

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
July 28, 2026**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on July 28, 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: Pam J. Creech Chairman; Dr. Albert G. Hayward, Vice Chairman; Wayne Fox, Secretary; Amos C. Berry, Sr., Treasurer; and Board Members Robert J. Kemp and Bo Ives.

Sgt. Eric Zink from the Horry County Police Department, Highway 90 Liaison Michael Hughes, 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, Katherine Bell and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Creech called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Ives to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Fox moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Berry and the Motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Creech asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 23, 2026, and the Annual Meeting that was held on June 23, 2026; however, there were none.

Mr. Fox moved to approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2026, Regular Meeting and the Annual Meeting held on June 23, 2026. There was a second by Dr. Hayward and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Creech stated there was no Public Input.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/UPDATES

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 18-23 in the Board Packet.

School Recycling Programs/Contest Update – Mrs. Murphy provided a detailed overview of the school recycling programs administered by the SWA for Horry County Schools. She stated that her remarks served both as a refresher and as an introduction of a new program. Mrs. Murphy explained that the SWA offered the Cafeteria Recycling Program to all schools and reported that participation remained widespread. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that all schools can recycle and commingle

materials, except for glass. Mrs. Murphy further reported that food waste collection continued throughout Horry County Schools and stated that Denali, formerly Smart Recycling, served as the contracted hauler for food waste.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that staff provided tours and educational presentations to schools across the County. She reported that during the past fiscal year, staff conducted 64 facility tours and 73 in-school presentations. She explained that when schools participated in a tour, students received a presentation at the MRF, and the 73 presentations referenced are in addition to those provided during tours. Mrs. Murphy concluded by stating that the school year was highly productive, with strong engagement through both tours and presentations.

Mrs. Murphy reported that in elementary schools, the SWA administered the Talkin' Trash Program, now in its 27th year, with the kickoff scheduled for October. She stated that staff would be receiving proposals next week for the upcoming school year and informed the Board that she would provide the name of the successful partner at the August Board Meeting.

Mrs. Murphy continued by reporting that, at the middle school level, the SWA offered the POP Art Contest (Protect Our Planet). Mrs. Murphy explained that this contest encouraged middle school students to create a work of art using materials that are typically discarded. She stated that students may utilize items such as broken crayons, can tabs, plastic bags, and other commonly thrown-away materials.

Mrs. Murphy stated that at the high school level, the SWA administered the High School Scholarship Program, now in its 21st year, with applications due in February. She also reported on the Recycling Student of the Year Program offered to all Horry County Schools. She explained that one student was selected annually as the Recycling Student of the Year, with nominations typically submitted by the school but also submitted by parents. She stated that an essay was generally required and stated that staff had received strong applications over the past several years.

Mrs. Murphy then introduced a new program, the Environmental Service Announcement (ESA) Contest, which would be offered to high school students. She stated that the purpose of the program was to engage high school students in promoting environmental stewardship through the creation of a video media production. She said that most high schools have media departments that manage various communications within the school. Mrs. Murphy explained that once the video was produced and a winner was selected, staff would incorporate the winning submission into the SWA television advertising program. She added that prizes would be awarded to the winning students and their school. Mrs. Murphy stated that this program provided an additional opportunity for high school students to remain engaged in environmental education, stating that while the scholarship program had been available, there had not previously been a program that actively involved students in creating environmental content. She stated that staff was enthusiastic about the events planned for the year. She indicated that applications would be submitted in March.

Mr. Kemp asked Mrs. Murphy whether there was any connectivity between that program and Talkin' Trash. Mrs. Murphy responded that there was not a direct connection. She explained that once students begin with Talkin' Trash at the elementary level, each school level offered additional programs that were built upon that foundation, progressing from Talkin' Trash to POP Art and now to the ESA program.

Mr. Ives stated that he believed it was a good idea, saying that with the inflow and outflow of residents in the county, this approach allowed the SWA to capture the full spectrum of participants. Mrs. Murphy stated that the ESA program was a program that Ms. Dickerson and Mrs. Johnson had been striving to implement for several years. She explained that staff recognized the need for a high school-level program that students would be both willing and eager to participate in and something that would effectively capture their interest.

Chairman Creech asked Mrs. Murphy whether the SWA had conducted any battery-related recycling programs in schools, stating high school students and seventh and eighth-grade students frequently use phones and tablets. Mrs. Murphy responded that, as part of the presentations provided to schools, the SWA utilized standard lesson plans approved by the State Board of Education. She stated that battery education was one of the subjects routinely taught.

