

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.  
June 25, 2019**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 5:30 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: Michael H. Hughes, Chairman; Bo Ives, Vice Chairman; J. Michael Campbell, Secretary; Pam J. Creech, Treasurer; and Board Members Samuel T. Johnson, Jr., W. Norfleet Jones and Carl H. Schwartzkopf.

Steve Gosnell, Interim Horry County Administrator was present. Jim Bang, Pete Brooks, Dale Holt, Logan Holt, Reggie Jenerette, Cheryl Kilday, Kristine Stokes and Laurie Suggs represented the public in attendance. There were no members of the media in attendance.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Danny Knight, Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Mike Bessant, Director and other staff members to include John Doyle, Wayne Martin, Nannette Powell, Richie Stetter, Lyle Strickland, Jamie Suggs, Cecil Terry and Stephanie Todd

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Hughes asked for any revisions to the Agenda as contained in the Agenda Packet.

**Mr. Schwartzkopf moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Campbell and the Motion was carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Hughes asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the May Board Meeting held on May 28, 2019, as contained in the Agenda Packet; however there were none.

**Mr. Ives moved to approve the Minutes of the May 28, 2019 Board Meeting. There was a second by Mr. Campbell. There being no further discussion, the Motion was carried.**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

There were no requests to present Public Input.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Recycling and Corporate Affairs Update** – Esther Murphy, Director of Recycling and Corporate

Affairs offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included as pages 16-34 in the Board Packet.

**New Media System Upgrade** - Mrs. Murphy commented that the sound system upgrade was almost complete. She asked Mr. Jim Bang with Strategic Connections to explain some of the upgrades. Mr. Bang explained that the new system employed new technology to improve the overall system. He commented that the sound panels on the wall and the microphones hanging from the ceiling have a better acoustical sound and media coverage. Mrs. Murphy commented that the original system was installed in 2001 and the audio/visual system needed a major overhaul.

**SWA Recycling Grant Recipients Update** – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that five SWA Recycling Grant Recipients had been awarded to the municipalities and agencies in Horry County. She invited the recipients to come to the Board Meeting and explain how the grant funding was used. Mrs. Murphy asked each grant recipient to give their names and explain what was done with the grant funding.

Mr. Brooks and Ms. Kilday from North Myrtle Chamber of Commerce explained their goal was to get area businesses to reduce the amount of plastics used daily. Mr. Brooks commented the North Myrtle Beach Chambers of Commerce and the City of North Myrtle Beach's goal was to reach out to area businesses and educate them on the benefits of reducing their plastic. He distributed bags to the Board Members with a tip sheet on how to reduce plastics, a pledge to recycle, and a door sticker which stated that the business was participating in a recycling program. Mr. Brooks commented this was being distributed to area businesses in North Myrtle Beach with an explanation on the need to reduce plastics. Ms. Kilday thanked the Board for the grant.

Mr. Reggie Jenerette from the City of Conway thanked the Board for the opportunity to apply for the grant. He commented the program was well received by the City of Conway. Mr. Jenerette explained that the City purchased 200 recycling containers which were given to residents, non-profits and businesses that did not have room for a cardboard dumpster. He commented that the roll-carts made a tremendous difference in the City of Conway recycling program. Mr. Jenerette stated that cardboard collection had increased an extra 10 tons per month since the addition of the recycling containers. He commented that the City of Conway was pleased with the results.

Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Jenerette what material was collected in the recycling containers. Mr. Jenerette replied that all recycling material was collected in the containers. Mr. Ives commented the City of Conway recycling rate had increased since the addition of the carts. He stressed the benefit was that the City of Conway would lower the disposal cost and this would save landfill space.

Ms. Kristine Stokes from the City of North Myrtle Beach stated the grant helped the City to purchase five new recycling igloos. She commented that the igloos were used by multi-family home developments throughout the City of North Myrtle Beach. Ms. Stokes said that the City currently has 78 recycling igloos for the residents. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to apply for the grant and was very appreciative.

Mr. Dale Holt and Logan Holt from Buck Creek Foundation thanked the Board for the recycling grant. He explained that the foundation purchased secured fencing for the special needs adults

whom will work at the facility. Mr. Holt commented that herbs and garden plants would be grown and sold to the public. He stated that was his hope to interact with the community. Mr. Holt commented the foundation purchased a compost station and bio bags for restaurant and residential composting.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that Mr. John Adair from the Town of Surfside Beach could not attend the Board meeting but thanked the SWA for the grant. She indicated that Surfside Beach had purchased roll off containers and Mr. Adair had stated that the addition of the carts had increased recycling in Surfside Beach area.

