

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
May 27, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 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; Amos C. Berry, Sr., Treasurer; and Board Members Dr. Albert G. Hayward and Wayne Fox. Board Member Samuel T. Johnson, Jr was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were, County Administrator Barry Spivey, SWA Environmental Liaison, Bo Ives, Salvatore Cutia, Corporal Eric Zink, from Horry County Police Department, Highway 90 Liaison Michael Hughes, Valerie Moliterno, Carl Schwarzkopf, Myrtle Livingston, Van Washington, Angie Widner, Kelly Elliott, Mark Elliott, Rosa Quezada, Susan Graham, Shawn Graham, Maddie Johnson, Sherry McCracken, Jerry McCracken, Tatiana Salcedo, Jake McCracken, Blair Elliott, Cayden Graham, Hannah Weidner, Nevaeh Washington, Ava McElroy, Emily Stokes, Victoria Farace and family members. Recycling Student of the Year Katrina Drocella and her parents were 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 Kendra Dickerson, Drake Morris, Trina Cooke, Victoria Johnson, Chris Calhoun, Kenny Stevens, Katherine Bell, and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Fox to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Schwarzkopf 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 Dr. Hayward and the Motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Kemp asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting for the Board held on April 22, 2025 and the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on May 6, 2025 as contained in the Agenda Packet; however, there were none.

Ms. Creech moved to approve the Minutes of the April 22, 2025, Regular Meeting as presented and the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on May 6, 2025. There was a second by Mr. Fox and the Motion was carried.

Chairman Kemp informed the Board that Mr. Jones would be late for the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Kemp stated that 2 individuals requested to speak during Public Input. He invited Mr. Salvatore Cutia to go forward.

Mr. Cutia expressed gratitude to Mr. Knight and the SWA staff for their hard work and dedication. He also congratulated the 2025 Environmental Scholarship winners for a job well done.

Chairman Kemp acknowledged the amount of work required to manage the SWA. He also commended staff for their hard work and dedication. Chairman Kemp asked former Board Member Mr. Carl Schwarzkopf to come forth.

Mr. Schwarzkopf expressed his sincere gratitude to Mr. Knight for the thoughtful care package. He also extended his thanks to Mr. Ives and the two Board Members who sent him get well cards, noting their kindness. He acknowledged Mr. Berry for regularly calling to check in on him.

Mr. Schwarzkopf commended the Board Members for their outstanding service over the years, emphasizing that their dedication has not gone unnoticed. He said that he deeply appreciates everyone's thoughtfulness and kindness, and he was truly grateful for their continued support.

Chairman Kemp expressed his gratitude to Mr. Schwarzkopf for his leadership, guidance, and the valuable assistance he provided upon Mr. Kemp's joining the Board.

Chairman Kemp thanked everyone for their attendance at today's Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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 14-22.

2025 Recycling Student of the Year – Mrs. Murphy began by introducing the SWA 2025 Recycling Student of the Year. She announced that Miss Katrina Drocella, an 8th grade student at Ocean Bay Middle School, had been selected. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that a synopsis of Miss Drocella's achievements was included in their Board Packet for further reading. She then invited Miss Drocella to come forward and address the Board.

Mrs. Murphy stated that Katrina was presented with her medal and prize pack which included an electronic reader at the Earth Day Event. She added that Chairman Kemp and Mr. Ives were in attendance for the presentation.

Miss Drocella thanked the Board for the recognition and shared her desire to help improve the environment. She expressed how important recycling was to her and emphasized her commitment to making a positive impact.

Chairman Kemp commented that it was encouraging to see young people taking an interest in recycling. He said that recycling plays a significant role in the mission of the SWA. Chairman Kemp expressed his appreciation for Miss Drocella's comments and commended her interest and commitment to recycling.

2025 Environmental Scholarship Recipients – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the 2025 Scholarship Recipients. She shared that the scholarship program began in 2005, making this the 20th year. She stated since the beginning, including this year’s recipients, the SWA had awarded a total of \$197,000 in scholarships to high school students.

Mrs. Murphy said on behalf of herself and her staff, she was appreciative to the Board for their continued support of the program. She said that there were nine recipients this year, all of whom were in attendance at the meeting. Mrs. Murphy stated that each student was presented with their medal and scholarship award.