Upcoming Events – Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that a listing of Upcoming Events was included in their Board Packets and extended through the end of the calendar year. She informed the Board that the Green Tie Luncheon was scheduled for September 16th and asked Board Members to let her know if they wish to attend.

Mrs. Murphy further stated that RCON, formerly known as WasteCon, would also be taking place, and she encouraged Board Members to inform her if they were interested in attending or if they would prefer to participate in another event.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the June “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Mr. Scott Wellman. She stated Mr. Wellman was a recycler at the Toddville 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 24 – 40 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting reported that tipping fees were at 21.16% increase over last year. Mrs. Bitting said that Solid Waste revenue was at 102.59% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 115.08% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 120.63% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting reported that recyclable sales were budgeted at 106.05% of budget. Mrs. Bitting reported that there was a decrease in tonnage at the MRF, landfill, and C&D, which staff had anticipated; however, all departments still met their budget. She also stated that scrap metal and battery collections increased compared to last year.

Mrs. Bitting said the C&D Processing Facility saved 44 days of airspace. Mrs. Bitting reported that the Material Recycling Facility saved 90 days of airspace. She stated that The Store was performing at the same level as it did last year.

Mrs. Bitting reviewed the Income Statement and reported expenses over revenue of \$81,624.70. She said the SWA’s year-to-date revenue over expenses was \$4,273,791.80. Mrs. Bitting stated that expenses were at 92.13% of budget, and revenue was at 90.73% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting reported that the revenue received from the State for tire fees exceeded the budgeted amount. She stated that staff had budgeted \$150,000, but the actual amount received was slightly

more than \$220,000. She stated that interest income was well above projections stating that \$1.5 Million had been budgeted, and \$1.9 Million was received.

Mrs. Bitting also stated that The Store continues to perform exceptionally well. She stated that \$125,000 had been budgeted, and The Store generated \$156,268.

Mrs. Bitting reported that cardboard, aluminum, and scrap metal were the highest-performing materials this year, each exceeding their budgeted projections. She thanked Mrs. Keith and Mrs. Todd's staff for their outstanding work in securing the best pricing. She stated that aluminum had been budgeted at \$350,000, and actual revenue totaled \$652,000.

Mrs. Bitting further stated that at the C&D Processing Facility, scrap metal was the strongest revenue-generating item. She explained that the largest decrease occurred in colored mulch, which had been budgeted at \$129,000, while revenue amounted to \$64,000.

Mrs. Bitting gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste had an increase of 11.76% as compared to last year, Yard Waste increased by 24.90%, and Mixed Construction increased by 25.25% as compared to last year.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 41 – 59 in the Board Packet.

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

Household Hazardous Waste – Mrs. Todd reported that the first HHW pack-and-ship with MXI was conducted on July 15th, during which 18,200 pounds of paint, 5,571 pounds of batteries, and slightly more than 6,300 pounds of household cleaners and other chemical materials were disposed of. She stated that the total cost of the pack-and-ship was \$12,911.68.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the July Driver of the Month was Mr. Garrett Carnell who works for the Palms and Beyond.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd reported that material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in June 2026 decreased by 9.34% as compared to June 2025. Mrs. Todd stated that staff had recently begun evaluating additional strategies to increase the tonnage that was being delivered. She reported that staff held a meeting this afternoon to finalize several ideas that are expected to be beneficial. She informed the Board that temporary labor continued to present challenges, however, staff were actively working to identify effective solutions.

Mr. Ives remarked that the consistent levels were surprising, indicating that he expected an increase given the recent population change. Mrs. Todd explained that a significant amount of material was being brought in. She stated that, based on how the Scalehouse and bypass lanes were currently configured, customers who do not speak with the Scalehouse clerks often choose the easiest route, which does not provide an incentive to direct materials appropriately. She informed the Board that staff may consider some revamping efforts to more closely evaluate what was coming through.

Mr. Ives asked about the current level of rejects. Mrs. Todd responded that the numbers remain roughly the same. Mr. Ives commended Mrs. Todd for doing a good job educating customers about what should be included in recycling. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that staff would add additional signage to better direct customers to the appropriate areas.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported a 2.30% increase in the amount of recyclables received at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in June 2026 as compared to June 2025.

Mrs. Todd reported that OCC sold for \$150.10 per ton in June and that the July sale price increased to \$182.50 per ton. She stated that the national average for UBCs was \$1,860 per ton, while the SWA sold its material for \$2,076 per ton. She informed the Board that cans had not yet been sold for July. Mrs. Todd further reported that the national average for PET was \$64 per ton, compared to the SWA's price of \$112.20 per ton.