Mrs. Murphy commented that as of June 17, 2019, the SWA has reimbursed grantees \$39,897.36.

**Lake Arrowhead/Kings Road Mini Recycling Center Closure Update** – Mrs. Murphy stated on May 29, 2019, she received an email from Mr. Steve Gosnell to take steps to close the Kings Road Mini-Recycling Center permanently. She informed the group that the Mini-Center had become overrun with weekly contamination. Mrs. Murphy commented that on May 31, 2019 signage was placed at the site notifying residents that the site would permanently close on June 7, 2019.

Mrs. Murphy thanked Mr. Truman Dewitt, Unincorporated Collection Systems (UCS) Heavy Equipment Operator, who had the weekly task of keeping the Mini Center clean and free of debris. She thanked Mr. Jamie Suggs, UCS Manager and Mr. Jeff Mishoe, UCS Supervisor for overseeing the closure of this facility in a timely manner.

**Horry County Plastic Bag Ban Update** – Mrs. Murphy stated that she and Mr. Sam Johnson attended the Infrastructure & Regulation Committee Meeting held on June 11, 2019. She indicated that a draft ordinance pertaining to prohibiting the use of single use plastic bags in Horry County was presented. Mrs. Murphy commented the proposal was initiated by Horry County Councilman Orton Bellamy. She explained that similar ordinances must be accepted or adopted by all municipalities in order for the County to initiate a countywide ban. Mrs. Murphy commented that the draft ordinance was forwarded to the Administrative Committee.

Mrs. Murphy stated that she and Mr. Ives attended the Administrative Committee meeting where the Committee reviewed and discussed the ordinance. She indicated that the Committee tabled the discussion until each municipality had been contacted about their interest in developing a plastic bag bill. Mr. Ives commented that he was glad that each municipality was being poled to determine if they wanted a plastic bag ban.

**Myrtle Beach Art Museum Update** – Mrs. Murphy thanked the Board Members who attended the preview of the “Can’t You Sea-Ocean Artifacts” Exhibit on June 14, 2019. She commented that the exhibit featured works made from discarded plastic and other items in coastal areas around the world. Mrs. Murphy indicated that she, Mr. Ives and Mr. Knight participated in the grand opening of the exhibit and the unveiling and the filling of “Ringo” the octopus on June 15, 2019. She commented the SWA sponsored the creation of the octopus sculpture by Mr. Jim Swaim.

**Caught Green Handed Update** – Mrs. Murphy informed the group the May “Caught Green Handed” winner was Mr. Eugene Parker. She indicated that Mr. Eugene Parker used the Recycle Road Center. Mrs. Murphy stated Mr. Parker received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

## **Financial Reports**

Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following which was included as page 35-50 in the Board Packet.

**Monthly Finance Reports** – Mrs. Bitting stated for the period ending May 31, 2019 the SWA revenue should be at 93.65% of budget. She indicated MSW revenue was at 95.82% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated Construction and Demolition revenue was at 99.58% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 92.79% of budget. She stated the sale of recyclables revenue was at 64.69% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated the Construction and Demolition Processing Facility revenue for May was \$430,017.20 and expenses were \$584,486.00 with airspace saved equating to 55.79 days. Mrs. Bitting commented the MRF revenue year-to-date was \$3,839,989.14 and the expenses year-to-date were \$4,668,357.39 with a savings of 68.64 days of airspace. She stated that year-to-date airspace saving for The Store equated to .01 days of airspace savings. Mrs. Bitting indicated net income for May was (\$184,374.22) and year-to-date was \$2,975,194.52.

**FEMA Update** – Mrs. Bitting stated SWA had received a check from FEMA for the Temporary Road/Dewatering Project in the amount of \$78,808.85. She indicated that staff was still waiting on the review for the Portable Scale Project purchase. Mrs. Bitting commented that she would keep the Board informed about the FEMA update.

## **Operations Update**

Mr. Bessant presented the following update which was included as pages 51-69 of the Board Packet.

**Landfill Update** – Mr. Bessant presented a drone video of the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill and Construction and Demolition Landfill.

**C&D Recycling Facility** – Mr. Bessant indicated that for May FY19 1,444.24 tons of material was processed at the construction and demolition facility. He stated in May FY18 1,383.66 tons was processed at the construction and demolition facility.

**Haulers Meeting Update** – Mr. Bessant informed the group that the MRF hosted a hauler meeting and discussed the implementation of the misrepresented load fee of \$150.00. He explained this was for excessive contamination of the recyclable material. Mr. Bessant indicated this fee would become effective July 1, 2019.

