporting from the major metal recycler referenced earlier.

Mrs. Murphy reminded the Board that businesses are not required to report on their recycling efforts.

Chairman Kemp commented that the County may, at some point, wish to consider whether requiring businesses to report their recycling activities could be beneficial. Mrs. Murphy responded that, at this time, staff encouraged businesses to report voluntarily.

Ms. Creech asked whether it was the private industry that was not required to report. Mrs. Murphy confirmed that this was correct.

Smart Gardener Workshop Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Smart Gardener Workshop, which was held on Wednesday May 6th. She stated that the workshop was open to the public and provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about gardening, lawn care, and pest management. She informed the Board that 35 individuals attended the workshop. She stated that the session also included information on food-waste composting. Mrs. Murphy expressed her

appreciation to Kendra Dickerson, Victoria Johnson, and Monica Collier for their efforts to help to organize the workshop.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the April “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Mr. Bryan Antley and his son Gunner. She stated they were recyclers at the Red Bluff Recycling Center, and they were thankful to be recognized.

Upcoming Events – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Public Education Report located on page 18 of the Board Packet. She stated that, under Upcoming Events, staff would be holding the Talkin’ Trash Grand Finale from Wednesday through Friday. She reported that fourth-grade students diverted 165 tons of material to the landfill this year. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that Conway Elementary School, Palmetto Bay Elementary School, and River Oaks Elementary School would be attending the event at Sky Zone in Myrtle Beach. She added that anyone interested in attending should let her know and they would be provided with a T-shirt and free entry.

Mrs. Murphy reported that RCon, formerly known as the WasteCon Conference, would be held this fall in St. Louis, Missouri, during the week of September 29th through October 2nd. She stated that anyone interested in attending should notify her so that she can make the necessary arrangements.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following items which were included as pages 20 – 36 in the Board Packet.

Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that the Public Hearing on the budget would be held on Tuesday, June 4, at 4:00 P.M.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting reported that the SWA should be at 83.33% of budget. Mrs. Bitting said that Solid Waste revenue was at 83.43% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 93.07% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 96.51% of budget. She reported that tipping fees overall showed a 21% increase compared to the same time last year.

Mrs. Bitting reported that recyclable sales were at 85.18% of budget. She said the C&D Processing Facility saved 34 days of airspace. Mrs. Bitting reported that the Material Recycling Facility saved 74 days of airspace.

Mrs. Bitting reviewed the Income Statement and reported revenue over expenses of \$480,940.16. She said the SWA’s year-to-date revenue over expenses was \$3,965,736.14. She reported that the total revenue was at 82.14% of budget and expenses were 73.25% of budget. Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that staff continued to do an excellent job of maintaining expenses well below budget.

Mrs. Bitting reported on The Store’s performance, stating that it had achieved 99.79% of its budget. She stated that staff was doing a remarkable job.

Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that interest income was already well over budget at 108%. She commended the Horry County Treasurer for securing the best possible rates for the SWA’s investments.

Mrs. Bitting gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste showed an increase of 1.59%, Yard Waste increased by 13.71%, and Mixed Construction increased by 14.42%

compared to last year.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 37 – 57 in the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Monday, May 5th. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Household Hazardous Waste – Mrs. Todd reported that the eight HHW pack-and-ship on April 22nd with MXI resulted in the disposal of 24,900 pounds of paint, 4,100 pounds of batteries with a total of \$8,220 other household chemicals and cleaners. She stated that this brings the total collected for FY2026 to 230,800 pounds and that the cost of disposal had totaled \$87,082.32.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the May Driver of the Month was Mr. Gerar Florez who works for Beach Coast Roofing.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd reported that material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in April 2026 decreased by 23% as compared to April 2025. Mrs. Todd stated that staff reviewed last year's data and found that the facility had received a substantial number of demolitions loads at that time, which it is not receiving this year. She indicated that this is likely what accounts for the difference.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported a 5.10 % decrease in the amount of recyclables received at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in April 2026 as compared to April 2025.