Mr. Ives asked whether there had been a 500% increase in scrap plastic and inquired if the SWA was finding a strong market for the material. Mrs. Todd responded that Mrs. Keith was currently researching that information to determine available opportunities. She added that staff was also exploring additional markets.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight provided an update, which was included on page 60 of the Board Packet.

Mr. Knight commented on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) reporting that staff managed 9 tons of paint. He indicated that this material was handled outside of the contractor agreement and stated that, although the SWA could legally landfill the paint, staff elected not to do so.

Ms. Creech provided an update on battery disposal, stating that she had spoken with numerous individuals who indicated they would use a designated container if one was available. She asked whether staff had considered placing a battery collection container at the recycling centers.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that household battery collection containers were already available at the recycling centers. She stated that a substantial number of batteries was being collected and said that the containers were simple, often repurposed cat-litter containers. Mrs. Murphy explained that the collected batteries were transported to HHW, where Mrs. Todd's staff spends considerable time sorting, organizing, and preparing them for shipment. She stated that a system was already in place, though staff could increase promotion of the program.

Dr. Hayward asked whether there had been any fires associated with batteries. Mrs. Murphy responded that there had not been. General discussion ensued.

Mr. Knight provided an update on ongoing projects, informing the Board that as staff concluded work from the previous year, they were evaluating new programs and identifying opportunities to strengthen operations at the scaleshouse including licensing and permitting improvements. He indicated that the management plan was preparing to move forward and that staff continued to work on the alternative proposal. Mr. Knight said a meeting would be scheduled within the next couple of weeks and indicated that it was expected to be a busy year.

Chairman Creech asked for confirmation of the meeting date and time for the management plan,

implying that it was scheduled for Thursday at 11:00 A.M. Mr. Knight confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Knight advised the Board that if they had any questions or recommendations, they should inform staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Meetings held during the month.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Roundtable Discussion – Chairman Creech distributed a handout to the Board Members. She explained that she would be reviewing committee assignments and asked each Member to indicate which committee they would prefer to serve on and return the form to her.

Mr. Kemp asked whether there was an update on the new Route 90 Recycling Center for North Myrtle Beach. Mr. Knight informed the Board that staff were continuing to work on the project. Mrs. Murphy stated that construction appeared to be progressing very well. She stated that work continued on The Highway 90 entrance and turn lanes. Mrs. Murphy indicated the subbase and paving had been completed in the center. She said the County was now in the process of purchasing equipment. Mrs. Murphy reported the most recent timeline she received and projected an opening in late-September to early October timeframe, assuming everything comes together as planned.

Chairman Creech asked whether there were plans to open additional centers. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that she believed the County intended to finalize the centers proposed Highway 22/Highway 90 interchange. She added that the Scipio Recycling Center was among the top five facilities slated for expansion. Mrs. Murphy indicated that the next new/relocated center would be in the Longs area and said that the County had already purchased property for that site.

Mr. Berry commented that the project had come a long way from his last visit. Mrs. Murphy indicated that while other recycling centers utilized modular buildings, this new facility would be constructed differently.

Chairman Creech asked Mrs. Murphy whether staff had obtained a price for the fence that was damaged at the Red Bluff Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy responded that she had not yet received the pricing and added that fencing was one of the most difficult items to obtain quotes for.

Mr. Knight informed the Board that staff would be meeting with the County to obtain additional information regarding the possibility of keeping the present North Myrtle Beach site open for small items, while directing bulk items to the new location.

Mr. Kemp commented that he hoped County Council would expedite the expansion of Scipio Recycling Center. He indicated that, as the process currently stands, approximately 4,000 additional homes were considered for approval, 2,000 near the Scipio area and another 2,000 off Highway 707. General discussion followed.

Mr. Knight thanked the Horry County Police Department for the excellent work they continue to provide at the recycling centers.

Mr. Fox asked Mrs. Murphy about turnover among recycling center staff. Mrs. Murphy responded that turnover was not as high as expected. She explained that the SWA hired aggressively because the centers require extensive staffing hours. She indicated that the number of full-time positions was limited, so part-time staff was heavily utilized. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that turnover remains relatively low, with two or three site attendants having more than 25 years of service.

Chairman Creech commented that if site attendants need assistance with directing traffic or require support in any other way, the Board should be made aware so that the appropriate help could be provided.

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 July Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Minutes approved on August 25, 2026.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: _____ (L. S.)
Pam J. Creech, Chairman

ATTEST

Wayne Fox, Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

Dr. Albert G. Hayward

Bo Ives

Robert J. Kemp

Vacant