

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.  
August 27, 2024**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 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; and Board Members Wayne Fox and Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. Treasurer; Amos C. Berry was not in attendance.

Horry County Administrator Steve Gosnell, Michael Hughes, Lieutenant Kevin Cast and Corporal Eric Zink from Horry County Police Department 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 and staff members Chris Calhoun, Josh Nesbit, 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**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Ms. Creech moved to approve the Agenda as revised. 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 and the Annual Meeting held on July 23, 2024; however, there were none.

**Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the July 23, 2024, Regular Meeting. There was a second by Mr. Fox and the Motion was carried.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION – MRS. CINDY COKLEY**

Mr. Knight asked Mrs. Murphy to come forth to make the presentation to Mrs. Cokley. Mr. Knight described former Board Member Cokley as a remarkable person who would be missed.

Mrs. Murphy presented Mrs. Cokley with a framed picture of the SWA landfill in honor of Rev. Cokley for his years of service with the Solid Waste Authority.

Mrs. Cokley thanked the SWA for allowing Rev. Cokley to serve on the SWA Board.

**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 12–25.

**Talkin' Trash Update** – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Talkin' Trash program. She stated that in the month of August, staff interviewed and evaluated three Talkin' Trash proposals for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the Talkin' Trash evaluation committee included Kendra Dickerson, Victoria Johnson, Katherine Bell, Cindy Keith, and herself. Mrs. Murphy said after careful consideration WBTW was selected as the Talkin' Trash campaign's partners. She stated that the Talkin' Trash campaign would launch in September 2024.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that she had included in the Board Packet a copy of the Talkin' Trash program handbook that was distributed to each participating school. She stated the handbook explains all of the regulations, monthly challenges, how students may earn extra points, and why they are in the program. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that it was a comprehensive program.

**Tropical Storm Debby Update** – Mrs. Murphy offered an update on Tropical Storm Debby. She stated that Tropical Storm Debby made landfall over the South Carolina coast on August 8th. Mrs. Murphy stated that as a storm approaches, recycling facilities are usually busy both before and after. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that all SWA facilities closed on August 8th and reopened on Friday, August 9th. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that minimal illegal dumping occurred while the centers were closed. She said that one of the primary reasons illegal dumping did not occur was due to the partnership with Horry County Police Department. Mrs. Murphy stated that HCPD were not just present at the centers when there was an issue, but also on a daily basis.

Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that Lieutenant Cast and Corporal Zinc were present at the Board meeting to provide an update on Tropical Storm Debby.

Corporal Zink stated that during Tropical Storm Debby, HCPD focused on the SWA. He stated that officers drove around to all of the facilities to notify customers that the centers were closed. Corporal Zinc stated that four officers covered all 25 locations by just conducting keep checks on the property. Corporal Zink informed the Board that they also entered the centers ensure that the electricity was on, the water was running, and nothing was destroyed within the facility. He stated that there were three instances in which someone left trash behind, which was removed before the facilities opened on Friday. Corporal Zink stated that one \$500 ticket was issued and that a court date was set. He indicated that the remaining two bags did not contain anything that could be used as evidence. Chairman Kemp thanked HCPD for the work that they do.

Corporal Zink advised the Board that the notification about the facilities being closed and penalties being imposed that was placed on the SWA Facebook page was the most helpful to HCPD. Lieutenant Cast stated that he believed that the continuing partnership with the SWA, including leadership and command, was important. He stated that the HCPD gets alerted when the facilities are closed. He stated that posting the material on Facebook was very helpful. Lieutenant Cast stated that he estimated that HCPD Facebook page had more than 75,000 followers. Lieutenant Cast expressed gratitude to the SWA for their assistance in expanding the HCPD unit. He stated that they had finally filled the unit's last vacancy, and that she would be arriving from the environmental control side on Tuesday.

Mr. Knight expressed gratitude to HCPD and the County for their hard work and dedication.

Corporal Zink advised the Board that HCPD patrols each site once each day including weekends.

Ms. Creech inquired whether HCPD uses any other organizations other than Facebook for information purpose. Lieutenant Cast stated that he believed the County had a Twitter or Instagram account, but it is managed by a different agency that they do not have access to.

Mrs. Murphy commended the SWA staff for their hard work and dedication. In her report she expressed her gratitude and appreciation to each recycling attendant, and to Mr. Truman Dewitt, Mr. Michael Gough, Mr. Cole Cox, and Mr. Jamie Suggs, as well as Corporal Eric Zink and his staff from the Horry County Police Department.

**Caught Green Handed Update** – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the July “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Mr. Franklin Myers. She stated Mr. Myers was a recycler at the Scipio Lane Recycling Center and he was thankful to be recognized.

**Upcoming Events** – Mrs. Murphy offered information on the following upcoming events.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the blood drive would be held at the SWA on September 17, 2024.

**Green Tie Luncheon** – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the Green Tie Luncheon would be held September 18, 2024.

**Smart Gardner Workshop** – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the Smart Gardner Workshop would be held on September 19, 2024.

Ms. Creech asked Mrs. Murphy whether staff discussed batteries, cellphones, laptops, and household hazardous waste with students. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that these subjects were a part of the yearly Take Action training that SCDES provided to educators. Mrs. Murphy also mentioned that it was one of Talkin' Trash's challenges when requesting field trips or presentation to promote waste diversion at all schools.

