MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
June 23, 2026

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on June 23, 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; Amos C. Berry, Sr., Treasurer; and Board Members Bo Ives and Dr. Albert G. Hayward. Board Secretary Wayne Fox was not in attendance.

Sgt. Eric Zink from the Horry County Police Department, Highway 90 Liaison Michael Hughes, Mr. Carl Schwartzkoph, Allen Lee, Preston Kelly from Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Samantha Stollenmaier from Winyah Rivers Alliance Intern 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, Chris Calhoun, Drake Morris and Victoria Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Creech led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Creech moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Berry 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 May 26, 2026, and the Public Hearing that was held on June 2, 2026; however, there were none.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the May 26, 2026, Regular Meeting and the Public Hearing Meeting held on June 2, 2026. There was a second by Mr. Ives and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Kemp stated that Mr. Carl Schwartzkoph had requested to speak during Public Input and invited him to come forward.

Mr. Schwartzkoph thanked Chairman Kemp and members of the SWA Board for allowing him to speak. He also expressed his appreciation to the SWA staff for the effort they put into the Gathering of Friends event and offered special thanks to Mr. Berry for catering the event. Mr. Schwartzkoph thanked Mr. Calhoun for the excellent videography work. Mr. Schwartzkoph presented the SWA with a flag to be placed at Mr. Danny Hardee's Place. Mr. Schwartzkoph thanked the SWA Board and staff for their continued dedication and stated that everyone was doing an excellent job.

Chairman Kemp thanked Mr. Schwartzkoph and said that he genuinely misses his presence at Board Meetings, adding that he was welcomed to attend as often as he wishes.

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 16-32 in the Board Packet.

SWA Recycling Grant Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the SWA Recycling Grant Program, noting that seven grants were awarded this year. She then offered a brief summary of each grant and its intended purpose.

City of Conway — Awarded $10,000 to purchase recycling roll carts. They ordered and received 200 sixty-five-gallon roll carts in February. The city submitted its reimbursement request in March and its final report in May. Total project cost**:** $13,319.00; total reimbursement: $10,000.

Coastal Carolina University — Requested $7,200 to purchase compost bins and recycling bins to expand their existing program. CCU submitted its final report and reimbursement request in June. Total project cost: $6,988.21; total reimbursement**:** $6,988.21.

Conway Hospital — Awarded $5,000 for site preparations and public education related to its recycling program. Since February, no additional correspondence or communication has been received, and no reimbursement request has been submitted.

Eco-Activators — Awarded $8,470 for smart recycling bins and personal compost bins. Since January, no further correspondence or communication has been received, and no reimbursement request has been submitted.

Pee Dee Elementary School — Awarded $8,737.50 to purchase MacBooks, scales, and accessories. The school exceeded its budget by $12.21. Total project cost: $8,749.71; total reimbursement: $8,749.71.

Riverside Elementary School — Awarded $741.14 to purchase grabbers, gloves, and bin prizes. The reimbursement request had not yet been received. Total project cost: $655.14; total reimbursement: $655.14.

Town of Surfside Beach — Awarded $10,000 for the purchase of dual recycling stations. The Town submitted its reimbursement request and final report in February. Total project cost: $9,846.79; total reimbursement: $9,846.79.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that pictures had been included in the Board Packet for their review.

Chairman Kemp stated that he would recommend that, next year in FY2027, the Board review the Recycling Grant Program and its current administrative process. He indicated that approximately $14,000 had been committed to grants intended to promote recycling and suggested that the Board consider whether there were ways to provide staff with greater flexibility to repurpose unclaimed funds when grant recipients do not follow through. He added that, prior to the meeting, he had spoken with Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Bitting and asked them to explore options that would allow the Board to reallocate unused funds or provide additional support to applicants who may need increased funding.

Ms. Creech commented that, as much as the SWA has been doing for students, the students themselves are actively engaged in these projects. She stated that it would be beneficial for Horry County Board to be aware of this work and to encourage more principals to allow these programs within their schools.

Chairman Kemp remarked that, upon reviewing the photographs, it was evident that the programs particularly those implemented in the schools were exceptional. General discussion ensued.

Talkin' Trash 2025 -2026 Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Talkin' Trash Program. She reported that staff held the program's Grand Finale event from May 27–29 at Sky Zone in Myrtle Beach. Mrs. Murphy stated that Conway Elementary, River Oaks Elementary, and Palmetto Bays Elementary was this year's Grand Finale winners.

