

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
August 26, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 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 Bo Ives, Dr. Albert G. Hayward and Wayne Fox were in attendance.

Horry County Administrator Barry Spivey, Corporal Eric Zink from the Horry County Police Department, Ed Piotrowski, Brad Fludgate and Sarah McClary from WPDE News, 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 Chris Calhoun, Josh Nesbit, Drake Morris, Cindy Keith, Kendra Dickerson, Victoria Johnson, Trina Cooke, Katherine Bell, and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Creech to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Hayward 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 Mr. Jones 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 July 22, 2025; however, there were none.

Ms. Creech moved to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2025, Regular Meeting. There was a second by Mr. Berry and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Kemp stated there was no Public Input.

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 12-18.

Talkin' Trash 2025-26 Proposal Update – Mrs. Murphy shared that during the month of August, staff reviewed Talkin' Trash presentations from three local news stations: WPDE, WFXB, and

WBTW. She said the evaluation team included herself, Kendra Dickerson, Victoria Johnson, and Mrs. Katherine Bell. Mrs. Murphy said that this year, SWA received some of the strongest proposals in recent history with WPDE being selected as the official partner for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Murphy expressed enthusiasm about WPDE’s contributions, especially highlighting Ed Piotrowski as the spokesperson for this year’s Talkin’ Trash program. She explained that WPDE representatives were invited to the meeting to be formally introduced as the new partners. Mrs. Murphy then introduced Mr. Brad Fudgate, General Sales Manager, Sarah McClary, Sales Marketing Specialist; and Ed Piotrowski, Chief Meteorologist at WPDE.

Mrs. Murphy invited Mr. Piotrowski to step forward and address the audience.

Mr. Piotrowski expressed his gratitude to everyone for the opportunity to partner with the SWA. He shared that he had followed the Talkin’ Trash program for many years and was thrilled to finally be part of it especially since it's a new experience for him. Mr. Piotrowski stated that while he regularly partners with nearly 200 schools to discuss weather-related topics, he sees this opportunity as a unique chance to engage with students in a fun and meaningful way while also helping raise awareness about environmental responsibility.

SWA Recycling Grant Update – Mrs. Murphy reported that throughout the month of August, staff promoted the recycling program by reaching out to various businesses and government agencies and advertising in local newspapers, on public access channels, the SWA website, and the SWA Facebook page. She stated that while no applications had been received to date, the deadline remains open until October 31st. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that she would provide ongoing updates through the duration of the application period.

Chairman Kemp asked Mrs. Murphy whether staff reached out to charter schools. Mrs. Murphy responded that staff contacted all Horry County Schools and Ms. Dickerson confirmed that charter schools were also contacted.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the July “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Mr. Alpine Green. She stated Mr. Green was a recycler at the Recycle Road Recycling Center and he was thankful to be recognized.

Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that Corporal Zink requested to address the Board. Corporal Zink expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Murphy and the SWA staff for their support over the past year. He specifically thanked the Board for the equipment provided, including cameras, batteries and a ladder. He expressed how valuable the contributions have been to the Horry County Police Department and their work at the recycling centers. Corporal Zink emphasized his gratitude for the continued partnership and the meaningful support they have received.

Mr. Knight asked Corporal Zink to provide an estimate of the number of contacts they had made at centers. Corporal Zink responded that while he didn’t have the exact figures, he would estimate approximately 11,575 visits to recycling centers had been made over the past year and a half to two years. He also expressed his appreciation to the SWA for allowing the Horry County Police Department to use the multipurpose room for their meeting last week.

Mr. Knight expressed to Corporal Zink that the site attendants feel a greater sense of safety with the continued police presence. Ms. Creech added that if there is anything further the SWA can do to support the department, they would be glad to assist.

Mr. Ives asked Corporal Zink whether providing tarps through the SWA would be beneficial to their efforts. Corporal Zink responded that beginning next month, there would be an increase in uncovered load stops. He said that additional resources like tarps could indeed be helpful.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that Keep Horry County Beautiful was preparing to relaunch its free tarp giveaway program, scheduled to begin on the first Saturday in November. She explained that the announcement had not yet been made publicly, as they were waiting for the organization to finalize and print its outreach materials. Mrs. Murphy said the plan was to distribute tarps at each recycling center over the course of several months, making them available to residents who regularly use these facilities. Mrs. Murphy stated this program would likely be a valuable resource and provide meaningful support to the community.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following items which were included as pages 19 – 35 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting reported that overall tipping fees had increased 7.89% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Bitting said that Solid Waste revenue was at 10.47% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 7.86% of budget projection and Yard Waste revenue was at 11.50% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting said that Recyclable Sales were at 10.53% of budget. She reported that year-to-date revenue for the MRF totaled \$496,585.26, while expenses amounted to \$276,000.

Mrs. Bitting reported that revenue reached 8.55% of the budget, while expenses came in at 6.93% of budget. She expressed appreciation to the staff for their continued dedication and effort.

Mrs. Bitting reported for the month, revenue over expenses was \$721,045.48. She said the SWA's year-to-date revenue over expenses was \$721,045.48.

Mrs. Bitting gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste was up by 0.58%, Yard Waste was 22.74%, and Mixed Construction was 22.82% as compared to the same time last year.