**MRF Storage Building** – Mr. Bessant indicated the building exterior shell was completed.

**MRF Update** – Mr. Bessant stated commodity prices had decreased overall. He commented that revenue was \$50,000 for May. Mr. Ives asked Mr. Bessant where was the material going once it was shipped overseas. Mr. Bessant replied he did not know. Mr. Ives asked if Mr. Bessant had some way of tracking the material. Mr. Bessant commented that the material was sold through a broker.

Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Bessant what was the revenue for May. Mr. Bessant replied \$50,000. Chairman Hughes how much did it cost to operate the MRF on a monthly basis. Mr. Bessant replied over \$250,000 per month. Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Bessant how could the MRF continue to operate at a loss when generating only \$50,000 per month in revenue. He asked if that was profit. Mr. Bessant commented that it was not.

Mr. Bessant indicated that only fiber material was sold in May. He reminded the Board that the SWA's mission was always to accept and recycle material. Mr. Bessant stated the goal was to minimize cost and not landfill the material. Chairman Hughes asked how long could the MRF facility continue to take this loss. General discussion ensued about reviewing the possibility of charging a tipping fee for the processing of recycling material from the municipality's and the public. It was stated that the municipalities and the County's budget did not include funding for the processing of recyclable material. Concerns were raised especially since MRF's around the county were closing their doors. Comments were made that when the MRF retrofit was complete the cost for processing material would decrease. Discussion followed regarding the Recycling Committee having a dialog with staff to develop a plan and options for the MRF facility and long-term recycling efforts.

**Collection & Hauling Update** – Mr. Bessant stated the Collection and Hauling trucks have new computerized GPS system in the vehicles. He indicated the GPS system would now generate reports that took 25-man hours to produce. Mr. Bessant stated the system has the ability to weigh each dumpster at each site. He commented the total weight for each municipality would be an accurate weight instead of estimated weight.

**Household Hazardous Waste Pickup Update** – Mr. Bessant informed the group the Household Hazardous Waste facility had their sixth scheduled pickup for all chemicals this year. He indicated that 46,645 pounds (23.32. tons) of material was disposed of which 29,400 pounds (14.70 tons) was paint and 7,550 (3.77) pounds was batteries. Mr. Bessant stated that for FY2019 Household Hazardous Waste has disposed of 230,224 pounds which equated to (115.12 tons) of material.

**Driver of the Month Update** – Mr. Bessant stated the May Driver of the Month was Matt Leadem from the Town of Surfside Beach. Mr. Bessant commented Mr. Leadem has been driving for four years. He commented that Mr. Leadem worked well with staff.

Mr. Bessant informed the Board that retired longtime employee Herman Graham had recently passed away and asked everyone to please keep his family in their prayers.

### **Executive Director Update**

Mr. Knight offered an update of the following which was included as pages 70-97 in the Board Packet.

**Carolina Pines (E-Waste) Settlement** – Mr. Knight gave a brief overview of the Carolina Pines lawsuit. He explained that the SWA had contracted with a company that had DHEC approval. Mr. Knight commented the vendor had been shipping e-waste to Raleigh, North Carolina but began storing the e-waste in a warehouse in Blythewood, South Carolina. He stated when the vendor declared bankruptcy and abandoned the warehouse and the contents, the owner of the property sued everyone with ties to the material in the abandoned warehouse.

Mr. Knight stated that when the lawsuit was filed the SWA portion was \$616,751. He indicated then the decision was made to proceed to the federal court system. Mr. Knight commented that a federal judge decided that the SWA portion would be \$168,064.70. He explained after attorney's fee and other necessary cost the grand total was \$200,401.98.

**Freedom of Information Act Policy** – Mr. Knight indicated that staff had reviewed the SWA existing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy. He stated that he recommended revising the SWA's FOIA Policy which shall be effective June 25, 2019. A copy of the revised FOIA Policy is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Knight generally reviewed the document and indicated the changes were needed to ensure it was in accord with recent changes to the State FOIA. Discussion followed on the fees charged for FOIA request.

**Mr. Ives made a Motion that to accept the revised Freedom of Information Act Policy. There was a second by Mr. Campbell and the Motion carried.**

Chairman Hughes commented that Mr. Knight and staff deal with the daily operations of the SWA and needed to charge if a request was made. Mr. Jones indicated this should be the standard practice especially from a legality standpoint. Ms. Creech commented with the upcoming landfill projects individuals who request information would need to proceed through the proper channels. Mr. Ives commented the FOIA Policy would ensure everyone was treated the same when requesting information from the SWA.