Mrs. Murphy indicated that the SWA was awarded grants this year to create new commercials and said one of the three new commercials focusing on the ‘Be Battery Smart’ campaign. Mrs. Murphy said that she hoped to see promotional commercials in November or December explaining batteries in about six different ways. Mrs. Murphy added that this was just not something that would be utilized on television, but would also be incorporated on SWA's social media page and website.

Ms. Creech inquired whether the federal grant she sent to Mrs. Murphy was the same as the one from the County. She indicated that the grant Ms. Creech was referring to was one that Redwood Material had contacted Mr. Marr about. Mrs. Murphy stated that it was an EPA Department of Energy Grant, but it was not the same one that was applied for with the County.

Mrs. Murphy said that Redwood Material was looking to prepare a joint grant proposal with several different counties in the state. She indicated that the more partners on the grant, the higher the chances are of it being awarded. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that they are in the preliminary phases and that staff would provide an update once additional information was available.

**Finance and Administration Update** – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following items which were included as pages 26 – 42 in the Board Packet.

**Monthly Finance Reports** – Mrs. Bitting said that Solid Waste revenue was at 11.51% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 8.98% of budget projection and Yard Waste revenue was at 10% of budget. Mrs. Bitting reported that overall tipping fees had increased 18% over last year at the same time.

Mrs. Bitting said that Recyclable Sales were at 13.48% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated the C&D Processing Facility and Material Recycling Facility saved 12 days of airspace.

Mrs. Bitting reviewed the Income Statement and reported revenues were at 9% of budget. She stated that expenses were at 5.74 % of budget. Mrs. Bitting reported for the month, revenue over expenses was \$1,657,052.13. She said the SWA's year-to-date revenue over expenses was \$1,657,052.13.

Mrs. Bitting offered an update on the SWA landfill gas revenue. She reported it was \$99,208.33. Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that the SWA had received a payment for \$97,000 from Santee Cooper.

Mrs. Bitting gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste was up by 10%, Yard Waste was up by 16%, and Mixed Construction was 11% over as compared to the same time last year.

Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that she would be scheduling a meeting of the Finance & Administration Committee and would notify them of the date and time.

Mrs. Bitting stated that staff completed the audit and were waiting for the financial statement, and she thanked staff for doing a wonderful job.

Ms. Creech inquired of Mrs. Bitting whether the rates for cardboard and other services had increased. Mrs. Bitting stated that the staff was working through the process. General discussion followed.

**Operations and Planning Update** – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 43 – 61 in the Board Packet.

**Landfill Update** – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Monday, August 12th. 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 K.C. Chestnut who work for the City of Conway.

**Household Hazardous Waste** – Mrs. Todd stated that on July 31, 2024, staff completed the first HHW disposal for FY25, disposing of 27,950 pounds of material for the event. Mrs. Todd reported a total cost for the pickup of \$11,967.90.

**C&D Recycling Update** – Mrs. Todd stated that the amount of material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in July 2024 had decreased by 30.10% as compared to July 2023.

**MRF Update** – Mrs. Todd reported that July 2024 saw a 2.53% increase in the number of recyclables received at the MRF as compared to July 2023.

Mrs. Todd provided a comparison of the fiber market and stated that prices have increased on the commodities. She reported on the national average price for the HDPE plastic market. She reported that Natural HDPE cost \$43.06 per pound, which staff sold for \$48.75 per pound. Mrs. Todd reported that Color HDPE was sold for \$8.88 per pound, and said staff sold it for \$13.07 per pound. Mrs. Todd reported that Post Consumer PET beverage bottles and jars sold for \$18.27 nationally, however, staff sold them for \$22.69 per pound. Mrs. Todd stated that the US national average OCC prices were \$106 per ton this month, and the staff sold it for \$170 per ton.

Mr. Creech inquired as to why the SWA was receiving more than the national average. Mrs. Todd said that the SWA received more than the national average and to the material being clean and several staff members are monitoring it.

Chairman Kemp thanked Mrs. Todd, Mr. Knight and staff for doing an outstanding job.

**Executive Director / Assistance Executive Director** – Mr. Knight asked Mr. Marr to come forth to give an update on various projects.

**Tropical Storm Debby Update** – Mr. Marr provided an update on the Tropical Storm Debby. He stated that staff began preparing for the storm that occurred on August 8th on Monday. Mr. Marr said that he wanted to ensure that the equipment was ready, that staff was prepared, and he said that the County was extremely helpful in keeping the SWA updated on the storm. Mr. Marr informed the Board that the SWA was closed on Thursday but reopened for normal business hours on Friday. Mr. Marr reported that the SWA remained open until 4:30 P.M. on Saturday, to accommodate customers due to closing on Thursday. Mr. Marr thanked Josh Nesbit and Chris Calhoun, as well as staff, for keeping the facility operational during Tropical Storm Debby.

**Piggyback II** – Mr. Marr offered a PowerPoint presentation on the Piggyback II project to include pictures from the beginning of the project through Tropical Storm Debby.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Meetings during the month.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Jones informed the Board that the City of North Myrtle Beach Plastic Bag Committee would meet at the SWA on August 29, 2024, and would take a tour of the landfill and the MRF.

Mr. Jones thanked former Board Member Mr. Hughes for once again acting as the Highway 90 Liaison and for attending the meeting.

Ms. Creech informed the Board that she had conducted some research on PFAS and that it was interesting. She indicated that after she obtains further information, she would distribute it to the Board Members.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Fox moved, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the August Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Minutes approved on September 24, 2024.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Robert J. Kemp, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

\_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Pam J. Creech

\_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Wayne Fox

\_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Vacant