Mrs. Murphy provided an outline the scholarship criteria, which included writing an essay and attending one of the SWA’s events. She confirmed that all nine recipients successfully completed the required process.

Mrs. Murphy asked each scholarship recipient to stand as their name was called. She informed the group that once all names had been announced, the recipients would have an opportunity to address the Board. The recipients are as follows:

Tatiana Salcedo
Academy for Arts, Science & Technology

Victoria Farace
Academy for Technology Academics

Jake McCracken
Conway High School

Blair Elliott
Green Sea Floyds High School

Cayden Graham
Loris High School

Hannah Weidner
Myrtle Beach High School

Nevaeh Washington
North Myrtle Beach High School

Ava McElroy
Saint James High School

Emily Stokes
Scholars Academy

Tatiana Salcedo, Victoria Farace, Jake McCracken, Blair Elliott, Cayden Graham, Hannah Weidner, Nevaeh Washington, Ava McElroy, Emily Stokes were in attendance at the Board Meeting. Each recipient expressed their gratitude and thanked the Board for the opportunity to receive a scholarship.

Annual Progress Report Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the FY2024 Annual Progress Report. She stated that the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) finalized and published the report in April and it was discussed at the SC SWANA Conference earlier this month.

Mrs. Murphy reported that the statewide Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) recycling rate saw a slight increase, rising from 20.9% to 21.2%. She stated that Horry County's MSW recycling rate also showed improvement, increasing from 28.23% to 30.53% in FY2024.

Mrs. Murphy indicated that the increase was primarily due to a rise in metal recycling. She also reported decreases in the recycling of glass, plastics, and organic materials. Mrs. Murphy said in addition, there was a decline in organic or food waste recycling from Horry County Schools. Mrs. Murphy reported on the total recycling rate in comparison to the total waste disposed in the County, including material diverted from the landfill. She explained that the total solid waste figures include Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling, as well as any waste generated in Horry County but disposed of outside the County.

Mrs. Murphy reported that Horry County's overall recycling rate decreased significantly. She said for FY2024, the recycling rate was 28.24% compared to 70.73% in FY2023. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that staff had spoken with DES regarding the decrease in the recycling rate. She stated that DES indicated that the solid waste recycling rate had declined across the entire state.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the number of businesses reporting recycling rates had an impact on the overall rate. She reported that one metal recycler in Horry County did not submit any figures this year. She reminded the Board that while businesses are not required to report their recycling information, they are strongly encouraged to do so. Mrs. Murphy explained that whether or not businesses report was reflected in the County's recycling rate. She stated that the reporting process will begin again in a few months.

Chairman Kemp stated for the record that of the 150 entities invited to report recycling data, 133 did not submit a report. He expressed his disappointment, saying that increased participation would significantly improve how the County's recycling efforts are reflected in the overall rate. Mrs. Murphy commented that if recycling reporting were mandatory, it would provide a more accurate and complete picture of what was being recycled not only in Horry County, but across the entire state.

Ms. Creech inquired about the reasons businesses choose not to report their recycling data. Mrs. Murphy responded that there are various reasons why businesses may not report, though specific reasons can vary from one business to another.

Smart Gardner Workshop Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the Smart Gardener Workshop was held on May 7th at the SWA. She reported that Mr. Brad Fowler from Clemson Extension led the workshop and that 14 individuals were in attendance. Mrs. Murphy extended her appreciation to staff members Victoria Johnson, Kendra Dickerson, and Monica Collier for their dedication and hard work in organizing and supporting the event.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the April “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Ms. Tamicka Montgomery. She stated Ms. Montgomery was a recycler at the Jackson Bluff Recycling Center and she was thankful to be recognized.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following which was included as pages 23-39 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting reported that overall tipping fees had increased 9.9% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Bitting said that Solid Waste revenue was at 85.66 % of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 86.40% of budget projection and Yard Waste revenue was up at 91.08% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting said that Recyclable Sales increased by 8.83% of budget. She said the C&D Processing Facility saved 32 days of airspace. Mrs. Bitting reported on the Material Recycling Facility saved 79.29 days of airspace.

Mrs. Bitting reviewed the income statement and reported revenues were at 84.06% of budget with expenses being at 72.92% of budget. Mrs. Bitting reported for the month revenue over expenses of \$488,821.58. She said the SWA’s revenue year-to-date was \$4,422,420.45. She said staff was doing a great job at watching expenses and helping stay within the budget.