Mrs. Todd reported that the national average price for PET was \$28.80 last month and has since increased to \$44.80. She noted that staff was currently receiving \$46.00 per ton.

Mrs. Todd reported that the national average price for UBCs was \$1,800 per ton, while the SWA received \$2,310 per ton. She reported that steel cans had a national average price of \$195 per ton, compared to the SWA sale price of \$260 per ton. Mrs. Todd reported that the national average price for HDPE-C was \$307.60 per ton, while the SWA sale price was \$346.60 per ton.

Mrs. Todd commended staff for doing an excellent job ensuring materials were clean.

Mr. Ives inquired about the SWA's contamination rate. Mrs. Todd responded that she did not have the exact percentage available but stated that staff worked diligently to ensure the material was kept as clean as possible.

Mrs. Todd informed the Board that staff continued to experience logistical challenges, stating that rising fuel prices and transportation difficulties were making operations more demanding. She stated that staff was closely monitoring the timely movement of loads out of the MRF.

Mr. Ives stated that Mrs. Keith should be recognized for her hard work and dedication.

Ms. Creech asked Mrs. Todd whether, at the convention, she had seen any gas systems, solar technologies, or other items of interest worth mentioning. Mrs. Todd reported that much of the equipment and technology presented was similar to what the SWA was already utilizing. She added

that some of the other equipment shown was also comparable to current operations. General discussion ensued.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight provided an update, which was included on page 58 of the Board Packet.

SC SWANA Conference Update – Mr. Knight provided an update on the SWANA Conference. He stated that many of the topics covered, such as safety procedures around gas wells, reflected practices the SWA already had in place. He stated that one of the key takeaways for him was the emphasis on landfill safety. Mr. Knight indicated that approximately 75% of operational issues industry-wide are related to mental health, and he anticipated that this percentage may continue to rise.

Mr. Knight reported that he had received information from the state regarding the Solid Waste Management Plan, which was currently being updated, stating that the existing plan was approximately 20 years old.

Mr. Knight mentioned that the SWA continued to participate in recycling scholarship programs.

Mr. Knight stated that South Carolina was awaiting federal guidance on PFAS regulations specifically regarding allowable levels in water.

Mr. Knight also stated that batteries continue to be a major concern. Mr. Ives commented that he and Ms. Creech learned at the CRA Conference that batteries were ever found in vape devices.

Ms. Creech asked Mr. Knight to confirm that it had been 20 years since the state last completed a new Solid Waste Management Plan, stating that this was a long time for the state to wait. Mr. Knight clarified that the SWA had completed its own plan on a schedule ranging from annually to every three to five years, but the plan being updated was the countywide plan, not the SWA's plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Administration Committee Report – Dr. Hayward reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 16, to review the proposed changes to the FY2027 Operating and Capital Budget. He stated that the primary revision involved the capital budget, specifically reducing the amount for landfill expansion projects to \$300,000.

Dr. Hayward stated that the Committee move to amend the proposed budget by reducing the amount for landfill expansion projects to \$300,000 for the Board to approval. There was a second by Mr. Ives and the Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination Committee Appointments – Chairman Kemp appointed Mr. Berry as Chair of the Nominating Committee, with Mr. Ives and he serving as Committee Members.

Roundtable Discussion – Ms. Creech stated that the SC SWANA Conference was very informative. She indicated that batteries continue to be a significant issue and that staff was exploring options for improved detection. She added that there was new equipment presented at the convention, and staff

obtained materials for Mr. Stetter to review.

Chairman Kemp commented that he was particularly excited about the convention, noting that his favorite presentations were those related to shredders. General discussion followed.

Mr. Knight stated that the SWA would begin informing customers about upcoming changes of Commercial Class II Waste Diversion Proposal and the direction established by County Council so that customers can make any necessary arrangements.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Berry moved, seconded by Mr. Fox, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the May Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Minutes approved on June 23, 2026.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST

Wayne Fox, Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

Pam J. Creech

Dr. Albert G. Hayward

Bo Ives

Vacant