Mrs. Bitting advised the Board that budget books are available and would be provided to them.

Mrs. Bitting advised the Board of the upcoming Finance and Administration Committee Meeting scheduled for September 18th. She indicated that an email would be sent as soon as the date and time was confirmed.

Chairman Kemp requested clarification regarding the category labeled as misrepresented loads. Mrs. Bitting explained that if someone arrives with a load marked as recyclable, but it contains garbage, they are charged a misrepresented load fee of \$150 per load in addition to the standard tipping fee.

Chairman Kemp asked whether that was part of the daily monitoring process. Mrs. Bitting confirmed that it was, stating that the staff at the scale house can identify misrepresented loads.

Mr. Jones asked Mrs. Bitting what time the meeting was, and she replied that it would be held on September 18th at 9:00 A.M.

Mr. Knight shared that Mr. Marr attended a seminar last week in Berkeley County, where the tipping fee for Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris was set at \$100 per ton. He explained that the increase contributed to a significant amount of material coming from Charleston County.

Mr. Marr reported that the SWANA Board Meeting took place last week, where he spoke with Mr. Jeff Cook from Berkeley County. He said that Mr. Cook shared that Berkeley County had recently increased its tipping fee, citing the amount of waste from outside sources as a key factor. Mr. Marr stated that North Carolina had previously charged \$57 per ton but raised the rate to \$100 to discourage out-of-county waste and keep disposal volumes localized. Mr. Marr said this change took effect on July 1. Mr. Marr said that he plans to follow up during next month's meeting to observe how the adjustment works. He indicated that such measures are not uncommon in the industry.

Mr. Marr stated that he asked Ms. Juli Blalock to speak with DES about initiating a stakeholder group focused on disposal capacity across the state. He explained that this issue affects not only the SWA, but also Georgetown, Charleston, and Berkeley counties. Mr. Marr emphasized that coastal landfills are expected to be significantly impacted. General discussion ensued.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 36 – 53 in the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Thursday, August 7th. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the August Driver of the Month was Mr. Ben Johnson who works for Surfside Beach.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd reported that material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in July 2025 increased by 21.97% compared to July 2024.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported a 3.35% decrease in the amount of recyclables received at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in July 2025 as compared to July 2024.

Mrs. Todd provided a comparison of the fiber market, reporting a decrease in cardboard and mixed paper prices for the month of July 2025.

Mrs. Todd reported that fiber prices remain steady and are aligning with typical seasonal patterns. She stated that the fourth quarter showed signs of a mild rebound. Mrs. Todd reported that although plastic prices continue to decline, staff was still encountering rates well above the national average.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight offered an update which was included as page 54 in the Board Packet.

Mandatory Recycling – Mr. Knight informed the Board that the second committee meeting on mandatory recycling was held on August 13. He explained that it was determined recycling could

not be effectively managed through business licenses. He stated that he wanted to find other possible solutions.

Mr. Knight stated that Councilman Danny Hardee asked the Horry County Attorney and Horry County Administrator Mr. Spivey to examine other legal options for county involvement. Mr. Knight said that staff was actively evaluating equipment needs, manpower, extended operating hours, and the possibility of fees on certain loads. He added that once more details were available staff would schedule an Operations & Planning Committee Meeting while continuing to review the process.

Ms. Creech stated that exploring mandatory recycling should continue. Mr. Knight replied that it was being addressed.

North Myrtle Beach (Hwy 90) Recycling Center – Mr. Knight informed the Board that a pre-bid meeting for the Highway 90 Recycling Center was held on August 6, with only one company attending. He stated that the bid opening took place on August 18, but no bids were submitted. Mr. Knight explained that the project was being rebid and stated that the mandatory pre-bid conference may be eliminated to encourage greater participation. Mr. Knight added that he hopes this change would generate more interest.

Mr. Spivey stated that the mandatory pre-bid meeting overlapped with several other site work project meetings scheduled for the same day. He said while some of those projects had participation, others did not. He explained that this scheduling conflict would be avoided in the future. Mr. Spivey said after discussions with his staff, if the next mandatory pre-bid meeting does not draw sufficient attendance, Public Works may consider completing the project. Mr. Spivey emphasized that the County was on a tight timeline and wants the facility to open as quickly as possible.

Mr. Knight remarked that the news was good. Mr. Fox commented that they were certainly capable.

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 – Ms. Creech inquired whether the shredder could shred cardboard. Mr. Knight confirmed that it does.

Ms. Creech said that one of the council members attended the mandatory recycling meeting with the County and suggested that the SWA purchase another shredder. Mr. Knight informed the Board that staff were looking into the matter.

Mr. Ives asked Mr. Marr whether the City of Myrtle Beach had a cardboard collection program. Mr. Marr explained that Myrtle Beach operates a transfer station and includes a drop-off center where residents can bring their cardboard. General discussion ensued.

Chairman Kemp extended his gratitude to everyone for attending the meeting.

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 August Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

Minutes approved on September 23, 2025.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST:

W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary

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

Pam J. Creech (L. S.)

Wayne Fox (L. S.)

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

Bo Ives (L. S.)