Mrs. Bitting gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste was up by 1.62%, Yard Waste was up by 1.48%, and Mixed Construction was up by 4.02% as compared to last year.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Stephanie Todd presented the following update which was included on pages 40 - 61 in the Board Packet.

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

HHW– Mrs. Todd stated staff had their 7th HHW pack and ship on April 9th. She said this pickup resulted in the total FY2025 collection and disposal of 187,881 pounds of HHW material, with a total disposal cost for FY25 of \$71,830.08.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd stated the May Driver of the Month was Mr. Robert McCants who works for Unlimited Sanitation.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd stated that the amount of material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in April 2024 as compared to April 2025 had increased by 6.84%.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported that April 2025 saw a 2.67% increase in the amount of recyclables received at the MRF as compared to April 2024. Mrs. Todd reported the monthly comparison of the fiber market displayed that the cost of mixed paper and cardboard decreased in April 2025.

Miscellaneous – Mrs. Todd reported that tariffs continue to impact the recycling market, contributing to an overall inability to stabilize prices. She stated that plastic prices have decreased

across the board, with a particular decline in the demand for post-consumer recycled HDPE-C, which is commonly used in the production of agricultural pipes.

Mrs. Todd also reported that while PET is recycled into beverage containers, a decline in consumer spending has affected demand. Mrs. Todd explained that, typically, plastic prices begin to rise in March and remain stable through the summer months. However, due to ongoing market instability this year, staff had been unable to observe the expected pricing pattern.

Executive Director – Mr. Knight presented the following update which was included on page 62 in the Board Packet.

I&R Committee Meeting – Mr. Knight informed the Board that he and Ms. Creech attended an I&R Committee Meeting this month, where Ms. Creech did an excellent job with her presentation. He also stated that the Chairman had appointed Mr. Tom Anderson and Mr. Danny Hardee to join Ms. Creech and the SWA staff on a committee tasked with developing ideas and strategies for mandating recycling. Mr. Knight stated that the committee would be meeting soon to begin their work on developing strategies for mandating recycling.

SC SWANA Conference Update – Mr. Knight shared that he and others attended the SWANA Conference this month. He reported that the event had 15 sponsors, 38 exhibitors, and 240 attendees. He noted that the conference has come a long way in terms of growth and participation.

Gathering of Friends Update – Mr. Knight reported that he received overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the Gathering of Friends event held last Thursday. He said that he believed there were 127 attendees and highlighted the participation from organizations such as Santee Cooper and Horry Electric, as well as representatives from most of the municipalities. Mr. Knight said that, if the Board was interested in making it a year-round event and it would be discussed further at a later time. He then invited Mr. Marr to come forward to provide an update on tire legislation.

Tire Legislation Update – Mr. Marr stated that, after several years of effort, the Waste Tire Legislation was signed and approved by the Governor on May 12th. He acknowledged the process had its share of ups and downs but expressed satisfaction that they now have a document granting the SWA greater flexibility.

Mr. Marr provided the Board with a handout and asked members to review it at their convenience. He also gave a breakdown of the Waste Tire Bill, including its key terms and costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Meetings held during the Month.

OLD BUSINESS

FY2026 Budget Recommendations – Mrs. Bitting requested the Board's approval of the proposed FY2026 Operating Budget in the amount of \$44,569,512, as well as the proposed FY2026 Capital Improvement Budget totaling \$36,977,474.

Mr. Berry Moved to approve the FY2026 Operating Budget totaling \$44,569,512, and the FY2026 Capital Improvement Budget totaling \$36,977,474. There was a second by Mr. Fox. The Motion

passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Nominations Committee Appointments – Chairman Kemp appointed Mr. Berry, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Jones to the Nomination Committee.

b. Roundtable Discussion – Mr. Fox made a Motion to hold the Gathering of Friends Event annually. There was a second by Dr. Hayward. The Motion passed.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion for an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel/contractual matter was made by Mr. Jones. Ms. Creech gave a second, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 4:20 P.M.

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

At 4:25 P.M. a 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 personnel/contractual matter. He informed the group that no votes or action was taken in the Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Ms. Creech moved, seconded by Mr. Berry, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the March Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Minutes approved on June 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

(L. S.)

Albert G. Hayward, Dr.

_____(L. S.)
Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.