She stated that during the six-month program, participating schools recycled and collected more than 165 tons of co-mingled material, OCC, and food waste diverted from the landfill. Mrs. Murphy highlighted that each school performed exceptionally well throughout the year.

She further reported that this year's SWA program sponsor**,** WPDE**,** provided strong support and delivered excellent coverage for this event.

Waste & Recycling Workers Week Update – Mrs. Murphy reported that staff recognized and celebrated Waste Recycler Workers Week. She stated that the primary observance took place on June 17, the official date designated for the recognition.

She informed the Board that the Board Packet included several photographs documenting the celebration, including images of each employee wearing a Waste & Recycle Week T-shirt. Mrs. Murphy stated that, as part of the event, a drawing was held for two gift cards; Mrs. Felicia Rouse was the recipient for the SWA division, and Mr. Ed Ray, who works at one of the recycling centers, was the recipient for the recycling division.

Mrs. Murphy concluded by recognizing the SWA staff for their continued hard work and dedication.

Mr. Ives commented that this special request was implemented by the Board last year and formally expressed his appreciation.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the May "Caught Green Handed" recipient was Mr. Stephen Hyman. She stated Mr. Hyman was a recycler at the Dog Bluff Recycling Center and he was thankful to be recognized.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following items which were included as pages 33 – 49 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting requested that Board Members submit their mileage by the end of June, stating that staff would be finalizing year-end records during the second week of July.

Mrs. Bitting reported that the SWA should be at 91% of budget. Mrs. Bitting said that Solid Waste revenue was at 91.98% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 102.61% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 107.44% of budget. She reported that tipping fees overall show a 19% increase compared to the same time last year

Mrs. Bitting reported that recyclable sales were budgeted at 94.12%. Mrs. Bitting reported that the Materials & Recycling Facility and the Collection & Hauling Program have generated slightly more than $4.6 Million in year-to-date revenue, with expenses currently totaling $4 Million. She further stated that staff had been instructed to evaluate a service charge for the Collection & Hauling Program as part of the SWA's ongoing financial and operational planning.

Mrs. Bitting reviewed the Income Statement and reported revenue over expenses of $326,680.36. She said the SWA's year-to-date revenue over expenses was $4,292,416.50. Mrs. Bitting stated that revenue was at 90.73% of budget and expenses was at 81.1% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that staff was performing exceptionally well and that, as the fiscal year concludes, expenses remain well below projections, which she described as an outstanding outcome.

Mrs. Bitting gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste had an increase less than 1% compared to last year, Yard Waste increased by 11%, and Mixed Construction increased by 12.5% compared to last year. Mrs. Bitting reported that overall tonnage were just over 4% higher than at the same time last year.

Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that staff was preparing for the upcoming audit.

Chairman Kemp commented that overall tonnage had increased by 4%, indicating that the SWA was receiving 4% more material during the previous year. He emphasized that operational planning and projections were based on an anticipated 2% growth rate and expressed hope that the difference would stabilize over time. He further stated that this trend should be monitored closely, as rising tonnage reflected the continued growth of the SWA.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 50 – 79 in the Board Packet.

Gas Expansion Project– Mrs. Todd informed the Board that she wished to provide an update on the SWA Gas Expansion Project. She explained that the project was divided into two phases, the first being the well-field expansion, which included the installation of 32 new landfill gas wells totaling approximately 1,940 vertical feet. She stated that staff had also installed more than 2,000 feet of 12-inch header, 1,000 feet of 8-inch gas header, new valve stations, new air-release valves, two condensate pumps, and various additional components necessary to bring the system to its required operational level. She stated that all work associated with Phase I had been completed.

Mrs. Todd further reported that staff had decommissioned older components that were no longer functioning effectively and had made modifications to the existing system to improve performance. She informed the Board that the next step would be revamping the gas skid, which will include installing new blowers and a redesigned configuration. She stated that bids were expected to be received today, that staff was in the process of reviewing them, and that the work was anticipated to be completed in the September–October timeframe.