**Review of Agreement with Beam and Associates** – Mr. Knight informed the group that staff sent out a request for qualification and had two companies respond. He stated the lobby services with Beam and Associates would begin July 2019 through June 2020. Mr. Knight indicated the amount was not to exceed \$30,000. He commented that Beam and Associates would monitor all bills in the House and Senate that might affect the SWA.

**Ms. Creech moved to accept staff's recommendation to retain Beam and Associates to represent the Horry County Solid Waste Authority. There was a second by Mr. Campbell the Motion was carried.**

**Recommendation for COLA** – Mr. Knight informed the group that a 4.4% cost of living adjustment for all employees was discussed at the May Board Meeting. He commented that Ms. Creech wanted additional information on where the funding was coming from. Mr. Knight indicated that each division director initialed a departmental summary of the funding for the COLA increase. He remarked that the bottom-line budget would be the same.

Mr. Ives thanked staff for finding the funding especially since it was not in the existing budget. Mr. Knight commented that staff was a part of the recommendation finding the funds in each respective department. Chairman Hughes asked if this was the merit raise. Mr. Knight replied this was not the merit increase. He explained to the Board that SWA employees would not receive a merit increase for FY2020 only a 4.4% cost of living adjustment. Mr. Knight stated that employees would still receive their annual evaluation but no salary increase until after FY2020.

**Mr. Schwartzkopf moved to accept staff's recommendation that SWA employees receive a 4.4% Cost of Living Adjustment. There was a second by Mr. Jones the Motion was carried.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Operations and Planning Committee** – Committee Chairman Michael Campbell stated the Operations and Planning Committee met on May 30, 2019 at 10:00A.M. Mr. Campbell indicated that Committee Members Michael Hughes and Norfleet Jones were present. Mr. Campbell stated the Committee discussed three pieces of equipment, specifications and pricing. He commented that the equipment was within the budget.

Mr. Bessant explained the certified rebuilt tier three wheeled compactor will have a warranty. He commented the bulldozer was electric that uses a generator and 20% less fuel. Mr. Bessant

indicated that he and staff thoroughly researched the equipment before purchasing for the landfill.

Mr. Campbell stated no votes or action items were taken. He commented the Committee Meeting was for informational purposes only and said the equipment was budgeted for the upcoming year.

**Nomination Committee Update** – Committee Chairman Sam Johnson stated the Nomination Committee met on June 19, 2019 at 9:00 A. M. Mr. Johnson indicated Committee Members J. Michael Campbell and Pam Creech were present.

Mr. Johnson stated the Committee would have a recommendation at the Annual Meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**There was no Old Business to come before the Board.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Surplus Equipment Sale Recommendation** – Mr. Bessant stated staff was seeking Board approval to surplus the 2012 #265 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader and 2011 #331 Kincard Hydro-seeder. He indicated staff was requesting to surplus these items and place it on Govdeals.com. Mr. Bessant recommended posting for sale “as is” and needed Board approval since the item was valued at more than \$10,000.

**Mr. Campbell moved to accept staff’s recommendation to list the 2012 (#265) Bobcat Skid Steerer Loader and 2011 (#331) Kincard Hydro-seeder on Govdeals.com. There was a second by Mr. Schwartzkopf the Motion was carried.**

- a. **Roundtable Discussion** – Mr. Schwartzkopf asked Chairman Hughes if he would change the date of the August Board meeting because it coincides with the Quad State SWANA conference held August 27-30, 2019 in Asheville, NC. Chairman Hughes commented that the meeting date would be rescheduled at the July Board Meeting.

Mr. Schwartzkopf suggested that the SWA host a League of Cities Meeting at the Administrative Office whereby staff could offer landfill tours and dinner. He commented this would be a great public relation opportunity to discuss recycling. Mr. Knight stated he would get in touch with Mayor Marilyn Hatley from the City of North Myrtle Beach.

General discussion ensued about area grocery stores reducing the about the plastic they use and what the SWA can do to spotlight them and their efforts.

Mr. Ives expressed his gratitude for being allowed to participate in Myrtle Beach Art Museum grand opening of “Ringo” the octopus.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Ives moved, seconded by Mr. Schwartzkopf to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried** and the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Minutes approved on July 23, 2019.

**HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)  
Michael H. Hughes, Chairman

ATTEST:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Michael Campbell, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam J. Creech

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bo Ives

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
W. Norfleet Jones

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl H. Schwartzkopf