Mrs. Todd presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board reviewing the gas well installation.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Wednesday, June 3rd. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Household Hazardous Waste – Mrs. Todd reported that the ninth HHW pack-and-ship with MXI. She stated that this brings the total collected to 267,719 pounds to date, and that the cost of disposal totaled $99,775.32.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the June Driver of the Month was Mr. Hunter Stroud who works for the City of Conway.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd reported that material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in May 2026 decreased by 17% as compared to May 2025. Mrs. Todd stated that the decrease was due to maintenance-related downtime. She explained that staff had difficulty retaining temporary workers on the line, resulting in insufficient staffing to maintain consistent operations.

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MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported a 5.59 % decrease in the amount of recyclables received at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in May 2026 as compared to May 2025.

Mrs. Todd reported that the national average price for PET was $28.80 per ton, while the SWA price was $46.00 per ton. She indicated that some regional contracts remain in the negative, meaning facilities were still having to pay to move that material.

Mrs. Todd reported that OCC sold for $129 per ton in May, and that the June sale price increased to $150.10 per ton. She stated that the national average for UBCs was $1,860 per ton, while the SWA sold its material for $2,220 per ton. Mrs. Todd further reported that the national average for HDPE was $262.60 per ton, compared to the SWA's price of $431.40 per ton, and that HDPE natural averaged $1,142.60 nationally, while the SWA sold it for $1,360 per ton.

Mr. Knight stated that the reports reflected both the tonnage shipped out and the material that would otherwise have been disposed of in the landfill. He stated that nearly $100,000 was spent on Household Hazardous Waste to properly manage approximately 133 tons of paint and batteries that the SWA could legally have been put in the landfill. He commended staff for their outstanding work.

Mr. Ives asked whether the SWA knows what the cross-contamination results would be and stated that it was important to ensure staff was keeping contaminants out of the material stream.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight provided an update, which was included on page 80 of the Board Packet.

Gathering of Friends Update – Mr. Knight expressed his deep appreciation to staff and stated that he would provide additional remarks at the Annual Meeting. He reported that the Gathering of Friends event was well attended, with more than 100 participants. Mr. Knight stated that he had pictures from the event, with several copies appropriate for framing. He further indicated that staff worked to identify a date that was agreeable to all parties to avoid scheduling conflicts. Mr. Knight concluded by thanking the Board for approving and supporting the Gathering of Friends event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee Meeting – Mr. Berry reported that the Nomination Committee Meeting was held on June 23rd to conduct its review of officer appointments. He stated that the Committee recommended Ms. Creech to serve as Chairman, Dr. Hayward to serve as Vice Chairman, Mr. Fox was selected to serve as Secretary and that he, Mr. Berry, was designated to serve as Treasurer.

OLD BUSINESS

FY2027 Budget Recommendation – Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that the Budget Workshop was held on March 26th and that the Public Hearing was held on June 2nd. She stated that she was formally presenting the FY27 Operating Budget, totaling $48,339,360, and the FY27 Capital Budget, totaling $47,172,500, for the Board's approval.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the FY27 Operating Budget totaling $48,339,360 and FY27 Capital Budget totaling $47,172,500. **There was a second by Dr. Hayward and the Motion was carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

C&D Hauler Restrictions – Mr. Knight stated that, with July approaching, staff was preparing to begin the two-year process of reducing the amount of commingled material and implementing several recommendations raised by County Council regarding C&D operations. He said that staff would be evaluating the steps necessary to move forward.

Mr. Knight explained that the first step would involve permitting all individuals and businesses utilizing the landfill. He emphasized that the permit would not involve a significant fee; rather, it would provide staff with essential information regarding each user, specifically who they are, where they are located, and how they may be contacted.

Mr. Knight reported that staff had already reached out to those businesses for which contact information was available to inform them of Saturdays midday closure. He stated that some users could not be contacted due to the absence of reliable information.

Mr. Knight stated that additional details would be forthcoming and that meetings would be held with the Operations Committee. He assured the Board that he would keep them fully informed as staff continued working with the Corps on potential alternatives. General discussion ensued.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Berry moved, seconded by Mr. Ives, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the June Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Minutes approved on July 28, 2026.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST

_________________________________ (L. S.)
Wayne Fox, Secretary

____________________________________ (L. S.)
Amos C. Berry, Sr.

____________________________________ (L. S.)
Pam J. Creech

____________________________________ (L. S.)
Dr. Albert G. Hayward

____________________________________ (L. S.)
Bo Ives

____________________________________ (L. S.)
Vacant